COVID-19 Checkup September 27, 2022 Prepared for UASU Executive Committee



Overview

This three-question survey ran on the UASU Perks platform, September 23-27, 2022. It reached 1,003 respondents. It ran under a title that had nothing to do with COVID-19 to eliminate self-selection bias.

Top-level results were comparable to <u>rates during Winter 2022</u> in the return-to-campus period between the last two major waves. Both testing and cases were especially frequent among fourth-year students or higher.

- 16.0% had taken at least one kind of COVID-19 test in the previous two weeks.
- 3.4% had tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous two weeks, for a test positivity rate for roughly 21%.

The survey also examined whether students had ever contracted COVID-19, and whether they had experienced long COVID.

- 51% disclosed that they had contracted COVID-19 at some point, fairly consistent across faculty and year of study.
- After reading an explanation of long COVID taken from Health Canada resources, 13% disclosed that they had experienced, or were still experiencing (4.6%), long COVID.

In simplest terms: as of September 2022, half of our respondents had contracted COVID-19 at some point; one out of thirty respondents had contracted it in the previous two weeks; long COVID had impacted one out of eight respondents and one-quarter of respondents who had contracted COVID-19; and one out of twenty-two respondents were currently experiencing long COVID.

"Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past TWO weeks?"

Yes: 3.4%No: 92.8%

• Prefer not to say: 3.8%

Though these are small subsets, we note that two out of seven Law students and one out of eleven Augustana students had tested positive. 'Yes' responses were significantly higher for fourth- and fifth-year-plus students (4-5%). Law was also a faculty of concern in January 2022.

"Have you taken a COVID-19 test in the past TWO weeks? If so, what kind?"

Yes, rapid test: 13.2%Yes, PCR test: 0.6%

Yes, both rapid and PCR tests: 0.8%Yes, not sure what kind of test: 1.4%

No: 81.0%

Prefer not to say: 3.1%

The most likely faculties to have taken any kind of test in the previous two weeks were Native Studies (60%), Law (43%), Medicine and Dentistry (24%), and Education (19%). The least likely were KSR (9%), Augustana (9%), and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (0%). 'Yes' responses (of any kind) were significantly higher for fourth- and fifth-year-plus students (18-19%).

"Have you had long COVID? From Health Canada: 'Some people still experience physical or psychological symptoms more than 12 weeks after getting COVID-19. This is called post COVID-19 condition (also known as long COVID)...The most common symptoms that we know of in adults include: fatigue, memory problems, sleep disturbances, shortness of breath, anxiety and depression, general pain and discomfort, difficulty thinking or concentrating, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).'"

• I haven't had COVID-19: 43.8%

- I've had COVID-19 but I don't think I've had long COVID: 37.6%
- I think I've had long COVID, but I got over it: 8.5%
- I think I still have long COVID: 4.6%
- Prefer not to say: 5.6%

Secondary statistics:

- Respondents who have had COVID-19: 51%
- Respondents who have, or have had, long COVID: 13%
- Percent of those who have had COVID-19 who experienced or are experiencing long COVID: 26%

These results were fairly consistent across years of study and faculty. The most common faculties to have had COVID-19 were Faculté Saint-Jean (72%) and Business (55%); the least common were Medicine and Dentistry (38%) and Augustana (36%).

The 46 respondents currently experiencing long COVID were extremely likely to have tested positive in the previous two weeks (15%) and to have taken a test in the previous two weeks (35%).