

Half of vaccinated Canadians say they're 'unlikely' to spend time around those who remain unvaccinated

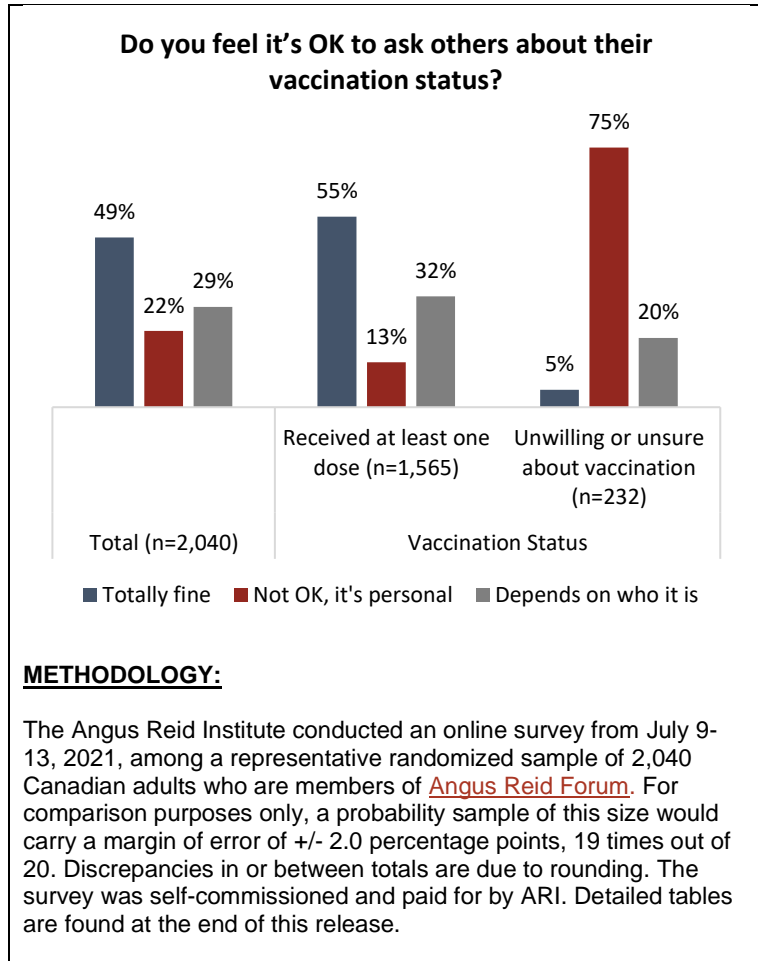
The vaccinated say it's OK to ask about vaccination status, unvaccinated say it's personal, not OK

July 20, 2021 – As Canada slips past the U.S., surpassing its southern neighbour on the overall rate of both first and second vaccination, new data from the Angus Reid Institute casts light on some of the new social dynamics likely to affect day to day interactions as this country begins to emerge into a new reality.

Among those who have received at least one dose of vaccine so far only half (53%) say they're likely spend time around those who have not received their jabs. This, even after they are fully immunized themselves and have built up their immunity.

Then there are the mixed comfort levels around asking *others* about their relative vaccination status.

More than half of those who have received at least one dose of vaccine say it's perfectly fine to ask someone about their vaccination status. Another three-in-ten say it depends, and are more comfortable asking family and friends, but less so strangers. Conversely, three-quarters of those who say they'll eschew inoculation view being asked about one's vaccination status as inappropriate.



More Key Findings:

- Three-in-ten Canadians say they are more anxious than excited about returning to their pre-pandemic activities. This rises to 38 per cent among those over the age of 64
- Nearly two-thirds of those aged 18-34 say that as long as they are personally protected through vaccination they'll socialize with unvaccinated people. Canadians 65 years of age and older are more likely to say that they will avoid people who aren't vaccinated
- 85 per cent of vaccinated Canadians say that they felt some level of side effects from their COVID-19 vaccine. That said, those who say they had severe side effects doubled for second doses compared to first (15% to 8% respectively)

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- Two-thirds of Canadians (67%) say that they support vaccine passports for large events in their province. Despite opposition from Premiers Doug Ford and Jason Kenney, a majority in Ontario (69%) and Alberta (52%) agree

About ARI

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting, and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs, and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

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Part One: The vaccination landscape

Four-in-five of eligible Canadians have now received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and nearing 60 per cent are fully vaccinated. On Monday, the Trudeau government announced it will begin to allow fully vaccinated travellers from the United States to enter the country as of Aug. 9. This, despite Public Safety Minister Bill Blair saying in June that the border would not be opened until 75 per cent of Canadians had received two doses, a level a plurality of Canadians themselves felt should be higher.

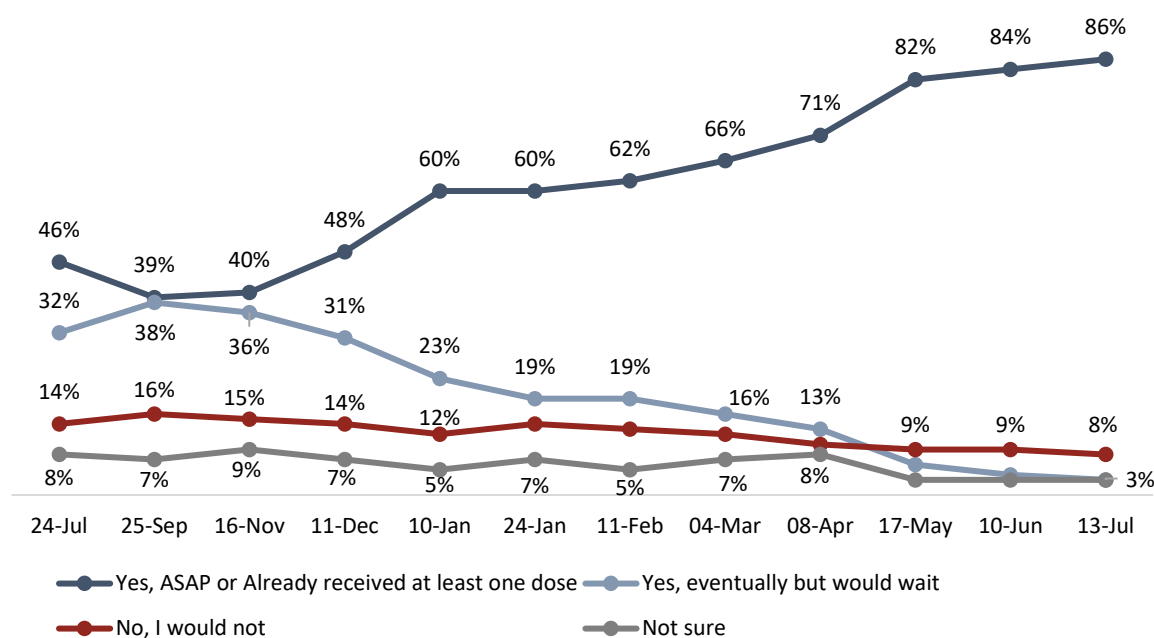
Related: Majority say at least 75% should be vaccinated before Canada-U.S. border re-opens

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Some suggest that Canada may need to reach as high as 90 per cent inoculation in order to put an end to COVID-19 and reduce the risk posed by variants. That achievement appears within reach, however. Currently, 86 per cent of Canadians have either been vaccinated already with at least one dose, or plan to as soon as possible. Another three per cent say that they will receive a jab eventually, while fewer than 10 per cent nationally say they'll refuse vaccination outright:

If a vaccine against the coronavirus became available to you, would you get vaccinated, or not?



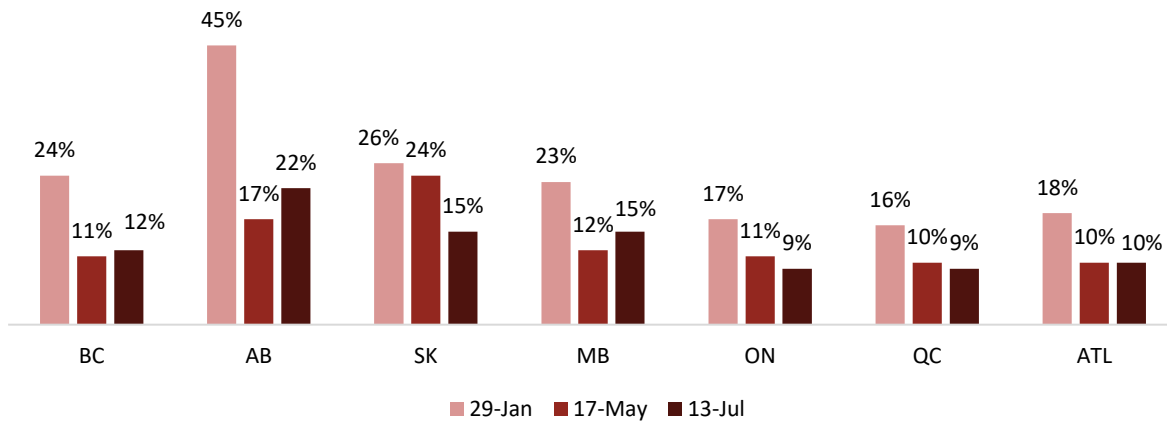
One-in-five hesitant in Alberta, twice national average

Hesitancy appears to be a more significant problem regionally, jumping to 22 per cent of the population Alberta, and 15 per cent each in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. That said, hesitancy in both Alberta and Saskatchewan has declined significantly since the beginning of the year:

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COVID-19 vaccine: Percentage unwilling to get vaccinated or unsure

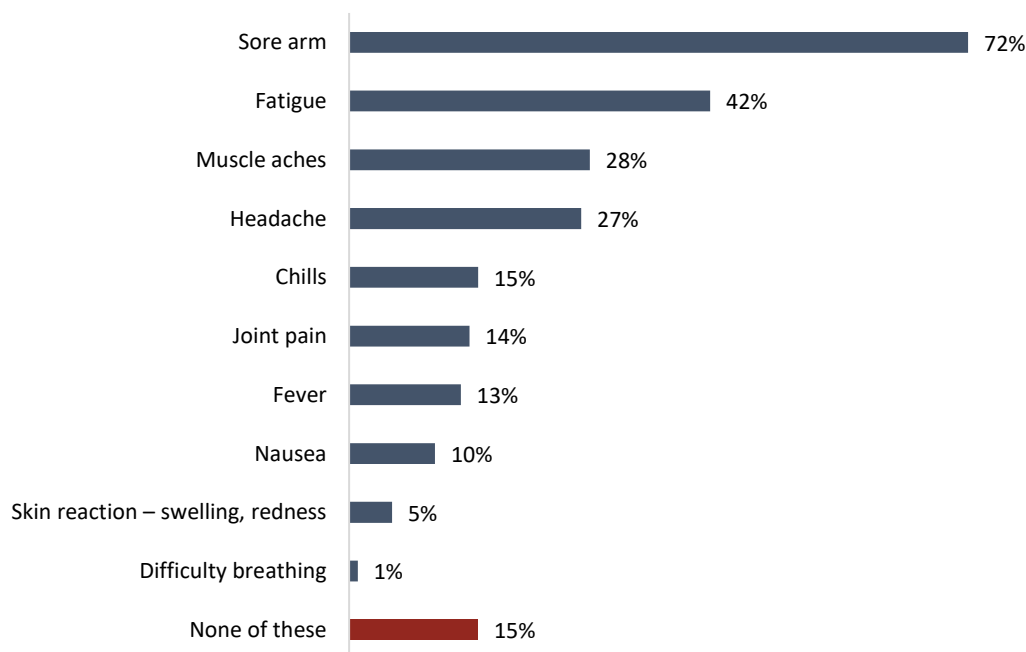


Part Two: Vaccine experiences

Majority felt side effects, second dose worse than first

The vaccination experience – including experiencing side effects – is something that millions of Canadians now share. Fully 85 per cent of Canadians say they experienced some form of post-jab malaise, though the most common has been some soreness around the injection site. A lucky 15 per cent felt nothing at all:

**Did you experience any side effects from your vaccination?
(All who have received at least one dose, n=1,565)**

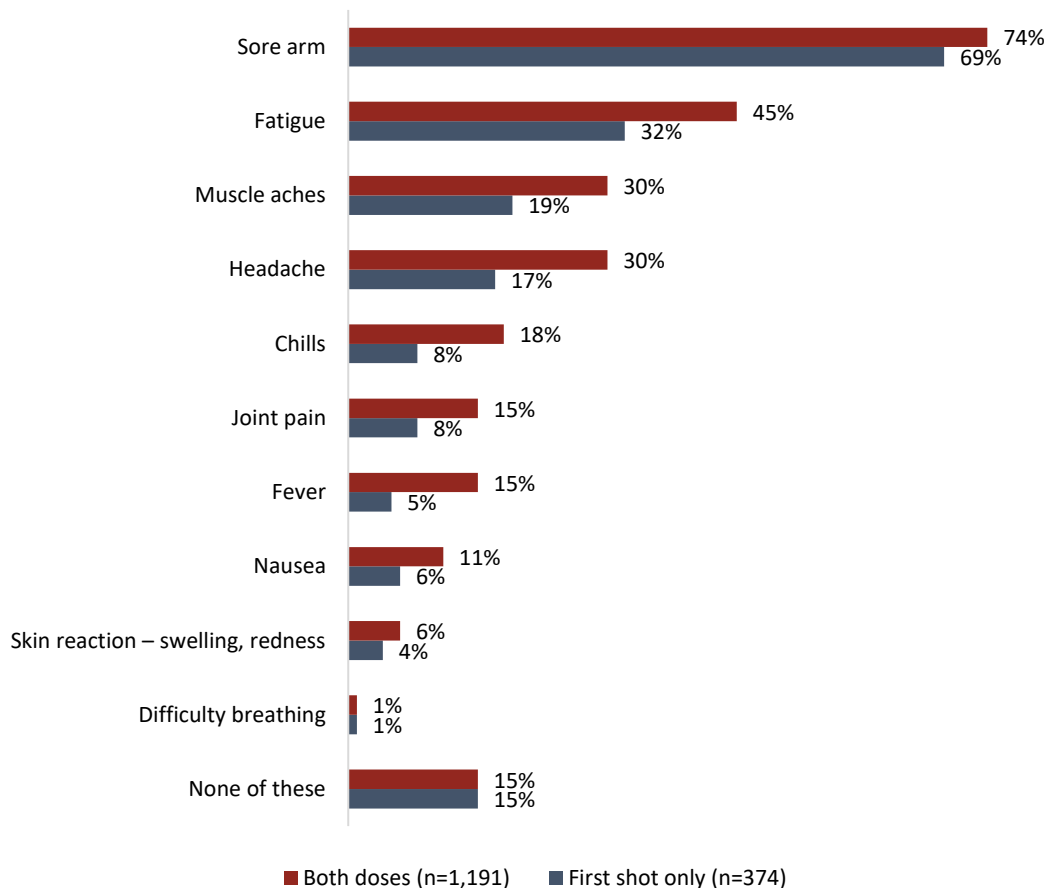


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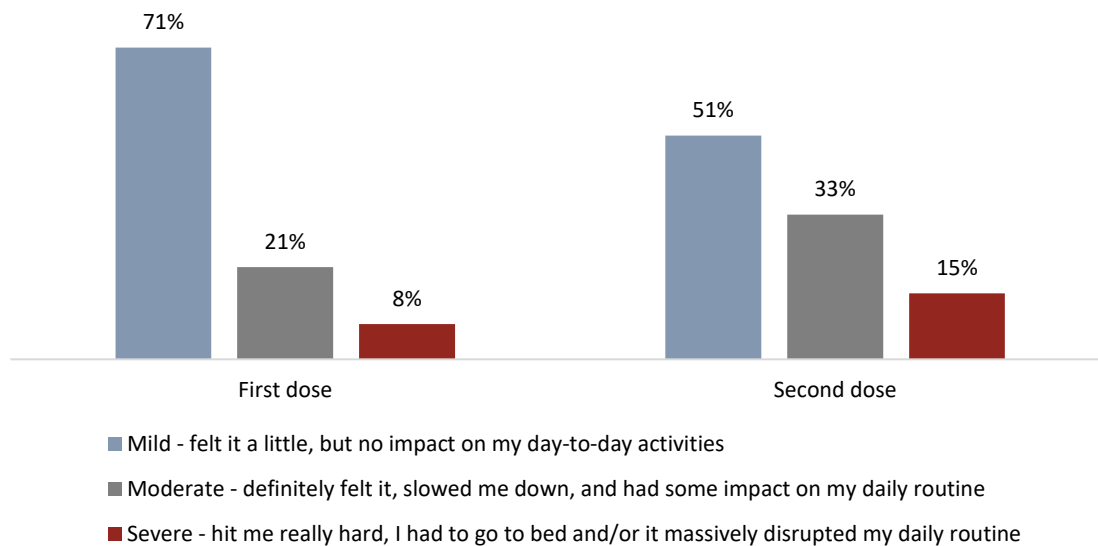
Health officials warned Canadians to expect more of a reaction from their second dose of the vaccine, as the body increases its immune response. This phenomenon is clear when comparing the overall experiences of those who have had both doses and those who have had one. The incidence of every side effect listed is higher among those who have received both:

**Reported symptoms from COVID-19 vaccine
(All who have received at least one dose n=1,565)**



Those who have had both doses were asked to assess the side effects they felt from each. The number who say they had a mild reaction dropped from 71 per cent for the first shot to 51 per cent for the second, while the percentage saying they felt a severe reaction doubled from eight to 15 per cent:

Side effect severity among those who have received both doses and felt side effects (n=1,010)



One-quarter mixed and matched

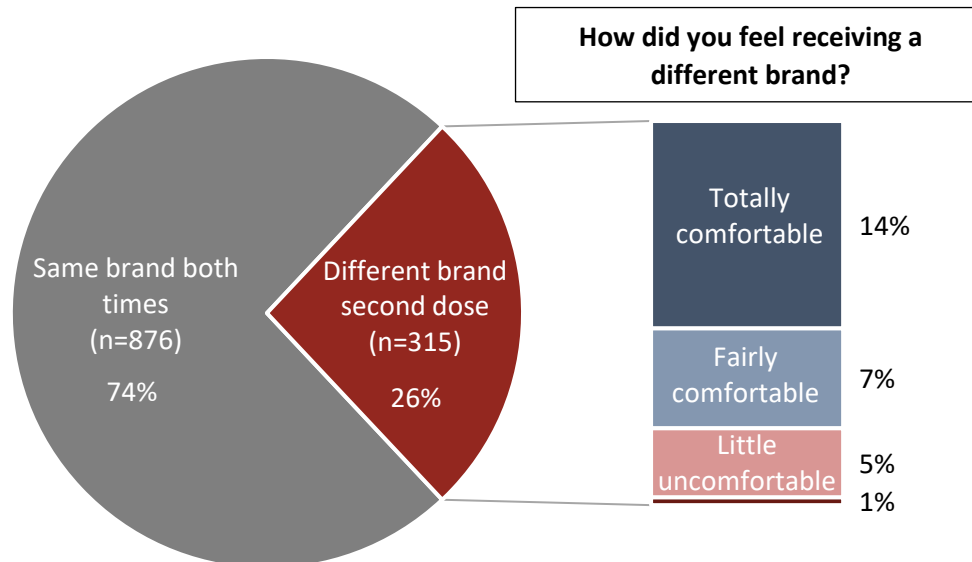
Canadians had a [love-hate](#) relationship with one particular brand of COVID-19 vaccine – AstraZeneca. The AstraZeneca vaccine provided important coverage for Canadians early in the vaccination effort but has been phased out due to the better performance of alternatives and the slightly higher risk of potential health complications from AZ.

This has meant that in some cases, those who received AZ for their first dose were or are being offered a different brand for their second dose. Public health officials have reported this strategy as [safe and effective](#), and few Canadians who have mixed say that they were uncomfortable doing so. One-quarter of those sampled in this survey say they received a different dose the second time, and the overwhelming majority say it caused them little stress:

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Among those who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine
(n=1,191)



Part Three: Vaccine variables

Half of those jabbed say they will likely avoid unvaccinated people

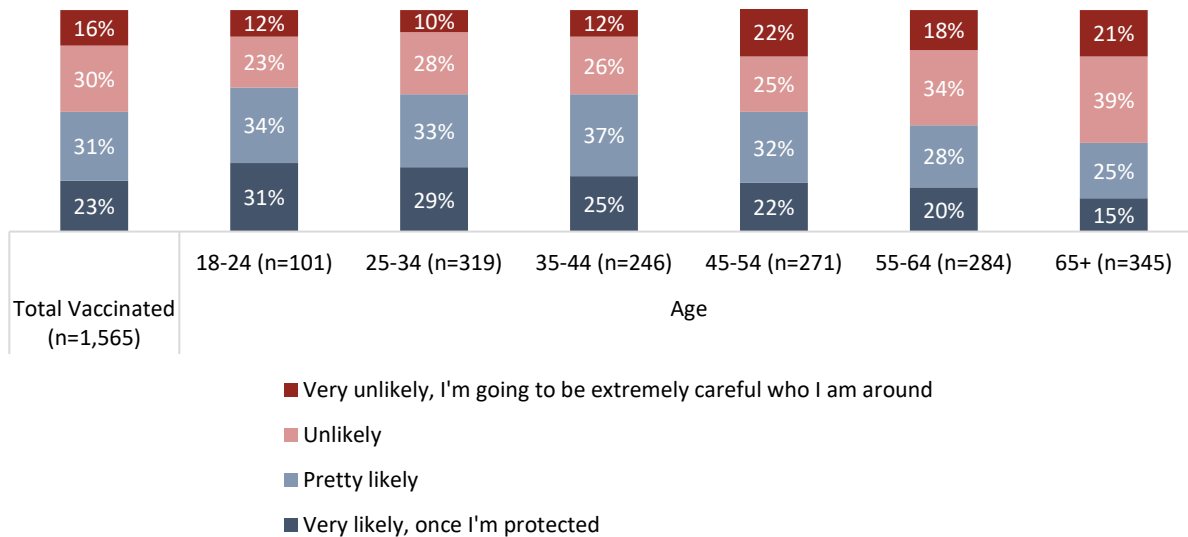
Vaccination has had a seismic impact on the pandemic in wealthy Western countries, which has led many to begin to discuss what a new normal will look like in their communities. One aspect of this is how those who have been vaccinated will interact with those who have not.

The Angus Reid Institute asked vaccinated Canadians (at least one dose) whether they will be likely to spend time with unvaccinated individuals over the coming months, after they have been fully vaccinated and have had time to build their immunity. Nearly half (46%) say that this is unlikely. Older Canadians are even more likely to say they will be extremely careful about who they see as they build up their comfort levels in a post-pandemic Canada:

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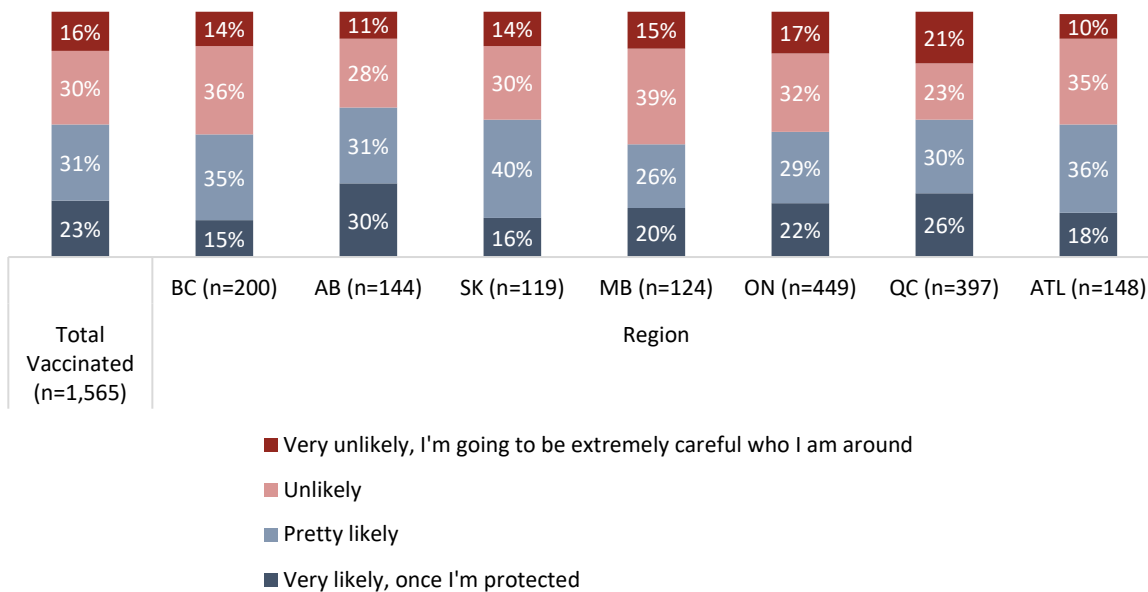
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Thinking about when you've been fully vaccinated - and you've had time to build up your immunity - how likely is it that you will spend time in person with people who are unvaccinated?



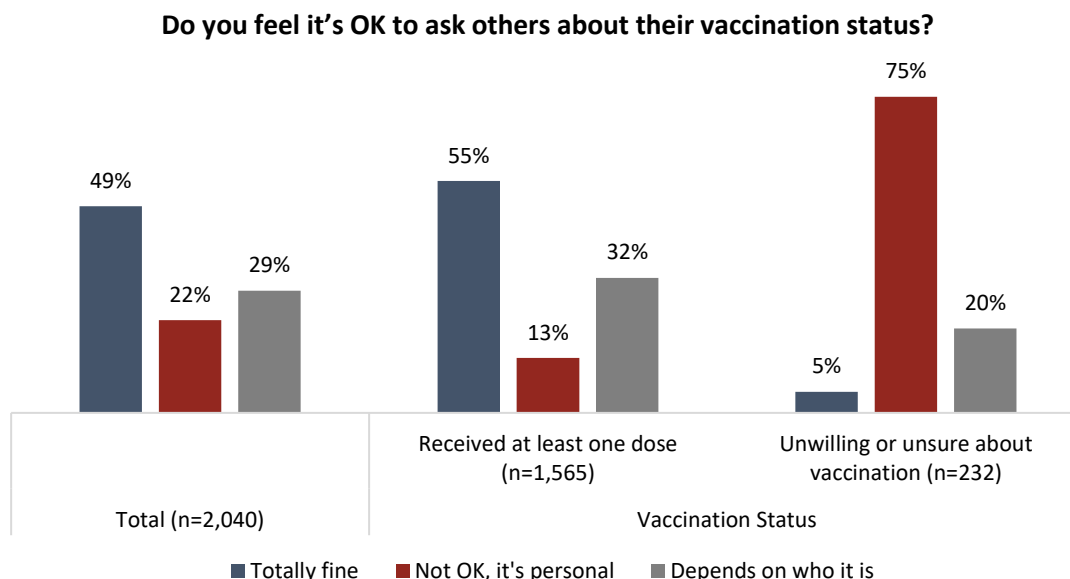
A considerable portion of residents in every region feel this way. At least 39 per cent of the population in every region canvassed say that they will be unlikely to hang out with unvaccinated people:

Thinking about when you've been fully vaccinated - and you've had time to build up your immunity - how likely is it that you will spend time in person with people who are unvaccinated?

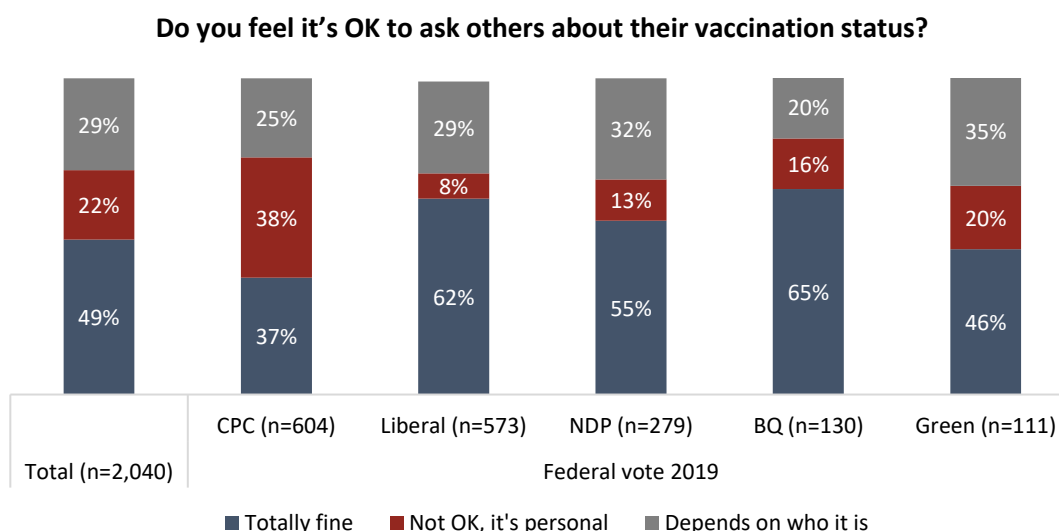


Divisions over appropriateness of asking about vaccination status

But how comfortable are Canadians asking others about their vaccination status? There are a number of different factors in this discussion, but most prominent is whether or not someone has been vaccinated. More than half of those who have received at least one dose say this question is fair game, while 32 per cent say it depends on who it is they're asking. Those who have not been vaccinated and are unwilling or unsure say this is a personal question and is out of bounds:



Age and gender are less of a factor in disagreement on this question ([see detailed tables](#)), but politics plays a role. Past Conservative supporters are much more likely than other party supporters to say they shouldn't be asked about their vaccination status, while past Liberal voters are least likely:



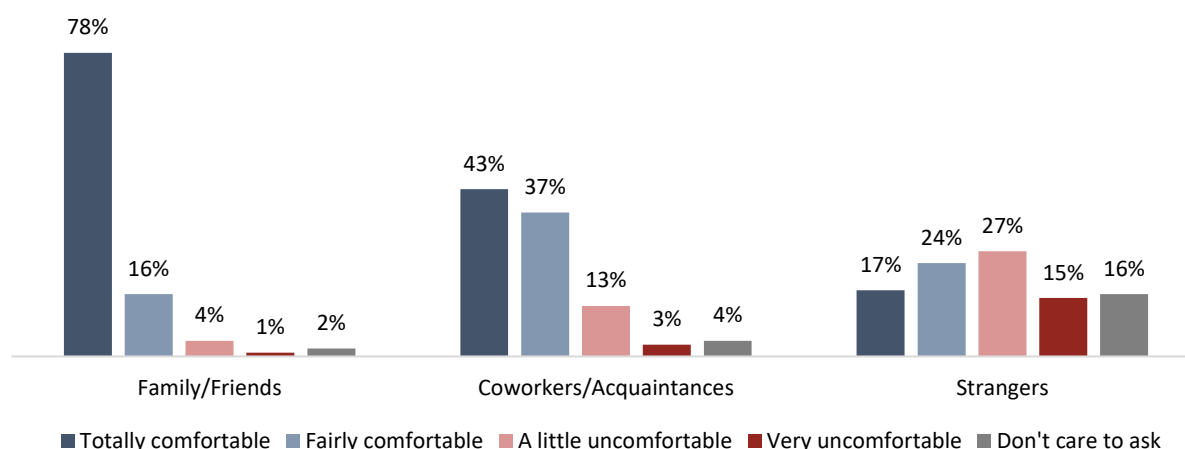
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Most are comfortable asking family, friends, coworkers if they're vaccinated

The biggest point of tension regarding the propriety of the question appears to be talking to strangers. Most are fairly or completely comfortable having conversations about vaccination status with their friends or family, but only 41 per cent say this of strangers:

**How comfortable would you be asking each about their vaccination status?
Among those who say it's "totally fine" to ask someone or "it depends who it is"
(n=1,595)**



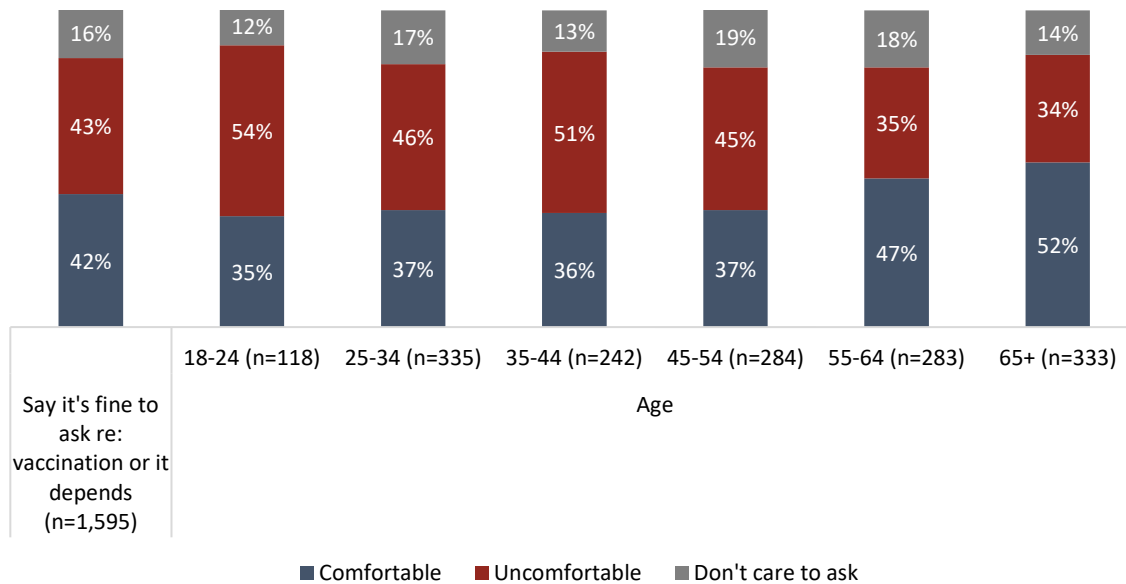
Older Canadians more likely to ask strangers

That said, those whose health has been most at risk over the past year and a half – Canadians over the age of 64 – are most likely to say they will be comfortable asking people they don't know about vaccination if they have to. Half (52%) say this, compared to fewer than two-in-five in age groups younger than 55 years old:

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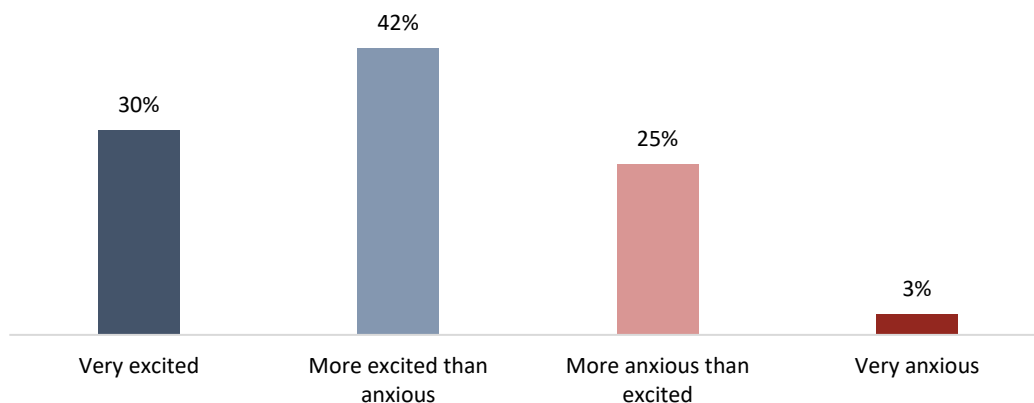
How comfortable are you asking strangers about their vaccination status?



Part Four: Caution is guiding post-pandemic adjustment for most

The pandemic is by no means over, particularly in less wealthy parts of the world with low vaccination rates, where [the Delta variant](#) continues to cause devastation. In Canada however, while many respondents are excited about moving past the pandemic, anxiety remains. More than one-quarter (28%) say that they are still more anxious than excited about getting back to normal and seeing friends, family, and others out in their communities:

**And, thinking about your resumption of pre-pandemic activities, such as returning to work at an office, seeing friends, attending community events, etc., does this prospect make you feel:
(Total, n=2,040)**

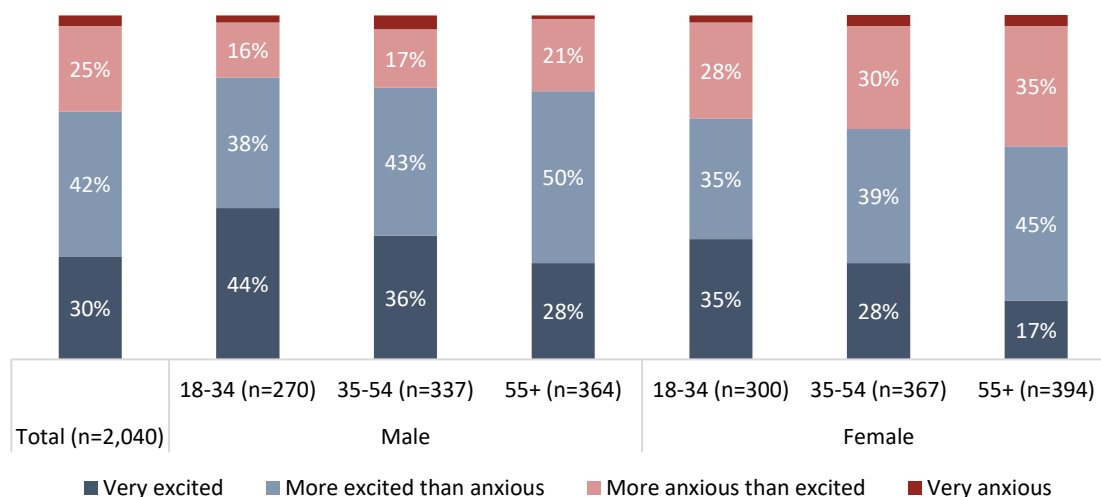


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Anxiety rises across age groups, which again draws attention to the relative levels of concern that older Canadians have carried since the pandemic started:

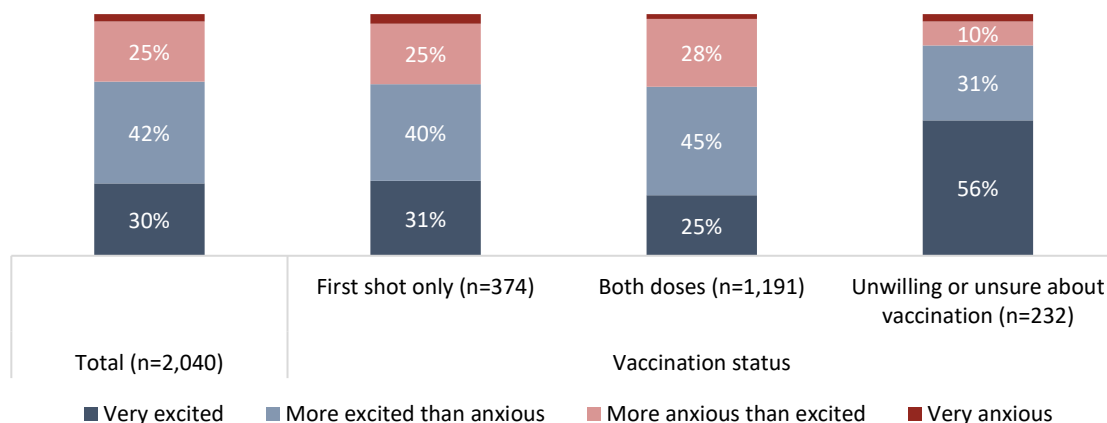
And, thinking about your resumption of pre-pandemic activities, such as returning to work at an office, seeing friends, attending community events, etc., does this prospect make you feel:



Many vaccinated Canadians continue with caution

While most Canadians are feeling more excitement than anxiety, those who are unvaccinated and uncommitted to being so are most enthusiastic about getting back to the activities they have missed out on over the past 18 months.

And, thinking about your resumption of pre-pandemic activities, such as returning to work at an office, seeing friends, attending community events, etc., does this prospect make you feel:

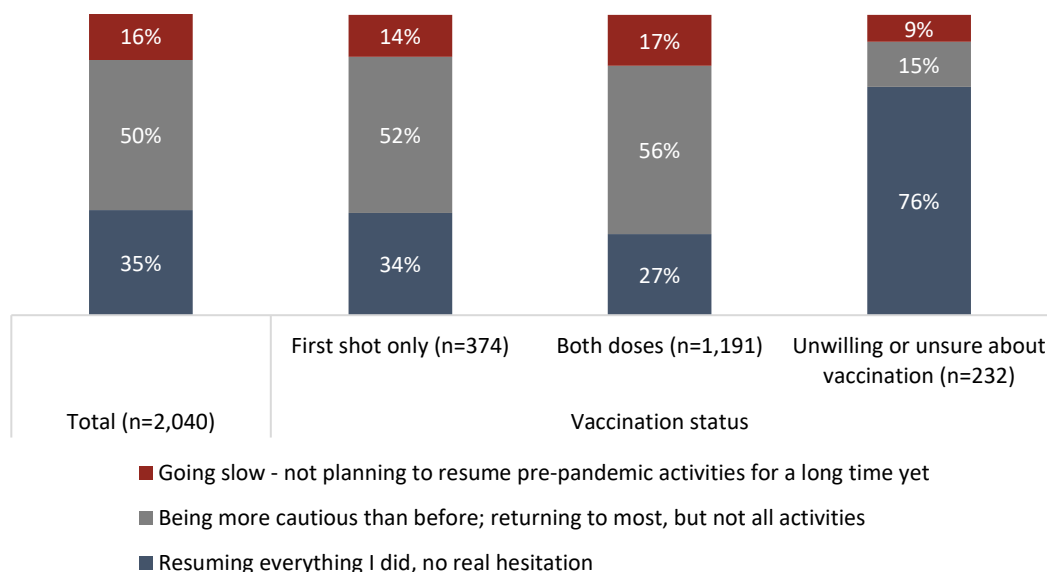


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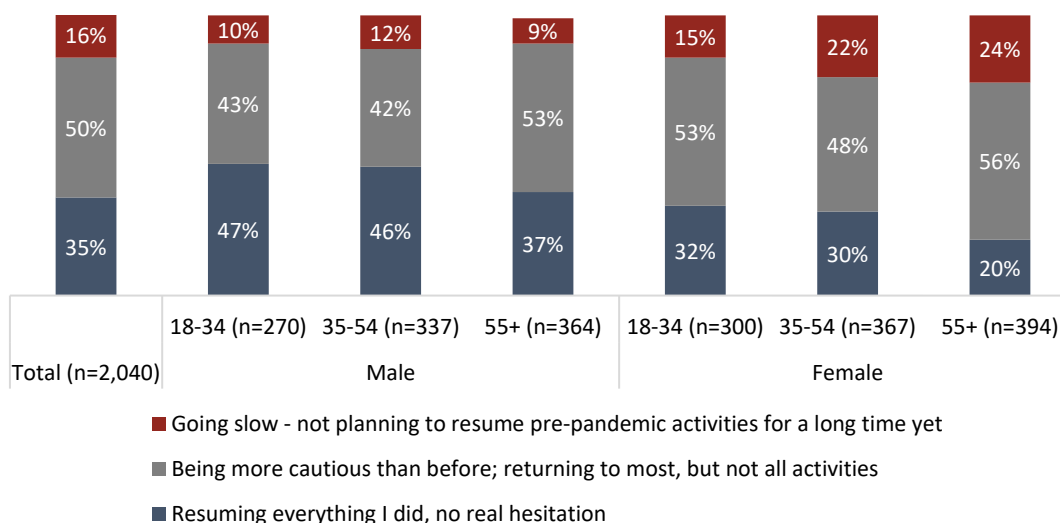
The same trend is noted for Canadians when it comes to the caution with which they are approaching post-pandemic activities. Just 35 per cent say they are resuming everything they did before, with no real hesitation. For the bulk of the population, caution is key:

Broadly, thinking about resuming life and activities you did before the pandemic, which best describes the way you are approaching this:



Men younger than 55 are most bullish about their return to pre-pandemic activities. Meantime, women older than 34 are most hesitant:

Broadly, thinking about resuming life and activities you did before the pandemic, which best describes the way you are approaching this:



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Part Five: Vaccine passports still garner majority support

Premiers [Jason Kenney](#) and [Doug Ford](#) recently voiced their opposition to vaccine passports in their provinces. These are documents that would certify that a person is vaccinated in order to attend certain events, travel, or take part in other activities in their communities. Despite opposition from Ford, Ontario residents are widely supportive of using vaccine passports in public spaces. A majority of Albertans are supportive of this type of policy for air travel, but less so for domestic application:

Percentage of Canadians that agree that proof of vaccination should be mandatory at each of the following:								
	Total (n=2,040)	Region						
		BC (n=258)	AB (n=193)	SK (n=161)	MB (n=160)	ON (n=576)	QC (n=500)	ATL (n=192)
To board a commercial airline flight	75%	74%	55%	70%	72%	77%	83%	76%
To travel internationally (excluding the US)	75%	73%	56%	69%	70%	77%	84%	78%
To travel to the US	73%	72%	54%	65%	67%	74%	83%	76%
To attend a public event or large gathering (more than 50 people)	67%	65%	52%	60%	69%	69%	75%	62%
At your place of work	61%	60%	43%	58%	53%	64%	65%	64%
At public places in your community: restaurants, malls, theatres, churches etc.	59%	52%	40%	48%	61%	62%	71%	55%

**Regional sample sizes are unweighted numbers – everything else is weighted sample sizes*

For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

For detailed results by vaccination status, [click here](#).

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