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## 2022 Childhood COVID-19 Immunization Coverage Survey Executive Summary

Prepared for the Public Health Agency of Canada

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For more information on this report, please contact Health Canada at:  
[cpab\\_por-rop\\_dgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cpab_por-rop_dgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca)

*Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français.*

Canada 

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This report presents the methodological details for the **2022 Childhood COVID-19 Immunization Coverage Survey (CCICS)** conducted by Advanis Inc. on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The survey was administered among 10,536 members of the adult Canadian general public, between April 7 and July 21, 2022.

Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français sous le titre: *l'Enquête sur la couverture vaccinale des enfants contre la COVID-19, 2022*

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cpab\_por-rop\_dgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca

Health Canada, CPAB  
200 Eglantine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture  
Jeanne Mance Building, AL 1915C  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

In December 2020, COVID-19 vaccines were authorized for use in individuals 18 years of age and older. Health Canada subsequently expanded the Interim Order authorization for adolescents 12 to 17 years of age and in late 2021, mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were authorized for use among children 5 to 11 years of age.<sup>1</sup> Throughout this period of incremental vaccine rollout to children, PHAC adapted existing surveillance tools and created new approaches to enable national and jurisdictional coverage assessment of COVID-19 vaccine uptake as more age groups became eligible. In July 2022, children 6 months to 5 years of age became eligible for Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine; this group was not eligible at the time of data collection of this study (April to July, 2022).<sup>2</sup>

NACI recommends continuous monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine uptake, particularly according to the socioeconomic status of families with children aged 5-11 years, and for decision makers to consider measures to reduce the risk of socioeconomic disparities in vaccine confidence and uptake. Currently, coverage assessment for COVID-19 vaccination is measured for eligible age groups through provincial and territorial immunization registries. However, immunization registries do not provide information on socioeconomic determinants of health, Sex Gender based Analysis (SGBA+) indicators, and parental knowledge, attitudes and beliefs (KAB). Another surveillance tool, the childhood National Immunization Coverage survey (cNICS) is a biennial survey that measures routine childhood immunization coverage among children aged 2, 7, 14 and 17 year olds.<sup>3</sup> cNICS does not collect information on a representative sample of Canadian children aged 6 months to younger than 18 years old; therefore, its sampling frame is not suitable to collect information on COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Monitoring parental attitudes is also essential to predict expected vaccine uptake and to guide education and awareness efforts to promote vaccination. A baseline assessment of parental knowledge and views as well as continued monitoring of those views is important to adapt public communication and education accordingly.

There is also a continued need to collect information on flu vaccine coverage among children especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to investigate any relationships with COVID-19 vaccination. Flu is also a public health concern among children with immunocompromised status or children who have chronic medical conditions. There is currently a knowledge gap around flu vaccine coverage estimates among children. The only source that currently collects information on flu vaccine coverage among children is the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY).<sup>4</sup>

In addition, there are challenges with estimating influenza vaccination coverage among children because influenza vaccines are not consistently recorded in parent-held records and therefore results reported from parents may be subject to recall bias. All efforts were made to minimize parental recall bias for the proposed survey.

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<sup>1</sup> Health Canada. Approved COVID-19 Vaccines. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines.html>

<sup>2</sup> National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Recommendations on the use of Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine in children 6 months to 5 years of age. 2022. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-moderna-spikevax-covid-19-vaccine-children-6-months-5-years.html>

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. Childhood National Immunization Coverage Survey (cNICS). 2019. Available from: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&id=1257279>

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY). Available from: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5233>

## 1.2 OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the *2022 Childhood COVID-19 Immunization Coverage Survey (CCICS)* was to establish a surveillance tool that will provide both national and provincial/territorial level estimates on an annual basis on the following:

- COVID-19 and flu immunization coverage among children in Canada younger than 18 years of age who were eligible for vaccination.
- Parental intentions to vaccinate children who were not eligible for vaccination or who were eligible but had not yet been vaccinated.
- Parental knowledge, attitudes and beliefs (KAB) towards their children's COVID-19 and flu vaccination (e.g., vaccine hesitancy).
- Barriers and/or facilitators to COVID-19 and flu immunization among children.

## 1.3 METHODOLOGY

Data collection started April 20, 2022 and ended July 21, 2022, and was conducted by Advanis.

Advanis sought a probability-based sample of 10,500 Canadian parents/guardians aged 18 or older through the use of Advanis' General Population Representative Sample (GPRS) sample and through Random digit dialing (RDD). The study was drawn from a random sample and can be extrapolated to the broader population on a national level.

Data was collected using a multimodal approach, collecting survey responses online and on the phone, to obtain a nationally representative sample. First, participants taken from our GPRS sample were recruited by phone and were invited to participate in a Web survey. Those who agreed to participate received an email or SMS inviting them to take part in the survey. In hard to reach populations, the survey was also offered by phone, using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) methodology.

Survey results were weighted by region, child's age group and child's sex at birth. The results for 2022 are based on responses from 10, 536 parents/guardians (18 years of age or older) with children younger than 18 years of age across all provinces and territories. Recruitment ensured quotas were reached for key sub-populations to ensure statistical relevance and representativeness.

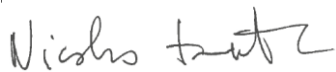
## 1.4 CONTRACT VALUE

The contract value for this study was \$249,280.83 (including HST).

## 1.5 POLITICAL NEUTRALITY REQUIREMENT

I hereby certify as Senior Officer of Advanis that the deliverables fully comply with the Government of Canada political neutrality requirements outlined in the Policy on Communications and Federal Identity and the Directive on the Management of Communications. Specifically, the deliverables do not include information on electoral voting intentions, political party preferences, standings with the electorate or ratings of the performance of a political party or its leaders.

Signed:



Nicolas Toutant, Vice-President, Research and Evaluation