

MY HEALTH, OUR FUTURE – PHASE FIVE

Attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccination among children and young people in Suffolk

MY HEALTH, OUR FUTURE

- ▶ Online survey in secondary schools & colleges May - July 21
- ▶ Vaccination questions added to existing content around mental health and wellbeing
- ▶ **39** schools took part. Response no. ranged from **one** to **762** (average **113**).





SAMPLE

Vaccination Responses

3,278 responses were recorded to the questions about vaccination.

School year

94% (3,080) responses were recorded from high school students (Year 7 – Year 11).

6% were sixth form or college age students (Year 12/ 13 or College/ Apprenticeship).

Gender and ethnicity

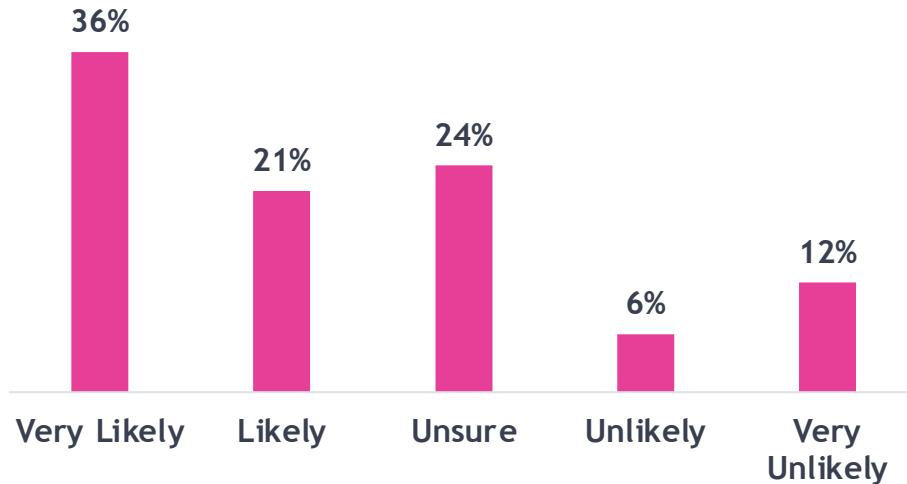
51% of the sample were female, and **45%** of the sample were male. **4%** preferred to describe their gender in another way.

81% of the sample identified as White English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish.

VACCINE LIKELIHOOD – OVERALL AND GENDER

The chart below shows the overall responses to the question “How likely are you to have a COVID 19 vaccine if you were offered one?”

(3,211 responses)



Gender was not correlated with increased likelihood of accepting a vaccine if offered one.

- ▶ 59% of males, 57% of females and 59% of those who preferred to describe their gender in their own way were likely or very likely to accept a vaccine.

Sexuality was also uncorrelated:

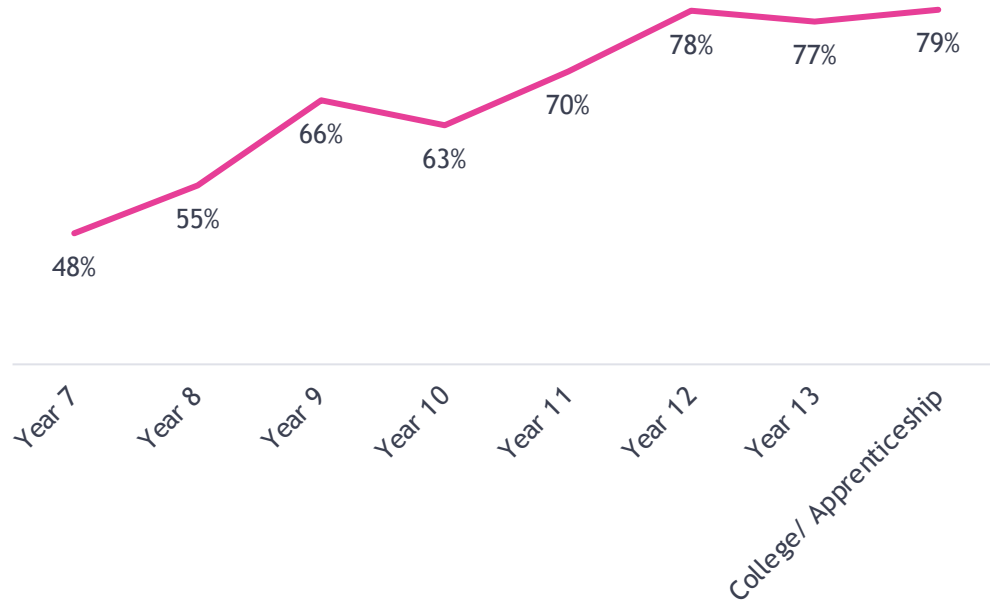
- ▶ 59% of heterosexual student's and 61% of LGBTQ*+ students were “likely” or “very likely” to accept a vaccine.



43%

of young people told us they were 'unsure', 'unlikely' or 'very unlikely' to accept a COVID-19 vaccination if it was offered to them.

VACCINE LIKELIHOOD – YEAR GROUPS



- ▶ Being “very likely” or “likely” to have a vaccine appeared to be generally positively correlated with school year.
- ▶ Year 7 and 8’s were the most likely to say they were “unsure” (28% and 27%).
- ▶ No students in college or apprenticeships said they were “unlikely” or “very unlikely” to have a vaccine if offered one.

VACCINE LIKELIHOOD - ETHNICITY

The table below shows the percentage of students who said that they were “Likely” or “Very Likely” to have a COVID vaccine by ethnicity.

	“Likely” or “very likely” to have a vaccine	Total responses
White*	60%	2783
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic group	56%	128
Asian/ Asian British	44%	102
Polish	41%	59
Romanian	43%	52
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	36%	37
Portuguese	43%	23
Arab	50%	6

*Including White British/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish, Irish, Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller and any other White background.

The highest proportion of students who said they were “unlikely” to have a vaccine identified as **White - Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller** (67% of 15 responses).

VACCINE LIKELIHOOD - VULNERABILITIES

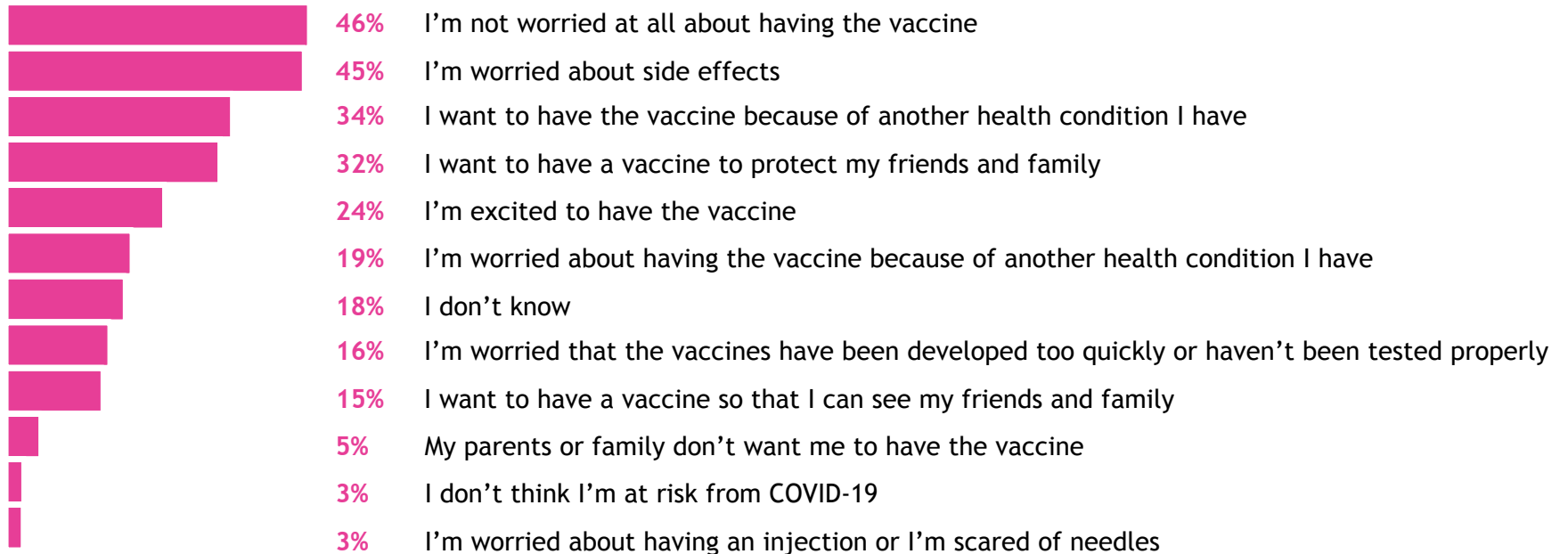
The chart below shows the percentage of students who said that they were “likely or very likely to have a vaccine if offered one by reported vulnerabilities.



- ▶ Number of reported vulnerabilities was not strongly related to vaccine likelihood. However, students with some vulnerabilities said that they were less likely to have a vaccine if offered one than others.
- ▶ Students who were or had been in care, or who received free school meals, said that they were “unlikely” or “very unlikely” to have a vaccine more often than those reporting no vulnerabilities.

VACCINE FEELINGS

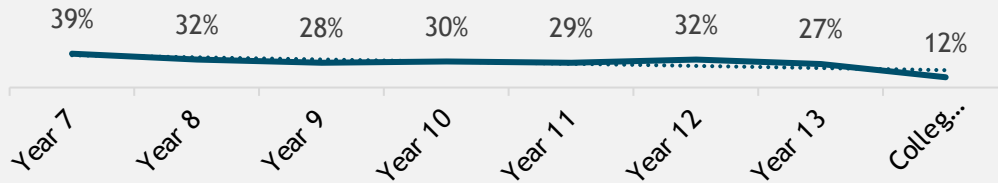
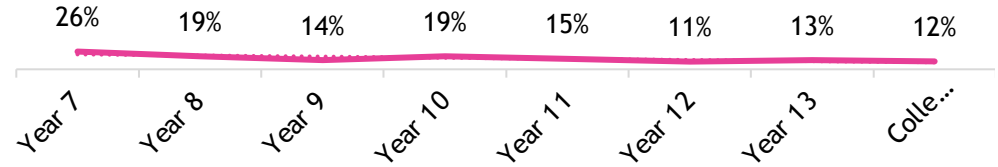
Children and young people were also asked a series of statements about how they felt about having a vaccine. **3,278** answered the question:



VACCINE FEELINGS AND YEAR GROUP

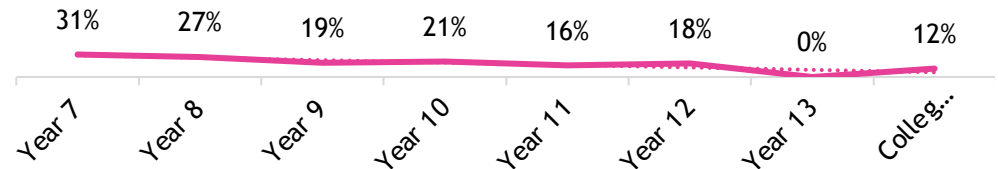
Responses were generally quite consistent across year groups. Key trends included:

Feeling not at risk from COVID-19 appeared to decrease with year group.



Worries about side effects appeared to decrease with year group.

Worries about having an injection or being scared of needles appeared to decrease with year group.



VACCINE FEELINGS AND GENDER

The table below shows the breakdown of the vaccine feelings statements by gender:

	Male	Female	Described gender another way
I'm not worried at all about having the vaccine	58%	36%	38%
I'm worried about side effects	22%	41%	39%
I want to have a vaccine to protect my friends and family	38%	51%	52%
I want to have a vaccine so that I can see my friends and family	30%	38%	43%
I'm worried that the vaccines have been developed too quickly or haven't been tested properly	10%	20%	29%
I'm worried about having an injection or I'm scared of needles	14%	32%	44%
My parents or family don't want me to have the vaccine	5%	5%	6%
I don't think I'm at risk from COVID-19	23%	16%	26%

Key Highlights:

- ▶ Male students were *less likely to say they were worried about having an injection or scared of needles*, and *less likely to be worried about side effects or that the vaccines had been developed too quickly*.
- ▶ Female students and those who preferred to describe their gender in another way were *more likely to agree that they wanted to have the vaccine to protect their friends and family*.
- ▶ Female students were *less likely to feel they were not at risk from COVID-19*.



43%

of those 'unsure' about having a vaccine indicated they were worried about side effects. Fear of needles was a common concern amongst those who were very unlikely to accept a vaccination and others did not feel at risk of the virus.

VACCINE FEELINGS AND VACCINE LIKELIHOOD

The tables below show the top five statements for those who said that they were “Very Likely” or “Likely” to have a vaccine, those who said they were “Unsure” and those who said that they were “Unlikely” or “Very Unlikely”.

Likely or Very Likely

I want to have a vaccine to protect my friends and family	59%
I'm not worried at all about having the vaccine	58%
I want to have a vaccine so that I can see my friends and family	46%
I'm excited to have the vaccine	27%
I'm worried about side effects	26%

Unsure

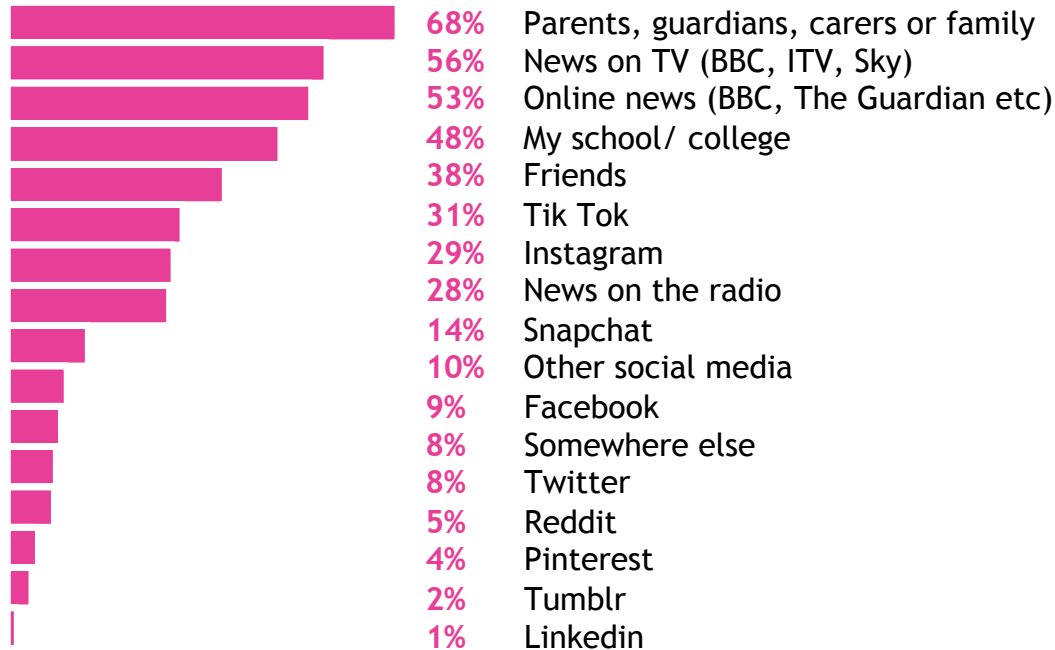
I'm worried about side effects	43%
I want to have a vaccine to protect my friends and family	36%
I'm not worried at all about having the vaccine	32%
I'm worried about having an injection or I'm scared of needles	31%
I don't know	24%

Unlikely

I'm worried about side effects	38%
I don't think I'm at risk from COVID-19	31%
I'm worried about having an injection or I'm scared of needles	26%
I'm worried that the vaccines have been developed too quickly or haven't been tested properly	26%
I don't know	25%

VACCINE COMMUNICATION

Children and young people were also asked about where they would seek information about the COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine programme. **3,236** gave a response.



- There were no large differences in information sources between male and female students, though female students were slightly more likely to say they would use Instagram or Tik Tok.
- Top five information sources were the same for students in high school and in further education.
- Post-16 students were the most likely to receive news online. High school students were more likely to use Tik Tok than other groups.



FOR MORE INFORMATION...

You can visit the Healthwatch Suffolk website to read more about the “My Health, Our Future” research program and to download the reports.

www.healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk/mhof/