

## INTRODUCTION

- Adherence to preventive measures against COVID-19 is essential to overcome the pandemic. However, the promotion of vaccination as the primary solution for a return to normalcy may have overshadowed other measures.
- The sudden increase in cases of COVID-19 following the availability of the vaccine raises a question: did being vaccinated reduced perceived importance (Health Belief Model) of adhering to other preventive measures?

## AIMS AND HYPOTHESIS:

- The aim of this study was to determine if being vaccinated reduced the perceived importance of adhering to other preventive health measures (e.g., mask wearing).
- We hypothesised that people who got vaccinated would report perceiving other preventive health measures as being less important, and demonstrate less adherence to other health measures less compared to those who were not vaccinated.

## METHODS

### Subset of data from the iCare study

- 18 122 Canadians aged 18 years and older
- 6 online questionnaires from March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (6 time points)

### iCare study

- Cross-sectional observational cohort study
- Goal: to understand the determinants of adherence to COVID-19-related policies and their impact.
- 203 collaborators in 42 countries
- Survey available in 34 languages
- Total of 171,974 participants recruited

### Survey modules

- Socio-demographic data (in line with other international studies)
- Health status and health behaviours (diet, physical activity, smoking, drug use)
- Knowledge and perception (importance, strictness) of local prevention measures
- Adherence to local prevention measures
- Concerns related to COVID-19 (health, finance, socio-economics)
- Impacts related to COVID-19 (health, mental health, social, work, economic)

## RESULTS

Logistic regression models adjusted for covariates (e.g. sex, age) showed that fully vaccinated and partially vaccinated participants were significantly more likely to adhere to preventive measures and have perceive them to be important for preventing COVID-19, compared to non-vaccinated participants.

Table 1 : Attitudes towards prevention measures according to vaccine status

Attitude	Fully vaccinated vs. non-vaccinated [reference: non-vaccinated].			Partially vaccinated vs. non-vaccinated [reference: non-vaccinated].		
	OR	95% IC		OR	95% IC	
		Inferior	Superior		Inferior	Superior
Perceived prevention measures to be important	6.12	5.3	7.07	3.23	2.7	3.85

Table 2 : Adherence to prevention behaviours according to vaccine status

Behaviours	Fully vaccinated vs. non-vaccinated [reference: non-vaccinated].			Partially vaccinated vs. non-vaccinated [reference: non-vaccinated].		
	OR	95% IC		OR	95% IC	
		Inferior	Superior		Inferior	Superior
Washing one's hands with soap & water	2.08	1.76	2.46	1.6	1.27	2.01
Wearing a mask in indoor spaces	6.73	5.58	8.11	3.89	2.9	5.23
Stay at least 1-2 meters away from others	2.53	2.19	2.93	2.65	2.19	3.22
Self-isolate if one has or think they have the virus	3.29	2.72	3.99	2.4	1.84	3.12
Avoid going out in bars/ pubs/ restaurants	1.71	1.47	1.99	1.99	1.63	2.44
Avoid large social gatherings	2.51	1.6	3.93	5.06	3.69	6.93
Avoid small social gatherings	1.97	1.7	2.28	2.35	1.97	2.82

## REFERENCES

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## CONCLUSIONS

- Contrary to hypotheses, being vaccinated did not reduce the population's perceived importance of other COVID-19 prevention measures, or adherence to those measures. Rather, perceived importance was 3 to 6 times greater in vaccinated compared to non-vaccinated, and adherence was 1.6 to 6 times greater among vaccinated compared to non-vaccinated.
- Results suggest that positive attitudes towards and adherence to pandemic prevention measures tends to cluster in individuals, and that emphasizing the key role of vaccination did not diminish the perceived value of other measures.
- Future studies should explore what factors contribute to negative attitudes towards and poor adherence to pandemic prevention measures in order to improve future pandemic preparedness.

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