



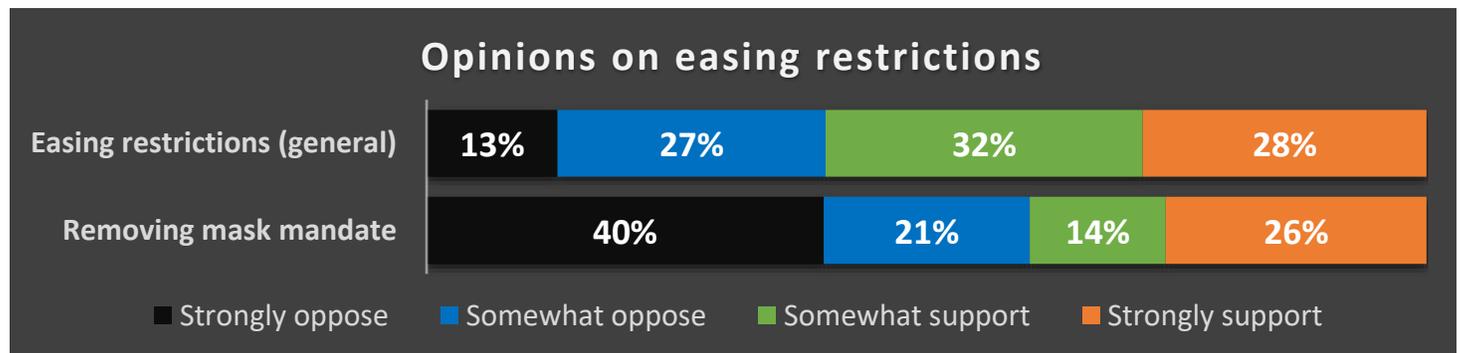
Easing of restrictions as of August 7, 2021

On August 7, 2021, the provincial government announced that restrictions would be eased and provincial reopening would begin sooner than planned. This was thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Manitobans to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Manitobans support easing restrictions, not dropping masks

Sixty percent of Manitobans support the province easing public health restrictions at this time, including 28% who strongly support the move. However, a similar proportion (60%) oppose dropping the mandatory mask mandate in indoor public spaces, including 40% who strongly oppose it.

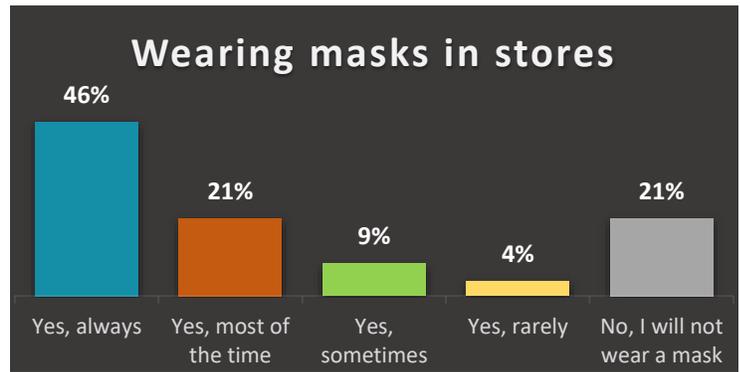
Those living outside of Winnipeg (73%) and those who have received a single dose (88%) or have not received a dose at all (90%) are most likely to support the loosening of restrictions. Similarly, those living outside of Winnipeg (57%) and those who have received a single dose (72%) or have not received a dose at all (88%) are most likely to support removing the mask mandate.



Most Manitobans will continue mask wearing in stores

Two-thirds of Manitobans (67%) say they will continue to wear masks most or all of the time in retail stores and other businesses, even if they are not required. In indoor public spaces where masks are not required, about 1 in 5 Manitobans will drop mask wearing altogether.

People living in Winnipeg (78%) are much more likely than those living outside the city (48%) to report they will continue to wear a mask (always/most of the time) in stores and businesses that do not require it. The vast majority of fully vaccinated Manitobans (83%) will continue to wear a mask always or most of the time, compared to only 11% of those who are unvaccinated.



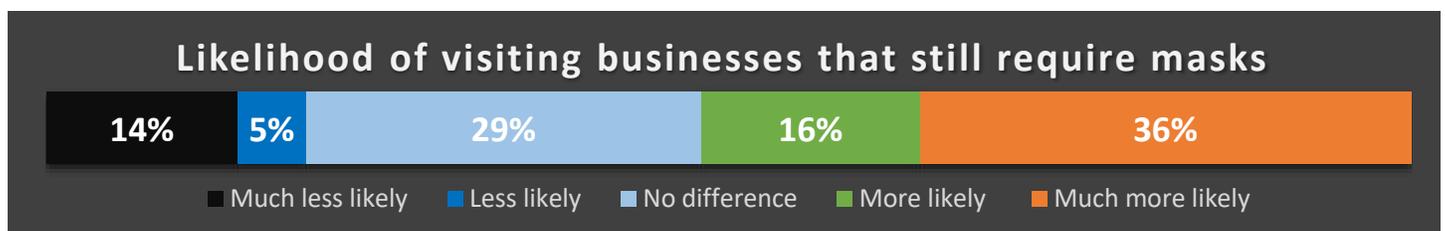
Manitobans strongly support businesses requiring masks

Although no longer a requirement of public health orders, most Manitobans (82%) are in support of businesses such as retail stores, salons, and gyms requiring their patrons to continue wearing masks while indoors, which includes 68% who strongly support the requirement.



Those who are fully vaccinated (96%) or have at least one dose (94%) say they support (somewhat or strongly) businesses requiring patrons to wear masks. Only 23% of those who are unvaccinated support businesses requiring patrons to wear masks.

About half of Manitobans (52%) say they are much more or somewhat more likely to visit a business that is enforcing a mask rule, while 18% are much less or somewhat less likely to visit such businesses. Winnipeggers (61%) would be more likely than non-Winnipeggers (39%) to visit such businesses, as would fully vaccinated Manitobans (68%) compared to those who are unvaccinated (6%).



Almost all of those who say they are more likely to visit businesses requiring masks will always (45%) or sometimes (53%) go out of their way to do so. Conversely, almost all those less likely to visit businesses with a mask mandate say they will always (58%) or sometimes (40%) go out of their way to visit businesses not enforcing mask wearing.

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No other organization, public or private, funded this study in whole or in part.
For more information about the research, please contact
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METHODOLOGY

PRA conducted the survey from August 9–11, 2021, using its Manitoba Panel. In total, 800 Manitobans completed the survey. Because this sample is a non-probability sample, no error rate can be calculated. A random population survey of this size would yield an error rate of $\pm 3.5\%$ (19 times out of 20).

As any sample may not represent the population perfectly, PRA corrects statistically for discrepancies in gender, age, and income to ensure that the sample corresponds as closely as possible to Statistics Canada information. Particularly for this study, PRA corrected for vaccine doses within the weighting scheme.

PRA is an independent research and consulting company. Its head office in Winnipeg houses a research call centre and focus group facilities. Founded in 1988, the company conducts large- and small-scale quantitative and qualitative research in both official languages.

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