

# Optimizing current and future pandemic preparedness: Forging a public-informed research strategy using an integrated knowledge translation approach (Methodology)

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## Introduction

- Contradictory messages were issued from governments and policymakers during the pandemic (e.g., regarding the need for an efficacy of public health measures).<sup>1-2</sup>
- This led to confusion, anxiety, an increased mistrust towards government motives and agendas.<sup>2-4</sup>
- There is an urgent need to regain the public's trust to optimize ongoing COVID-19 responses and future pandemic preparedness.

## Objectives

To identify the remaining COVID-19 related questions and concerns of Canadians and use this data to inform a Canadian research strategy using a rigorous, integrated knowledge translation approach.

## Methodology

Two methodological approaches will be used to collect, synthesize, and prioritize the data :

James Lynd Alliance <sup>5</sup>

e-Delphi <sup>6</sup>

Results will form the basis of a policy brief that will be presented to governments across Canada.

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## References

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## Methodology

- 1 James Lind Alliance Steering Committee (JLA)
  - 25 participants (equal representation of citizens, researchers, policymakers, and health care workers)
  - Method: groups meetings
  - Recruitment strategy: Snowball sampling
- 2 Gather data on public questions and uncertainties
  - Ask the Canadian population about their remaining COVID-19-related questions and concerns (n=xx)
  - Method: survey (open questions)
  - Recruitment strategy: Snowball sampling, social media, Prolific
- 3 Qualitative analyses
  - Responses will be analysed using natural language processing
  - Questions will be categorized by theme
- 4 Evidence checking/refining research questions (JLA committee)
  - Remove questions that already have been answered by research
  - Compile list of key questions
- 5 Participants of first survey prioritize questions with survey rounds (e-DELPHI)
  - a) Round 1: Rate importance of candidate questions (low, med, high)
    - Items rated as medium/high will be ranked in order of priority
    - Items rated as low by 50% or more will be excluded
  - b) Round 2: Re-rate importance of remaining questions
    - Agreement with excluded questions
    - Items rated as high will be rank in order of priority
    - Items rated as low by 75% or more will be excluded
  - c) Round 3: Re-rate and re-rank remaining questions
- 6 Priority setting workshop (JLA committee)
  - Discussion and vote (anonymous & electronically) of the highest ranked questions (those believed to be of high importance by ≥75% of participant after round 3).
- 7 Verification of the final list of questions
  - Alignment with discussion of the workshop
- 8 Publish and promote the list of research questions
  - Will be presented as a policy brief to governments to help inform a national research agenda to optimize pandemic preparedness.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

