

REOPENING LAND BORDER WITH THE UNITED STATES, TRAVEL INTENTIONS AND THE IMPACT OF PCR TESTS

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November 8, 2021



Next Monday (November 8, 2021) the United States will reopen the land border to Canadians for non-essential travel. The land border has been closed since the near outset of the pandemic, although leisure travelers were allowed into the US by air. Upon returning to Canada all travelers aged five and older must take a COVID-19 molecular test, which can cost over \$200 (although there are less expensive options) , within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time of their flight (Rapid antigen tests are not accepted). The number of Canadians that ultimately travel to the US via the land border may very well be determined by the testing requirements. The travel industry has asked the federal government to get rid of the testing requirement for people who are double- vaccinated. But a Leger survey for the Association for Canadian Studies and Metropolis North America reveals that the majority of Canadians want to maintain the required negative PCR test upon reentry to Canada. That said the vast majority of those who say they will travel to the US once the land border is open want the PCR test requirement dropped.

The survey was conducted via web panel between October 22 and 24, 2021 with some 1512 people with a probabilistic margin of error of 3.5 points 19 times out of 20.

US bound travelers
want the
Government of
Canada to drop the
negative PCR test
requirement before
re-entry

Since January 2021 only 3% of Canadians report that they travelled to the United States

Have you travelled to the United States since January 1st, 2021?				
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	3%	5%	3%	2%
No	97%	95%	97%	98%

With the US land border reopened between one in ten Canadians say they intend to travel to the United States before the end of the year (1 in 6 does not yet know)

Do you intend to travel to the United States before the end of the year?

	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	10%	12%	11%	7%
No	83%	78%	82%	88%
I don't know	7%	9%	8%	5%

Despite border opening a majority of Canadians support continuation of the requirement for a negative PCR test before entering/reentering Canada

The United States announced that on November 8th they will open the land border to permit vaccinated Canadians to enter the United States for non-essential travel. The US has also dropped the requirement for a negative COVID test. But the government of Canada will require those entering the country to have a negative PCR (COVID) test (which can cost up to \$250) within 72 hours of their return to address safety concerns.

Do you think the government of Canada should...

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Drop the requirement for the negative PCR/COVID test prior to entering Canada	32%	21%	32%	32%	32%	40%	32%
Maintain the requirement for the negative PCR/COVID test upon entry into Canada	55%	62%	57%	56%	59%	49%	52%
Not sure / I don't know	12%	17%	11%	12%	9%	10%	16%

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	Yes	No	I don't know
Drop the requirement for the negative PCR/COVID test prior to entering Canada	68.3%	26.7%	50.0%
Maintain the requirement for the negative PCR/COVID test upon entry into Canada	24.8%	61.3%	27.8%
Not sure / I don't know	6.9%	12.1%	22.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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