

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Participation Readiness Survey Summary

This summary is based on the 6,677 responses to the *COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Participation Readiness Survey for Pharmacies and Pharmacy Professionals* and the 1,553 responses to the *Supplementary survey: COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Participation*, administered by the Ontario College of Pharmacists from January 12-21, 2021.

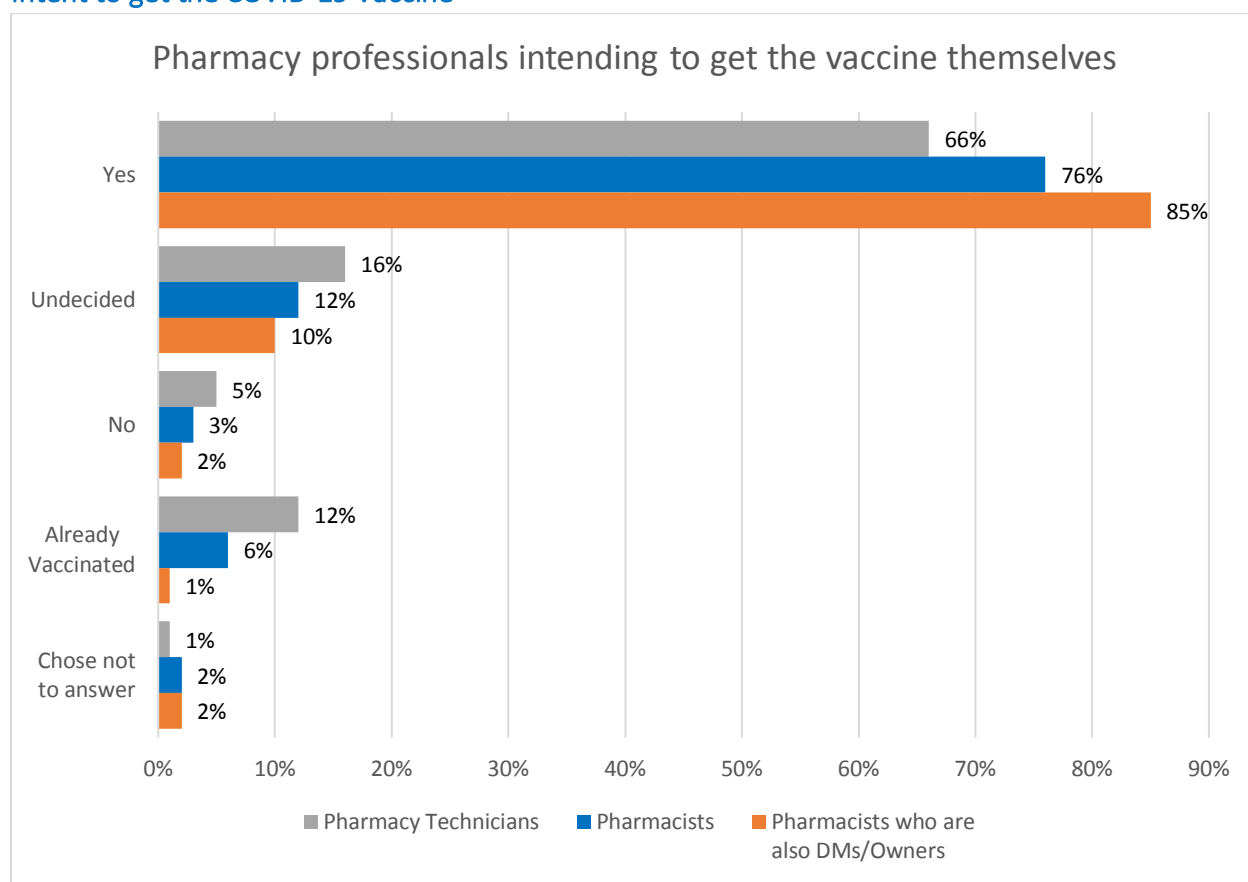
COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Participation Readiness Survey for Pharmacies and Pharmacy Professionals

Pharmacy Professionals

Breakdown of response groups:

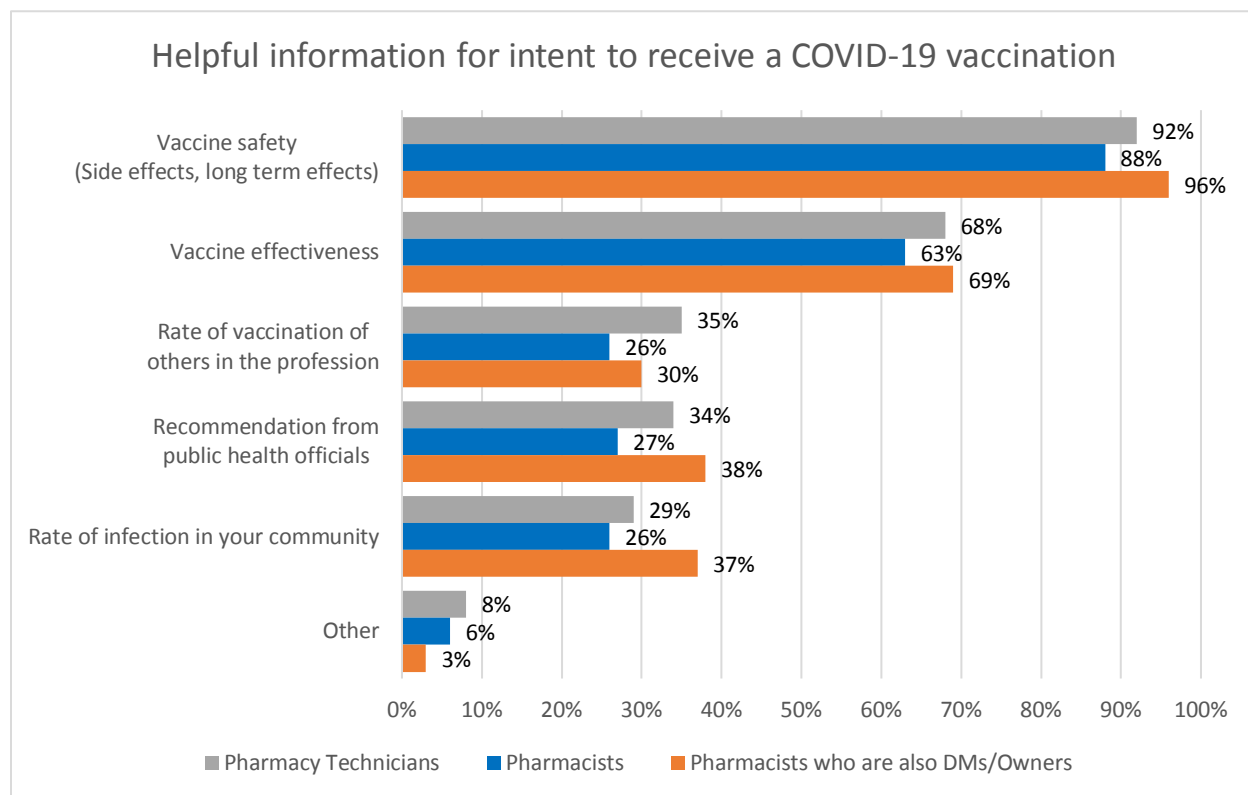


Intent to get the COVID-19 Vaccine



	Pharmacy Technicians		Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Yes	611	66%	2186	76%	2470	85%	5,267
Undecided	145	16%	355	12%	289	10%	789
No	43	5%	82	3%	52	2%	117
Already Vaccinated	109	12%	182	6%	23	1%	314
Chose not to answer	12	1%	59	2%	59	2%	130
Total participants responded	920		2864		2893		6677

For those not planning to get the vaccine or unsure, the following information was indicated to be helpful in the decision to get the vaccine themselves. Participants could select more than one option.



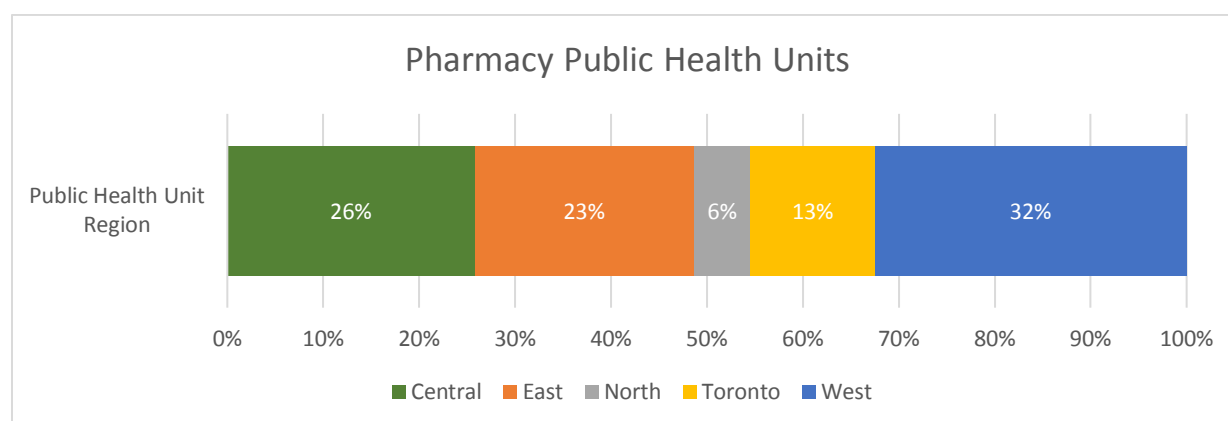
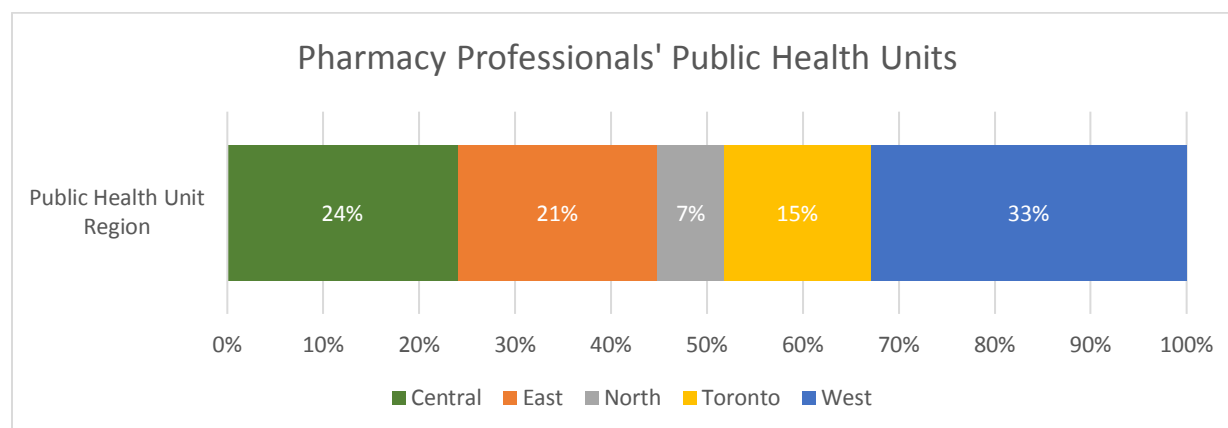
Information that would be helpful	Pharmacy Technicians		Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Vaccine safety (Side effects, long term effects)	172	92%	303	88%	326	96%	801
Vaccine effectiveness	127	68%	217	63%	235	69%	579
Rate of vaccination of others in the profession	66	35%	90	26%	102	30%	258
Recommendation from public health officials	64	34%	93	27%	128	38%	285
Rate of infection in your community	54	29%	89	26%	124	37%	267
Other	15	8%	19	6%	9	3%	43
Total participants responded	186		343		339		868

Additional topics of information that may be helpful based on “other” responses:

- Allergies
- Pregnancy, fertility and breastfeeding
- Long term effectiveness
- Long term side effects

Public Health Units of respondents

Based on the participants who responded to the supplementary survey, the geographic distribution of the Public Health Units selected by respondents is shown below.

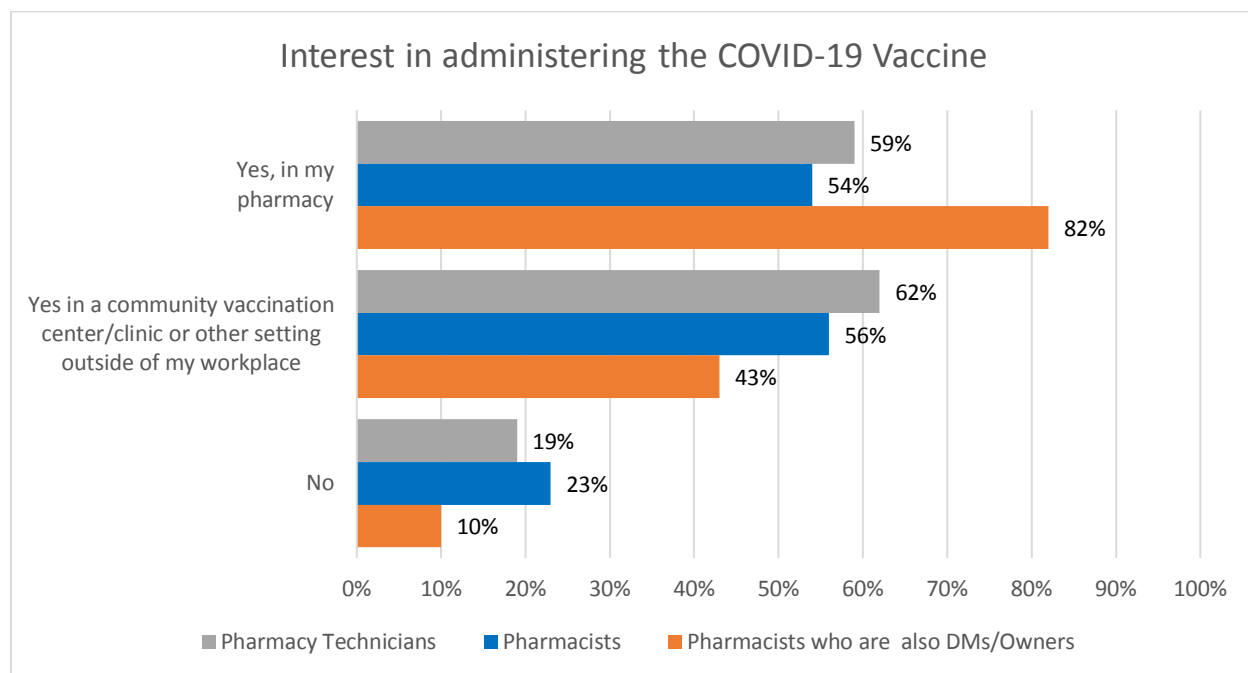


Interest in COVID-19 vaccine administration

Pharmacists were asked if authorized to do so either through a medical directive or through regulation, if they were interested in administering the COVID-19 vaccine in their community.

Pharmacy technicians were asked if they were given the authority and necessary training, and their employer is supportive, if they would be interested in administering the vaccine in their community.

Participants could select more than one option.



Interest in administering the vaccine	Pharmacy Technicians		Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Yes, in my pharmacy	533	59%	1,422	54%	2,532	82%	4,487
Yes in a community vaccination center/clinic or other setting outside of my workplace	556	62%	1,455	56%	1,326	43%	3,337
No	167	19%	593	23%	310	10%	1,070
Total participants responded	896		2,619		3,105		6,620

Participants that responded that they would not be interested in administering the vaccine were asked to indicate reasons that contributed to their decision. Participants could select more than one option.

Reasons contributing to decision	Pharmacy Technicians		Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
I do not have sufficient injection experience	N/A*	N/A*	121	23%	48	16%	169
I have not completed injection training	N/A*	N/A*	233	45%	99	34%	332
I am not comfortable with the idea of administering vaccines	93	61%	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	93
I do not have the time or capacity to add more workload	52	34%	264	51%	164	56%	480
Increased risk of exposure to the virus	45	30%	188	36%	99	34%	332
I do not have sufficient knowledge about COVID vaccines	N/A*	N/A*	81	16%	52	18%	133
I do not have sufficient information about COVID vaccines	19	13%	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	19
Other	26	17%	107	20%	45	15%	178
Total participants responded	152		522		291		965

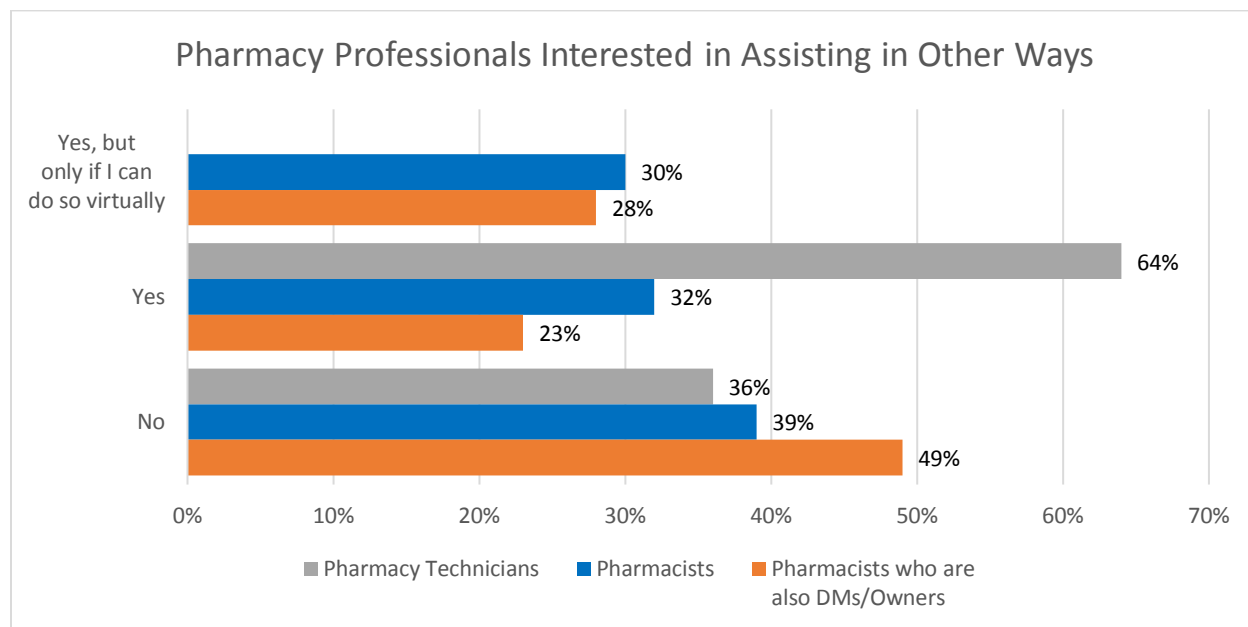
Reasons contributing to decision based on “other” responses:

- Workload and inadequate staffing
- Lack of financial incentives
- Facilities not large enough or equipped for vaccination
- Safety and exposure concerns, particularly for high risk or pregnant individuals
- Not enough training
- Expired CPR certification
- Not comfortable injecting or with needles
- Working in a hospital that is not vaccinating

* Answer option not available to this group

Interest in providing other supports

Participants that responded that they would not be interested in administering the vaccine were also asked if they were interested in assisting in other ways (e.g. follow-up with patients, screening/booking appointments, documentation, re-constituting vaccine, etc.).



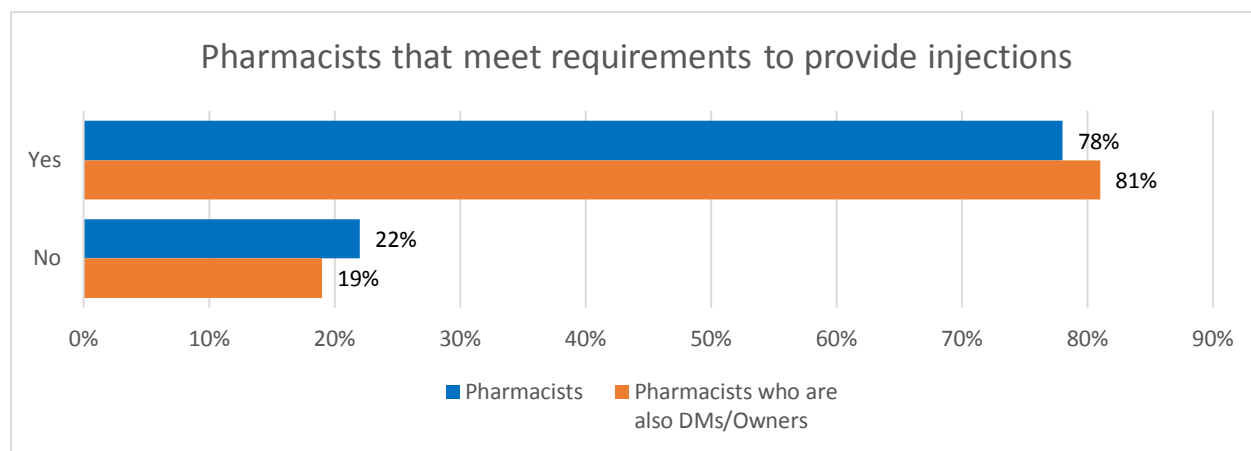
Interested in assisting in other ways	Pharmacy Technicians		Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Yes, but only if I can do so virtually	N/A*	N/A*	174	30%	80	28%	254
Yes	98	64%	163	32%	67	23%	328
No	55	36%	212	39%	140	49%	407
Total participants responded	153		549		287		989

* Answer option not available to this group

Injection Training

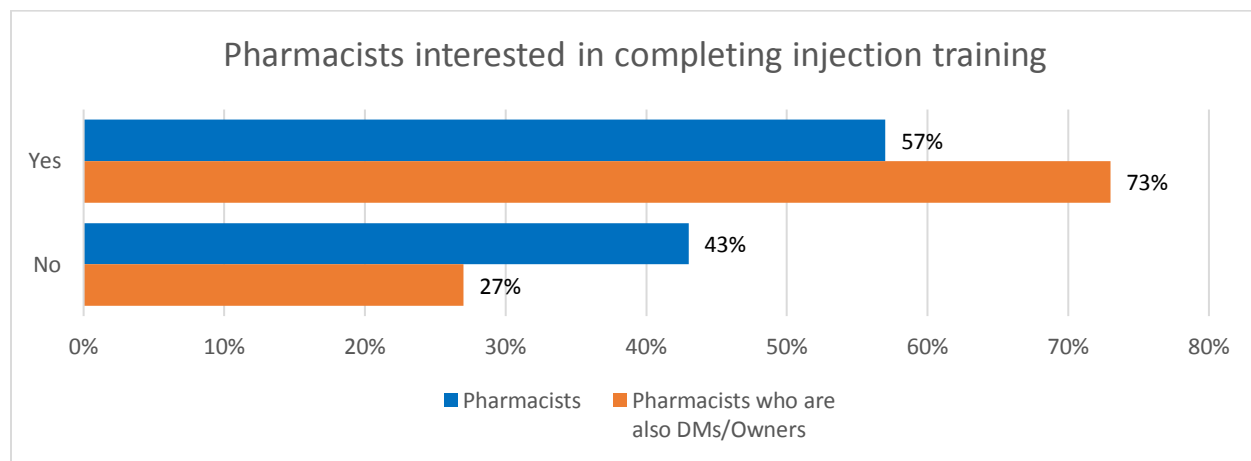
Pharmacists

Pharmacists that have completed injection training and meet all the requirements to provide injections:



Meet requirements to provide injections	Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Yes	2,035	78%	2,509	81%	4,544
No	561	22%	578	19%	1,139
Total participants responded	2,596		3,087		5,683

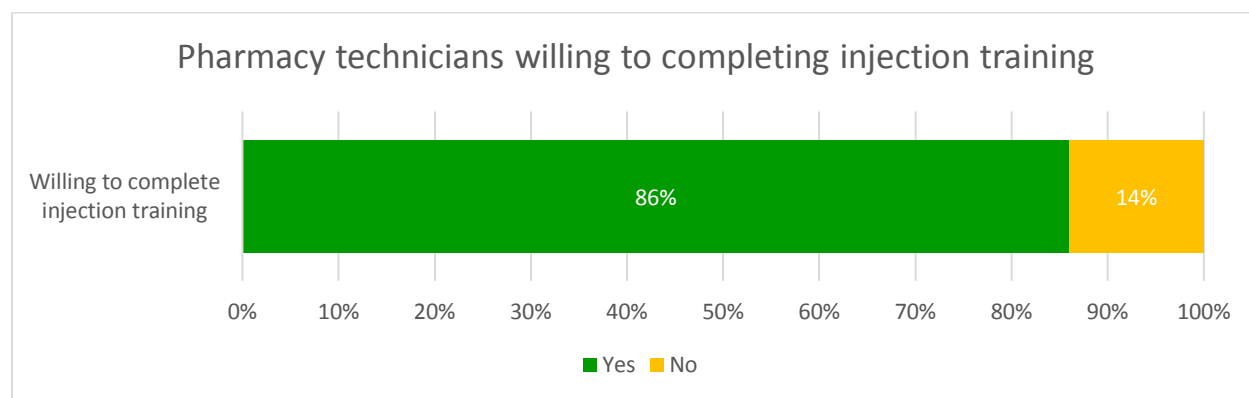
Pharmacists that have not completed injection training and want to complete the training in order to participate in vaccine administration:



Want to complete training to participate in vaccine administration	Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Yes	308	57%	422	73%	730
No	235	43%	153	27%	388
Total participants responded	543		575		1,118

Pharmacy Technicians

Pharmacy technicians were asked if their employer supported them, and there was no cost to them, if they would be willing to complete injection training consisting of online self-study modules that could be completed in 5-7 hours and an additional 2-3 hours of in-person practical training in their workplace, in order to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.



Willing to complete injection training	Count of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	742	86%
No	123	14%
Total participants responded	865	

Resources to Support Participation in COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

Participants were asked to indicate if they would like any of the following resources to support their participation in COVID-19 vaccine administration. Participants could select more than one option.

Resources to support participation in COVID-19 vaccine administration	Pharmacy Technicians		Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Information on vaccine approval process	N/A*	N/A*	1,250	54%	1,662	58%	2,912
Effectiveness of vaccines authorized (e.g. immunogenicity, efficacy and effectiveness)	N/A*	N/A*	1,882	81%	2,378	82%	4,260
Information related to the technologies used to develop the vaccine	N/A*	N/A*	1,270	55%	1,634	57%	2,904
Information about how the COVID vaccines work	683	89%	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	683
Patient communication tools to address vaccine hesitancy	662	86%	1,795	78%	2,360	82%	4,817
Vaccine administration practices (interval between doses, contraindications, vaccine interchangeability)	N/A*	N/A*	2,014	87%	2,511	87%	4,525
Information about vaccine administration (intervals between dosing, follow-up procedures)	690	90%	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	690
Other	24	3%	160	7%	115	4%	299
Total participants responded	768		2,312		2,883		5,963

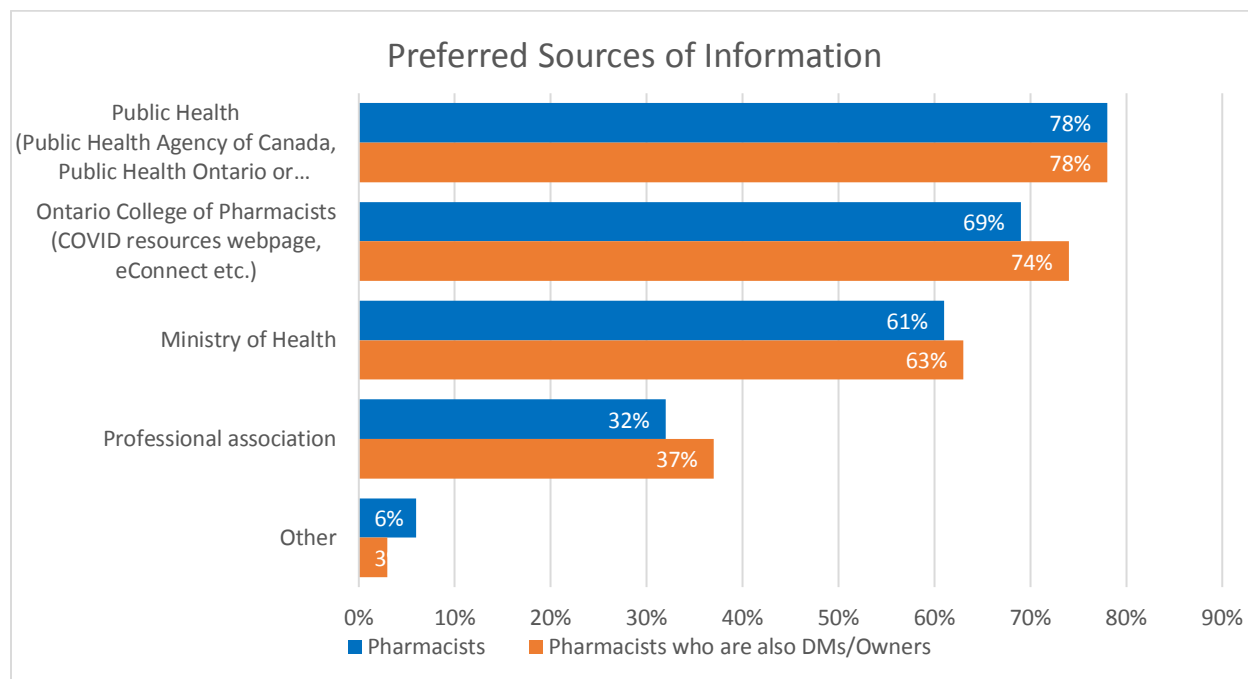
* Answer option not available to this group

Resources to support COVID-19 vaccination based on “other” responses:

- Refresher training/injection course
- Remuneration
- Safety information and information on managing side effects
- PPE
- Support for appointment scheduling
- Time and adequate staffing
- Data on adverse effects
- Clinical trials data
- Storage information
- Information for special populations (i.e. immunocompromised, pregnant)

Preferred Sources of COVID-19 Information

Pharmacists were asked to indicate their preferred source(s) for new information about the COVID-19 vaccine and its availability. Participants could select more than one option.



Preferred Source of Information	Pharmacists		Pharmacists who are also DMs/Owners		Total
Public Health (Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Health Ontario or local public health unit)	1,950	78%	2,337	78%	4,287
Ontario College of Pharmacists (COVID resources webpage, eConnect etc.)	1,716	69%	2,212	74%	3,928
Ministry of Health	1,516	61%	1,891	63%	3,407
Professional association	796	32%	1,108	37%	1,904
Other	142	6%	102	3%	244
Total participants responded	2,494		2,989		5,483

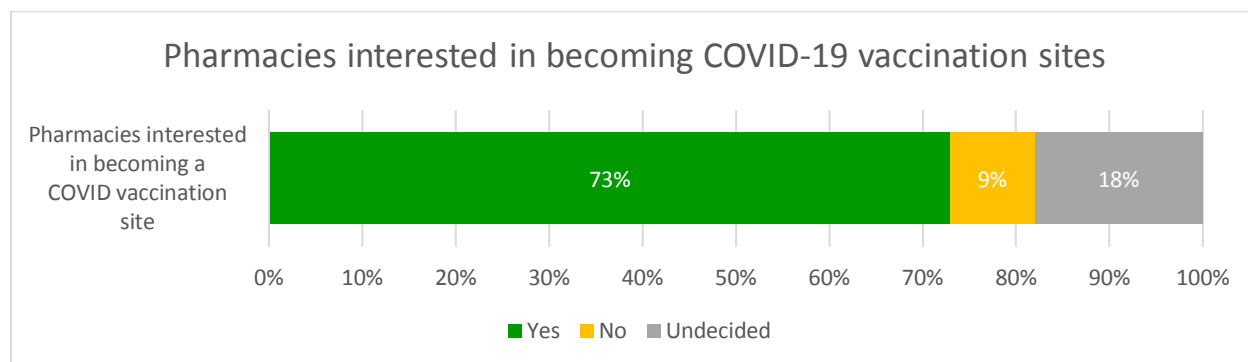
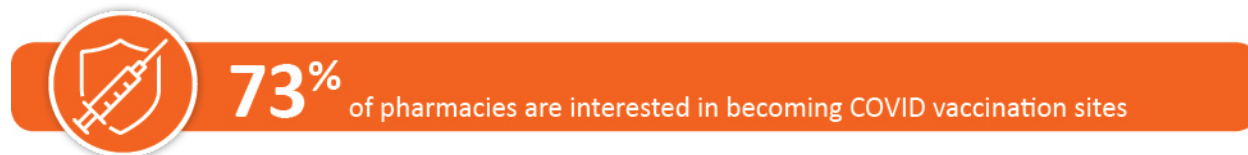
Preferred sources of information based on “other” responses:

- Academic and pharmacy journal articles
- Manufacturers

Pharmacies

Questions regarding pharmacies were answered by survey participants who indicated that they were a pharmacy designated manager or owner. A total of 3,004 participants responded to this section.

Pharmacies interested in becoming COVID-19 vaccination sites



Pharmacies interested in becoming a COVID vaccination site	Count of Responses (3,004 responded)	Percentage of Responses
Yes	2,182	73%
No	286	9%
Undecided	537	18%
Total participants responded	3,004	

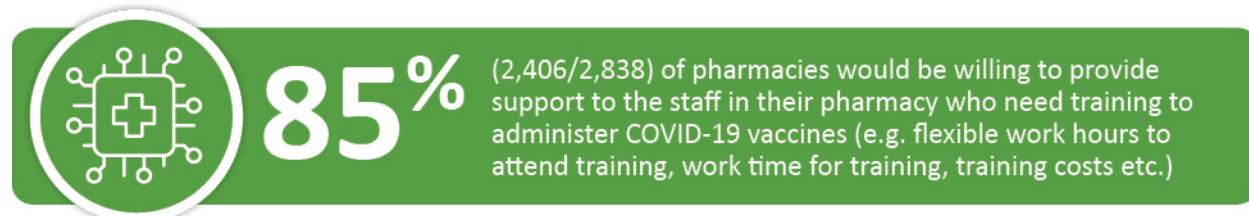
Participants who responded that their pharmacies were not interested or were undecided were asked to indicate which factors most contributed to their decision. Participants could select all factors that applied.

Factors that most contributed to decision	Count of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Increased workload of administrative tasks (booking, scheduling second dose, documentation requirements) and impact on other pharmacy services	491	63%
Insufficient space in pharmacy	438	56%
Increased risk of exposure to virus for patients and staff	395	50%
Insufficient staff trained to vaccinate	319	41%
Liability issues related to adverse effects	314	40%
Insufficient information about the funding/reimbursement model	311	40%
Insufficient information about distribution/allocation model	275	35%
Managing eligibility criteria for priority patients is too onerous	206	26%
Total participants responded	784	

Participants were asked to indicate which factors would impact their decision to become a COVID-19 vaccination site. Participants could select all factors that applied.

Factors impacting decision to become a COVID-19 vaccination site	Count of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Availability of tools/policies/procedures to efficiently operationalize the administration of COVID vaccine	1875	67%
Access to adequate staff to maintain core pharmacy services, meet other patient needs	1863	67%
Availability of clear and consistent required messaging/education for the public (i.e information about priority groups, having to deny vaccination to members of the same family)	1856	67%
Education on managing adverse effects and how to respond in the pharmacy	1617	58%
Access to a CENTRAL online booking system managed by public health in your region	1609	58%
Support to train additional staff to vaccinate	1103	40%
Total participants responded	2,785	

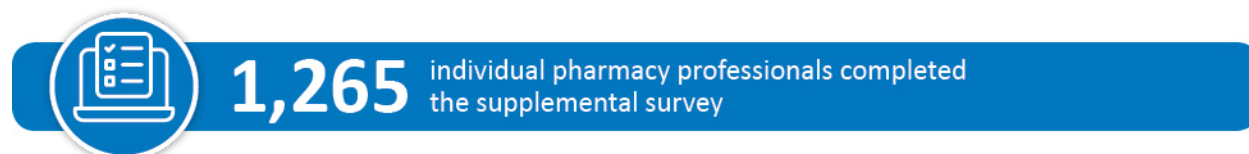
Support to staff for training to administer vaccines



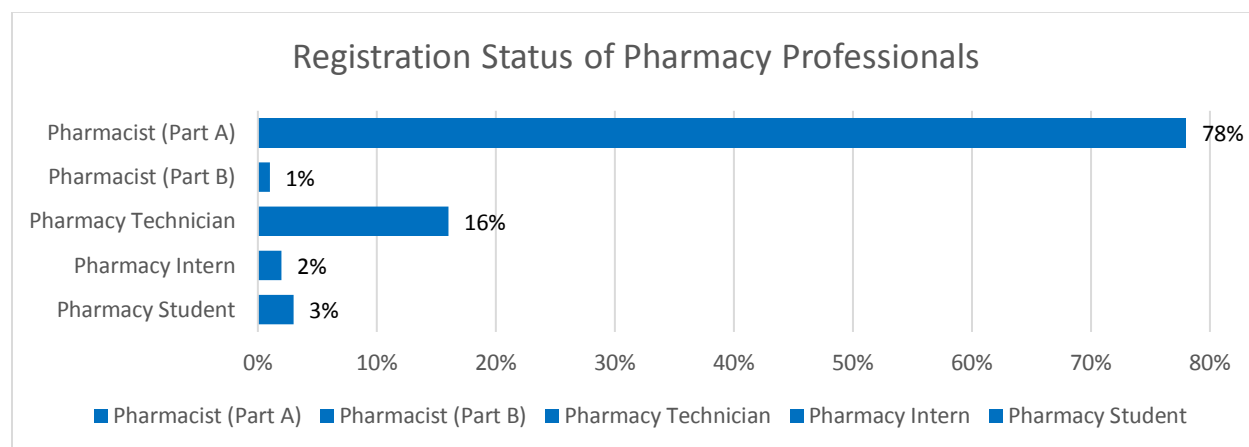
Supplementary survey: COVID-19 Vaccine

Administration Participation

Pharmacy Professionals

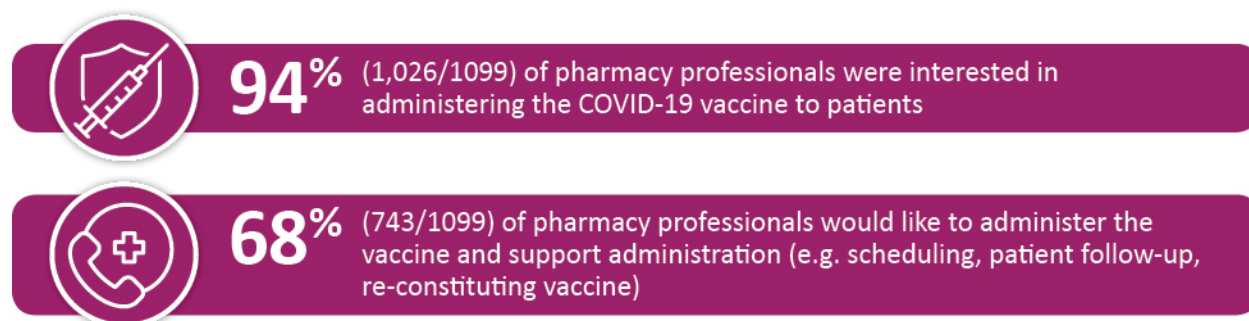


Registration status of pharmacy professionals who completed the supplemental survey



Registration	Count of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Pharmacist (Part A)	872	78%
Pharmacist (Part B)	14	1%
Pharmacy Technician	173	16%
Pharmacy Intern	25	2%
Pharmacy Student	28	3%
Total participants responded	1,113	

Type of support pharmacy professionals were interested in providing



Availability and location of pharmacy professionals



Individuals from each public health unit responded to the survey, and the distribution was similar to the population distribution across the province.

Pharmacies

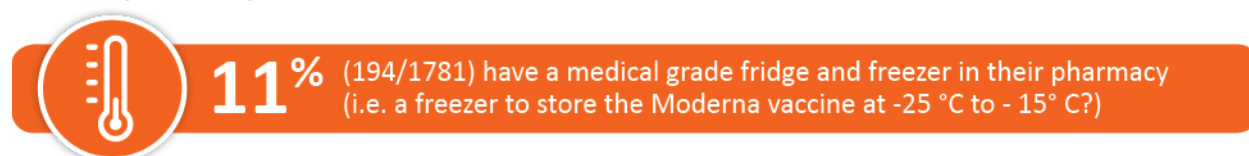
There were **734 responses** on behalf of pharmacies (including participants who responded on both their own and their pharmacy's behalf). An additional **1,188 responses** were sent directly by corporate head offices (Lovell, Rexall and Shoppers Drug Mart/Loblaws).

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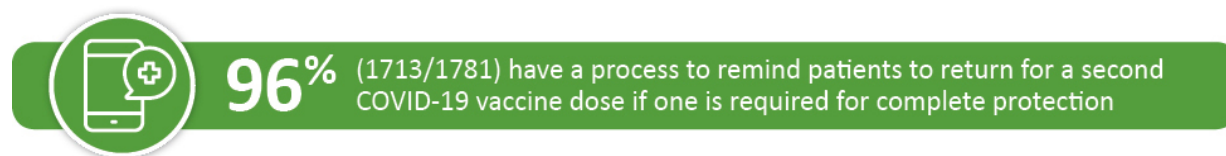
UIIP participation



Medical grade fridge and freezers



Pharmacy processes



These included:

Process to remind patients to return for second vaccine dose	Count of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Automated email	1259	71%
Phone call	1270	71%
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated text message 	1266	71%
Total participants responded	1781	

Notes:

Only questions that dictated survey logic (i.e. “What is your registration status with the College?”) were mandatory. The number of responses received is noted for each question.

All percentages have been rounded, which may impact totals.

Where participants could select more than one option in a question the denominator is the total individuals who answered the question (i.e. x% of respondents picked this option).