

**CARP Immunization Poll Report  
October 22, 2015**

**Key Findings**

**Three quarters of members have or will get flu shots this year, and also got flu shots last year, and almost all of these get the shot every year, primarily in a doctor's office, but also in a pharmacy. Those who won't get a shot will not because they don't get sick, or because they don't trust vaccines or don't think they're effective.**

**One fifth have or know someone who has a condition which the flu would endanger, and one fifth in total have actually had flu in the past year. Incidence of saying getting a flu vaccine is a public health responsibility has declined this year from last year, as has incidence of saying vaccines should be compulsory for public health workers. Nevertheless, two thirds of members agree vaccinations are one of the most important public health tools. One half sees vaccination as a public duty, both now and last year.**

**Two thirds claim to remember which vaccines they have had and more than half have had a vaccine review with their doctor in the past five years. Members are most likely to get their information about vaccines from their doctors, most are aware there are vaccines for a wide range of adult conditions, the most common of which they've been vaccinated for or exposed to being shingles.**

**Three quarters are comfortable receiving a vaccination from a pharmacist, and almost all say all vaccines should covered by the health care system.**

**In the waning weeks of the federal election, the Liberals broke free from the pack and took a substantial lead in voter preference, as both the Conservatives, and, especially the NDP, declined.**

## Detailed Findings

Three quarters of members (74%) have either got their flu shot already (6%) or are planning to get one (68%). Just one quarter choose not to (24%).

***Have you had a flu shot or are you planning on getting a flu shot this season?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Have gotten one</b>	6%
<b>Planning to get one</b>	68%
<b>Not planning to get one</b>	24%
<b>CANNOT FOR MEDICAL REASONS</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

Three quarters also got their flu shot last year (73%).

***Did you get a flu shot last year?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>No</b>	26%
<b>CANNOT FOR MEDICAL REASONS</b>	1%

Two thirds of members get a flu shot every year (67%), and most of the remainder never get one (17%).

***How often do you get a flu shot?***

<b>Every year</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Most years</b>	7%
<b>When the flu is especially virulent</b>	1%
<b>Rarely</b>	7%
<b>Never</b>	17%
<b>CANNOT FOR MEDICAL REASONS</b>	1%

One third will get their flu shot at the doctor's office (36%) and a further quarter at the pharmacist's (25%).

***If you have had a flu shot or are planning to get one, where did you or will you go to be vaccinated?***

<b>Doctor's office</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Pharmacy</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Public health clinic</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Stand-alone walk-in flu clinic</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Community centre</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Work or school</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>NOT PLANNING TO GET FLU SHOT</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>CANNOT FOR MEDICAL REASONS</b>	<b>1%</b>

Among those not planning to get the flu shot, most say they don't get sick that often (31%), while equal proportions either don't trust vaccines or think they are not effective against current strains (21% each).

***If you are not planning to get the flu shot, what is the most important reason?***

<b>Don't get sick usually</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Don't trust vaccines</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Vaccines don't work against current strains</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Forgot/not a priority</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Don't have access</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>No time</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>CANNOT FOR MEDICAL REASONS</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>19%</b>

One fifth (21%) are (10%) or know someone (11%) who would be endangered if they caught the flu.

***Do you or does anyone you know have a medical condition that would put you in danger if you got the flu?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Me</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Someone I know</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>79%</b>

One fifth had the flu last year (19%).

***Have you had the flu in the past year?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>3%</b>

One tenth (10%) of members (2%) are or know someone who (8%) is unable to receive vaccinations because of a medical condition.

***People with compromised immune systems or people taking immune suppressing medications often cannot receive vaccines. Are you or is someone you know currently in this position?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Me</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Someone I know</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>8%</b>

Close to one fifth (17%) have (11%) or know someone (6%) who has paid for a vaccine.

***Have you, or has anyone you know, ever paid for a flu shot?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Me</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Someone I know</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>83%</b>

Members are slightly less likely this year (75%) than last (84%) to say that it is a citizen's responsibility to get vaccinated to prevent spread of the flu.

***Do you agree or disagree it is your responsibility to get a flu vaccination to prevent spreading the flu to others?***

	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	53%	61%
<b>Agree</b>	22%	23%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	12%	9%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	10%	6%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	4%	2%

The two most common reasons cited for some refusing vaccinations are misinformation (39%) and the notion that vaccines don't work (20%).

***Not including people who can't get vaccinated for medical reasons, what is the main reason some people choose not get flu shots?***

<b>Misinformation about vaccines</b>	39%
<b>Think vaccines are ineffective</b>	20%
<b>Vaccine based on last year's flu</b>	8%
<b>Fear of vaccines</b>	6%
<b>Don't get sick/don't go out</b>	4%
<b>Too busy</b>	2%
<b>Never occurred to them</b>	2%
<b>No access/too far/remote</b>	1%
<b>Something else</b>	5%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	13%

Members disagree less strongly this year (63%) than last (73%) that the reasons listed are a valid excuse for not vaccinating.

***Do you agree or disagree any of these reasons listed above are a justification for not getting a flu vaccination?***

	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	6%	6%
<b>Agree</b>	20%	16%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	30%	31%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	33%	42%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	11%	5%

Members are equally likely this year (77%) to agree campaigners against vaccines are doing a disservice to public health as last year (80%).

***Do you agree or disagree that those who campaign against vaccination are misinformed and constitute a threat to public health?***

	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	45%	42%
<b>Agree</b>	32%	38%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	9%	10%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	5%	4%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	8%	5%

Once again, members are slightly less likely this year (79%) than last (83%) to say vaccination must be mandatory for public health workers.

***Do you agree or disagree flu vaccinations should be mandatory for all health care workers?***

	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	48%	52%
<b>Agree</b>	31%	31%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	11%	10%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	5%	4%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	5%	3%

Two thirds (66%) of members believe vaccination is one of the most important public health tools, while about one fifth (18%) think it's generally good, but not for everyone or may or may not be beneficial (11%). Very few believe vaccines cause disease (2%).

***Which of the following would you use to describe your attitude to vaccination?***

<b>One of the most important public health tools</b>	66%
<b>Vaccination is good, but not for everybody</b>	18%
<b>Vaccination may or may not be beneficial</b>	11%
<b>Vaccination is useless</b>	*
<b>Vaccination can cause disease</b>	2%
<b>OTHER</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	1%

Members are equally likely, one half, to say vaccination is a public duty now (53%) and last year (51%), although many think it's a private decision (44% and 47%, respectively).

***Is vaccination a public duty or a personal decision?***

	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
<b>Public duty</b>	53%	51%
<b>Personal decision</b>	44%	47%
<b>OTHER</b>	2%	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	1%	1%

Two thirds of members recall all their vaccines (69%).

***Apart from the flu shot, do you know or remember what vaccines you have received as an adult and when?***

<b>Yes</b>	69%
<b>No</b>	32%

More than half of members have had their vaccinations reviewed in the past 5 years (58%), and one fifth have had this occur in the past year or less (21%). One fifth have never had their vaccinations reviewed (19%).

***When was the last time your family doctor reviewed your immunization status?***

<b>Less than a year ago</b>	21%
<b>One to five years ago</b>	37%
<b>Six to ten years ago</b>	7%
<b>More than 10 years ago</b>	6%
<b>NEVER</b>	19%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	10%

More than half get information about vaccines from their doctor (52%), followed by the media and advertising (17%).

***Where do you get information about vaccines?***

<b>From my family doctor</b>	52%
<b>From media/advertising</b>	17%
<b>From the internet</b>	8%
<b>From a nurse</b>	6%
<b>From a pharmacist</b>	6%
<b>Word of mouth</b>	2%
<b>OTHER</b>	9%

Three quarters of members are aware of the wide range of diseases they should be vaccinated against (75%).

***It is recommended that adults get vaccinated for a number of conditions including shingles, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, chicken pox, polio and flu. Were you aware these were conditions for which adults should be up-to-date in their vaccinations?***

<b>Yes</b>	75%
<b>No</b>	22%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	3%

Three quarters (74%) have been vaccinated for all (8%), some (36%) or one or two (28%) of the conditions listed.

***Have you been vaccinated in the past 5 years for any of these conditions?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>All of them</b>	8%
<b>Some of them</b>	38%
<b>One or two</b>	28%
<b>No</b>	24%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

The two conditions for which members are most likely to have received vaccinations (apart from flu) are shingles (37%) and tetanus (32%).

***Which was the last vaccine you had other than the flu vaccine?***

<b>Shingles</b>	37%
<b>Tetanus</b>	32%
<b>Polio</b>	4%
<b>Diphtheria</b>	1%
<b>Measles</b>	1%
<b>Chicken pox</b>	1%
<b>Mumps</b>	*
<b>OTHER</b>	13%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	13%

Close to half of members have had shingles before being vaccinated against the condition (45%),

***Have you or has anyone you know contracted any of the above conditions at any time before having a chance to get vaccinated?***

<b>Shingles</b>	45%
<b>Chicken pox</b>	1%
<b>Measles</b>	1%
<b>Polio</b>	1%
<b>Diphtheria</b>	*
<b>Mumps</b>	*
<b>Tetanus</b>	*
<b>More than one</b>	6%
<b>OTHER</b>	1%
<b>NO</b>	44%

Three quarters are comfortable receiving a vaccination from a pharmacist (75%).

***Are you comfortable receiving a vaccine from a pharmacist?***

<b>COMFORTABLE</b>	<b>75%</b>
Very comfortable	48%
Somewhat comfortable	27%
<b>NOT COMFORTABLE</b>	<b>17%</b>
Not very comfortable	9%
Not at all comfortable	8%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>8%</b>

There is almost universal agreement the health care system should cover all vaccines (93%) and more than half agree strongly (59%).

***Do you agree or disagree the health care system should pay for all necessary adult vaccinations?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>93%</b>
Agree strongly	59%
Agree	34%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>17%</b>
Disagree	4%
Disagree strongly	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>3%</b>

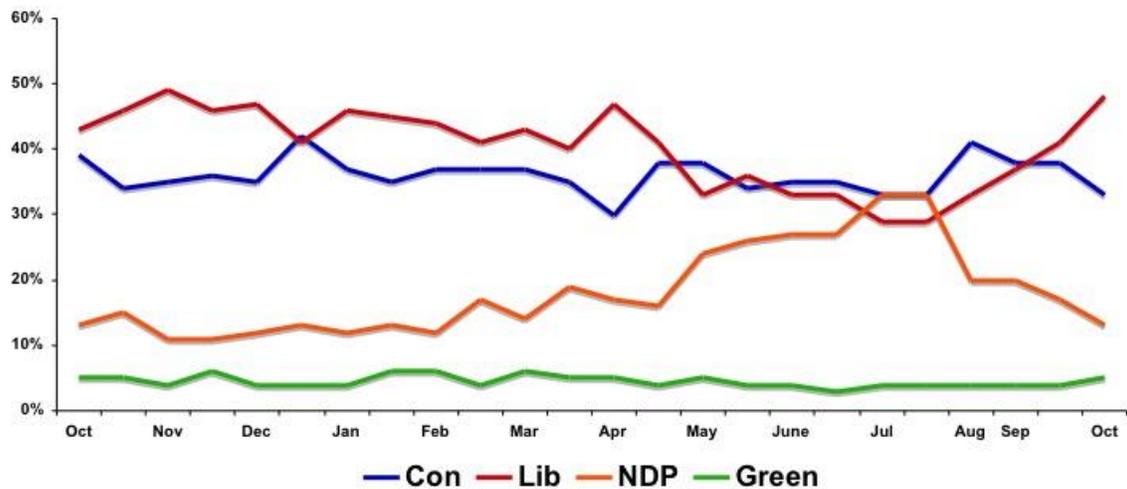
There is agreement that rigorous testing should establish which vaccines are covered (36%), followed by those who say all vaccines should be covered (32%). Fewer say only vaccines for the most serious diseases should be covered.

***What standards should be applied in deciding whether new vaccines should be covered by the health system?***

<b>Rigorous scientific testing</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>All vaccines should be covered</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Only for the most contagious diseases</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Proven to be best/only one on market</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>All vaccines covered for low income patients</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>If covered elsewhere, cover here</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>If it's very costly</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>VACCINES SHOULD BE PAID FOR/NOT FREE</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>5%</b>

## Electoral Preference

The Liberals lead strongly now (48%), having surpassed the Conservatives (33%) in mid-September. The NDP have fallen back sharply (13%) and have not been competitive since mid-August.



***Almost 2000 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between October 10 and 14, 2015. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20***