

Overview

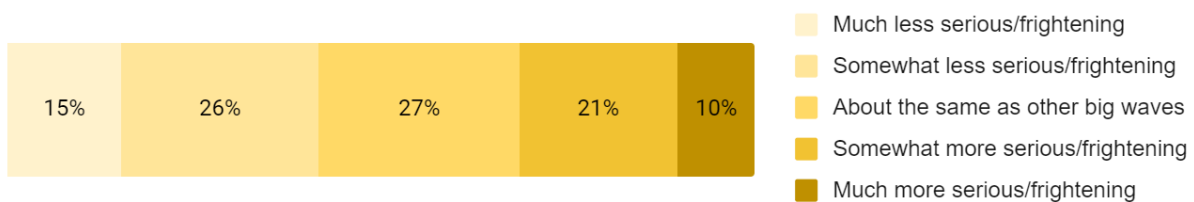
This UASU Perks survey reached 869 points of contact, roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of the active users on the Perks platform. As with all Perks surveys, the vast majority of respondents are undergraduate students. It ran from January 14 to 17.

The UASU has developed a set of questions on COVID-19 testing that will be included in Perks surveys at regular intervals. These 'host' surveys will not be about, or advertised as being about, testing for or contracting COVID-19, but each inclusion of the two-question set does inform students that future surveys will include these optional questions. We hope to use this method to reduce self-selection bias and maximize the reliability of the questions on testing. The size of the survey response was comparable to the sample sizes of other concurrent, unrelated Perks surveys. In short, we hope that this data can be considered reasonably generalizable and an incentive to develop better data.

Note: This version of the document (January 31) corrects a labeling error in one of the testing questions. A resulting conclusion about knowledge of test types has been removed.

Impressions of the Omicron Wave

"Thinking about how YOU feel right now, does the current COVID-19 wave (omicron) feel MORE or LESS serious/frightening than the other big waves?" [5-point Likert scale]



- Students' feelings are widely split. There is no consensus. For every three students who find omicron more serious/frightening, four students find it less serious/frightening, but responses trend toward the middle ('about the same as other big waves').
- The most concerned large faculties (*somewhat+much more serious/frightening*): ALES (37%), Science (40%).
- The least concerned faculties (*somewhat+much less serious/frightening*): Education (44%), Engineering (43%), KSR (46%). Note also that Law (only 12 respondents) rated at 58% by this metric.

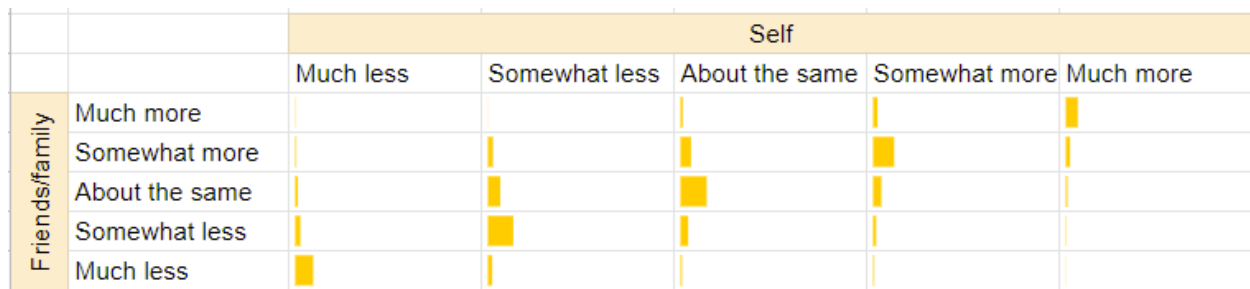
- Crucially, [another recent survey](#) found that respondents from Law, KSR, and Education were also far more likely to have contracted COVID-19, particularly in the last six months.

"Thinking about how your FRIENDS AND FAMILY are feeling right now, do you think the current COVID-10 wave (omicron) feels MORE or LESS serious/frightening than the other big waves?" [5-point Likert scale]

These responses closely paralleled the previous question.

	Much less	Somewhat less	About the same	Somewhat more	Much more
Self	15%	26%	27%	21%	10%
Family/friends	14%	23%	29%	23%	11%

We also found that at an individual level, students are very likely to feel the same as their friends and family. A basic heatmap as proportions of all respondents:



Recurring Questions on Testing

"We're developing UAlberta student COVID data to help fill in the blanks. Going forward, we plan to add this question to random surveys to look at trends in ways that the University and the Government of Alberta have not. Thanks for helping us out! As with all Perks data, this is completely anonymous. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past two weeks?" [Yes/No/Prefer not to say]

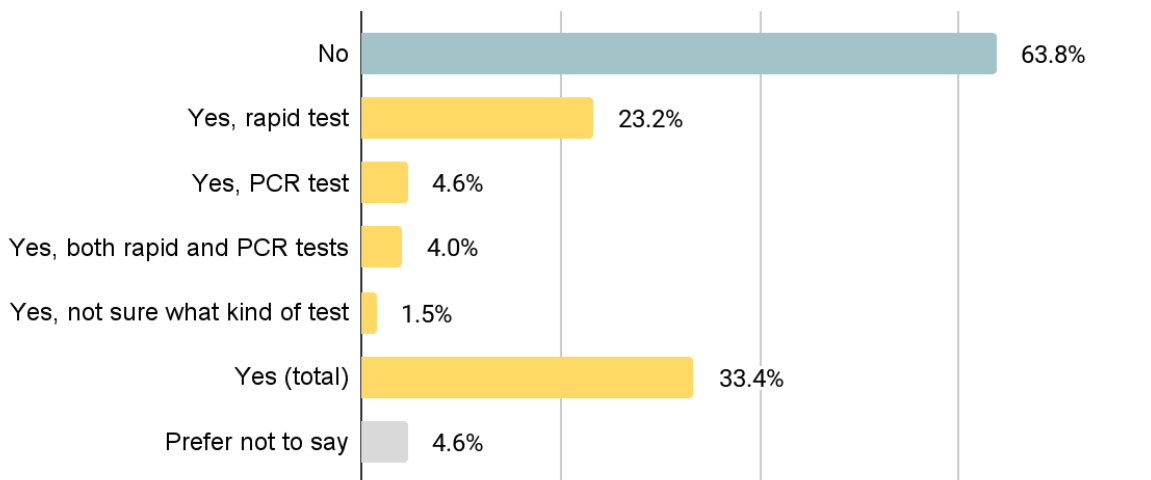
In the past two weeks, 7.5% of respondents (65 individuals) had tested positive. Again, the survey was NOT advertised as being about whether respondents had contracted COVID-19, and the survey response was comparable to the sample sizes of other unrelated Perks surveys, suggesting a degree of generalizability.

- Large faculties most likely to have tested positive in the last two weeks: Business (12%), KSR (11%).

- Large faculties least likely to have tested positive in the last two weeks: Education (5%), Engineering (5%). Recall that these faculties were also less likely to be concerned about the omicron wave specifically.
- Students who had tested positive in the last two weeks were somewhat more likely to consider omicron somewhat/more serious or frightening than other students did (38% versus 31%).

"Have you taken a COVID-19 test in the past two weeks? If so, what kind?" [Yes, rapid test/Yes, PCR test/Yes, both rapid and PCR tests/Yes, not sure what kind of test/No/Prefer not to say]

In the past two weeks, 33.4% of respondents (290 individuals) had been tested for COVID-19, and have experienced a test positivity rate of 22.4%. This is far lower than [provincial](#) rates: during January 1-13, Alberta had a test positivity rate of 30%-39%.



- Large faculties most likely to have been tested in the past two weeks: ALES (40%), KSR (64%).
- Large faculties least likely to have been tested in the past two weeks: Arts (24%), Engineering (26%).