

# Removing COVID-19 Public Health Orders - Impacts and Concerns for Primary Care

## Summary Survey Results



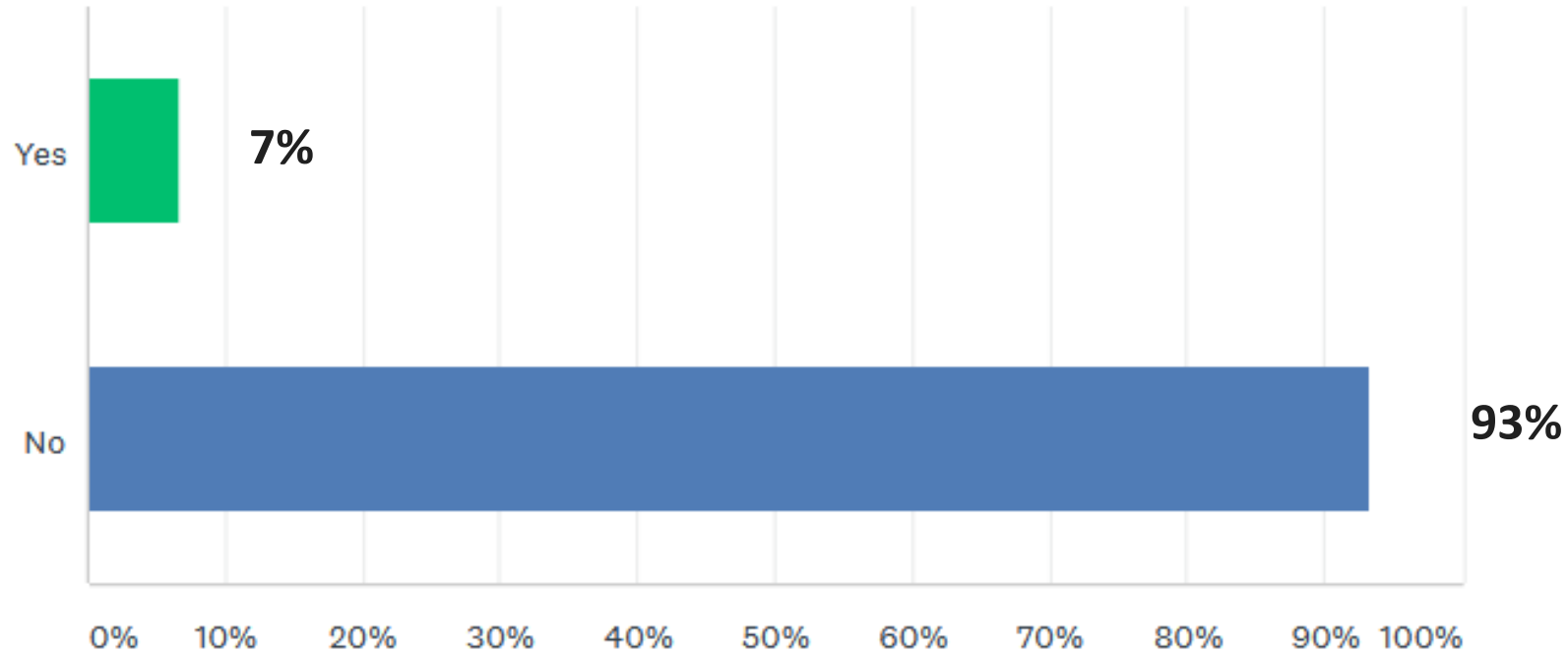
ALBERTA COLLEGE *of*  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS



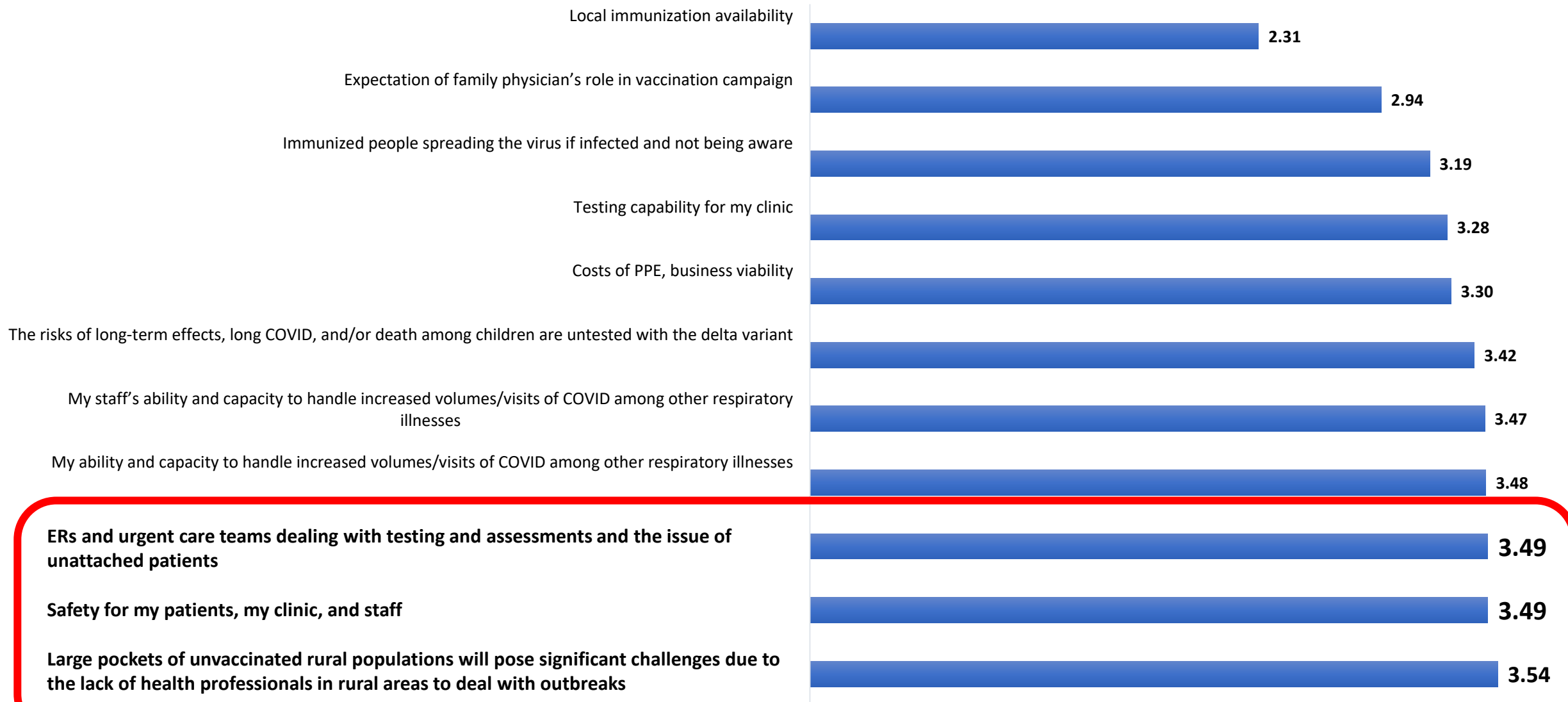
# Summary

- Purpose
  - To Understand member perspective on how the announcement of the removal of COVID-19 Public Health Orders may impact primary care.
- 472 individual responses
- 806 written comments
- 9% response rate of overall membership and 15% who responded to the survey request
- Considered adequate sample

# Support the decision of lifting mandatory isolation restrictions for people who test positive for COVID-19



# Rating of Concern *(where 4 equals extremely concerned)*



# Member Sentiment

## General concerns were expressed by family physicians

- Concerns regarding safety of patients, staff positions, themselves, and their families
- Concerns regarding lack of consultation with frontline physicians
- Children being unvaccinated under the age of 12 and going into school without mandatory mitigation of risk
- Announcement of reduction of supports
- Concerns regarding mandatory isolation being discontinued; there is no evidence that supports this
- Context of the Alberta health system at this point including large portions of rural populations being unvaccinated and those same geographic areas having low number of physicians and nurses, acute care and emergency room closures, and recruitment difficulties
- Delta variant numbers increasing potential breakthrough infections being greater with delta Inadequately funded virtual care
- Significant physician shortages and burnout
- Increase staffing requirements depending on respiratory virus load in community
- Concerns regarding surveillance system transparency and dashboard
- Lack of public messaging regarding the upcoming change
- Family physicians throughout this pandemic have been marginalized
- Family physicians had to advocate strongly to be able to immunize their patients
- Family physicians continue to have difficulty and obtaining COVID results done by public health
- Family physicians have been excluded from any type of meaningful consultation.
- The lack of adequate funding for virtual care
- Financial supports for PPE
- Family physicians also have seen their patients who are working frontline jobs without paid sick time be disproportionately affected COVID-19 both by infection and being involved in outbreaks. The switch of public health supports further disadvantages this population and sets up again a vulnerable population for increased risk of the delta variant in a fourth wave with the closure of things like quarantine and isolation hotels
- Lack of immunization for children with a more infection infectious variant of concern