

COVID-19 Vaccination Survey

Share your views online: healthwatchdorset.co.uk/project/covid-19-vaccine-prog/

Summary of initial findings, March 2021

731 responses so far to our online survey in March 2021

95% (698 people), told us their view of vaccinations in general is positive, 3% (18) felt neither positive or negative, and 2% (15) had a negative view of vaccinations.

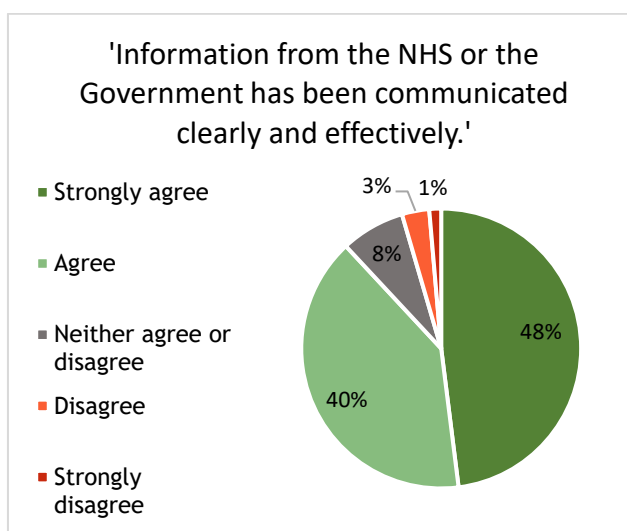
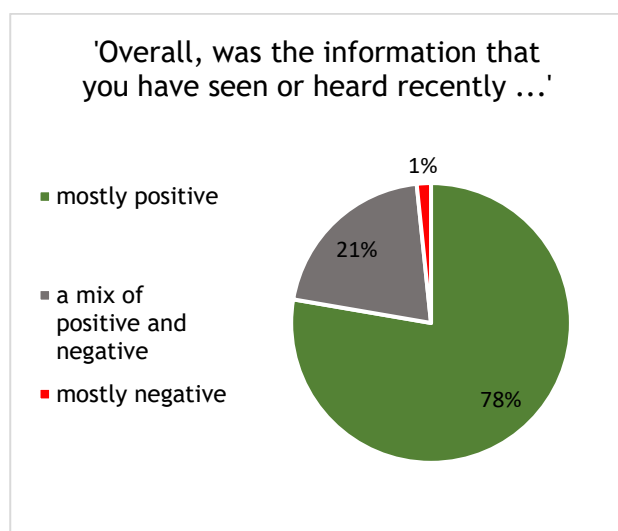
91% (665 people) had already received a COVID-19 vaccine, 8% (57 people) would have the vaccine if offered, under 1% (9 people) would not have the vaccine and 2 people were undecided.

Travel

434 people who have had the Covid-19 vaccine drove themselves, 134 travelled by car driven by a friend/relative, 76 people walked or cycled, 6 people travelled by community car scheme, 5 people took a taxi, 5 people went by public transport, 4 people received the vaccine at work or home.

48 people who have yet to receive the vaccine told us they would travel by car, 7 will walk/cycle, 2 plan to take a taxi and 2 will use public transport.

Information about the Covid-19 vaccine



We also asked where people have seen/heard information about the COVID-19 vaccine (multiple options could be selected).

- 69% had been through NHS/Government websites
- 31% via local council websites
- 20% through local NHS or CCG websites

- 66% through TV or radio
- 48% through newspapers and news websites
- 51% through social media (mostly facebook plus Instagram/twitter)
- 32% from friends or relatives
- 31% at a local NHS GP surgery, pharmacy, clinic or hospital
- 34% through a letter, poster or leaflet from the government or NHS
- 43% from a Government press conference
- 11% from community organisations or websites
- 4% from Healthwatch

Demographics (we collect this data to see if there are any communities we are not reaching)

Gender: 562 female, 156 male, 2 people as another gender, and 11 people chose not to answer.

Age: 13-25 = 9 people, 26-35 years = 30 people, 36-45 years = 44 people, 46-55 = 141 people, 56-65 = 244 people, 66-75 = 197 people, 76-85 = 45 people, 86+ = 8 people, and 13 didn't answer.

Ethnicity: 680 people identified themselves as White British, 33 people as another ethnic group, and 18 people chose not to answer.

Sexuality: 588 people identified as heterosexual/straight, 19 people as asexual, 13 people as bisexual, 12 people as gay, 8 as lesbian, 3 as pansexual, and 87 people chose not to answer.

Geography: A good spread of responses across the county, with higher numbers of responses from Bournemouth/Poole/Wimborne/Dorchester/Weymouth.

Health and caring responsibility: 25% of people who took part in our survey have a long-term condition, 11% identified as carers, and 9% identified as having a disability.

409 people provided additional comments about the COVID-19 vaccination programme. The vast majority of responses were positive.

"I was impressed by the process before the event ie the booking process and by the way I was dealt with on the day. It all felt like a well oiled machine. I have also now had a date for second jab."

"Went to my local hospital for my vaccine, extremely well organised and managed. I found the process painless and felt comfortable. Well done the scientists who developed the vaccine and the NHS and GPs for doing such a great job too."

"Went to the BIC. Brilliantly planned and organised. I felt they were kind and ready to answer questions. Very safe environment. No side effects occurred."

"The volunteer response has been incredible and has played a crucial part in the success of the vaccination programme"

We identified a number of themes in the responses

Issues raised by Carers:

"It has been extremely unclear when unpaid carers (especially those who are not in receipt of Carer's Allowance) are entitled to receive the vaccine, and how unpaid carers can register at their GP as a carer. I had to tell my GP three times that my husband who is an unpaid carer, not in receipt of Carer's Allowance, was eligible for the vaccine."

Comments about side effects:

"I wish I'd been told how ill the side effects would make me feel for two days and how sore my arm would be for seven days. Left me unable to work for a week and it was sickness I couldn't afford. It wouldn't have stopped me having the vaccine, but I would have been able to plan my appointment with regards to work."

Travel/distance issues:

"I feel very fortunate that I have already been vaccinated due to my daughter being highly clinically vulnerable and currently in hospital for treatment. I do now need to travel to Southampton for my 2nd jab which is a 100 mile round trip from home. Not ideal in these times."

"Why are there no big vaccination hubs in Dorset Unitary Authority. We only have the choice of 80 mile round trips to the BIC, Yeovil or Exeter. None of these are even in our county and are all fully booked until the end of April. so much for getting all over 50s vaccinated by the end of March!"

Information issues:

"I have heard a lot of stories about people getting letters and then finding that their nearest vaccination centre was 30 plus miles away. The letter says to ignore it if you want a more local vaccine. It has caused a lot of worry and upset in the community from what I have seen. I think it's a waste of money sending these letters if they can be ignored."

"The information brochure related to the vaccine info and its side effect should be given before giving the vaccine, instead of passing it in the end so that people are better informed and prepared."

Booking system issues:

"I am in group 5. I received my letter and, as I wished to be vaccinated locally, followed instructions and waited for my GP surgery to contact me. That was my mistake. Quite a number of days later they finally sent a text effectively telling me that 65s to 69s would not be done locally, only group 6 and to make an appointment via the NHS website, or else wait several weeks. By that time I couldn't get an appointment at Yeovil or Poole within weeks, only BIC (or I was offered Bath). It took several goes to book slots as the first slot was constantly being taken up by the time I could press confirm. I had to conduct a 60 mile round trip (2.5 hours) in pouring rain and gale force winds to get my vaccination."

"Family members did not register with a new surgery when our own village one closed now cannot book a vaccine."

Comments about 2nd vaccine booking:

"There is very little information for people waiting for second jab that had their first at GP. People who booked online got to book 2nd date. Due 2nd jab in next four weeks (Pfizer) but no info forthcoming."

"First jab was well communicated by GP. Well organised at surgery. Staff and volunteers friendly and helpful, Overall impression excellent. However, we have had no indication of when our second jab will be. Been about six weeks but no update from anyone. Government info not consistent or clear."