



Vaccine Hesitancy has been a health challenge for decades and the COVID-19 pandemic has brought it to the forefront of concern. It is important for the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Health and Wellness Department (HWD) to balance communicating what is known and acknowledging the uncertainty that remains regarding vaccines.

## Objectives

- Supporting COVID-19 education and outreach to Citizens in Manitoba
- Understanding Red River Métis Citizen's concerns regarding vaccinations
- Utilizing the research findings to guide future pandemic planning strategies

## Who Participated in This Study?

Métis citizens aged 18+ from all MMF Regions were asked to partake in a survey regarding their thoughts and feelings regarding vaccines. A total of 106 Citizens completed the survey.

## What Methods Did We Use?

A questionnaire was used to measure vaccine hesitancy, as well as assess socio-demographic characteristics, vaccination status, COVID-19 knowledge, and the perceived effectiveness and safety of the vaccine.

Focus groups were also conducted with Citizens to collect insight regarding COVID-19 vaccine information, the effects of the COVID-19 virus, and any other questions.

## Where do we go from here?

Based on what we have heard, the Health and Wellness Department has created strategies to address the concerns of Citizens.

### The HWD plans to:

- Use the MMF website to streamline accurate COVID-19 virus and vaccine information, thereby increasing vaccine awareness
- Use the MMF's Mobile Health Units to share public health information in remote communities with resources such as pamphlets and posters
- Adopt a citizen-centered approach in vaccination messaging and utilize in-person information-sharing methods such as bulletin boards in rural communities



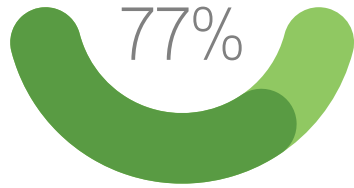
## VACCINE HESITANCY

Fully and Meaningfully:  
Engaging with Métis Citizens  
to Increase COVID-19 Vaccine  
Understanding and Uptake

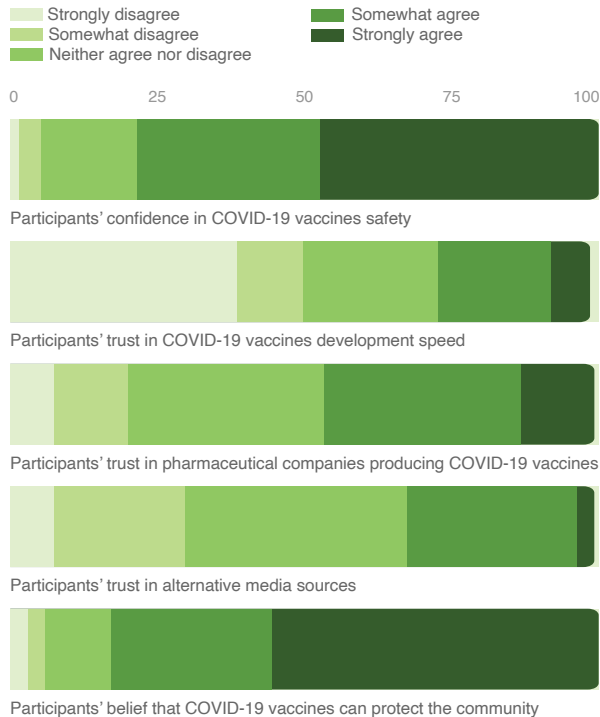
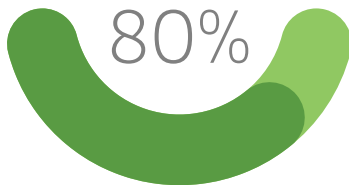


# Survey Results

Already vaccinated



Received a booster dose



# What did we find?

## Citizens felt they did not have enough credible information to make an informed COVID-19 vaccination decision

“We need more information on the side effects of vaccines, especially for people who are immune compromised, pregnant, or have chronic health issues and how it affects them in comparison to people who are healthy.”

**Red River Métis Citizen, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Focus Group MMF's Winnipeg Region**

## Fear-based dialogue surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic

“I think any vaccine awareness campaign should promote trust and minimize fear... I would not be able to sleep at night if my loved ones got the vaccine and had adverse complications.”

**Red River Métis Citizen, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Focus Group MMF's Northwest Region**

## Some Citizens did not feel they had a choice in receiving the COVID-19 vaccines

“In the beginning they offered them [vaccines] then they enforced them... my choice to get vaccinated was not based on information or conviction but on whether you want to participate in daily activities, such as if you want to go to a mall you have to be vaccinated, amusement park you must be vaccinated...among other places. I did not have a choice.”

**Red River Métis Citizen, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Focus Group MMF's Winnipeg Region**

## Broken trust in the Healthcare System

“Statistics are not being shown as much anymore which makes things feel suspicious... how come there is no cure for cancer despite decades of research but when it came to COVID-19 we have multiple vaccine options, its just questionable.”

**Red River Métis Citizen, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Focus Group MMF's Southwest Region**

## Information Fatigue

“Some of the available information is contradictory and confusing... trying to filter through the misinformation in the news and social media is difficult.”

**Red River Métis Citizen, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Focus Group MMF's Interlake Region**

## Scarcity of Vaccination Resources in Northern and Remote Areas

“I wish there were Métis nurses and doctors working up north... there is a need to establish a support system for healthcare workers in the north so that they can stay in the north.”

**Red River Métis Citizen, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Focus Group The Pas Region**

