



Summary Report

Identifying Concerns about the COVID-19 Vaccine

July 2021

Our Work

Healthwatch Worcestershire carried out a survey with people who are hesitant about having the COVID-19 vaccination.

Between 15th March and 15th June, we received **357** responses to our survey. **182** respondents expressed concern about the vaccination. This summary is analysis of those with concerns. The demographic of respondents was: 14% Asian/Asian British Pakistani, 3% Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi, 2% Asian/Asian British Indian and 6% Black/Black British Caribbean, 8% White Caribbean, 10% White European, 2% White Irish and 52% White British.

75% of respondents expressing concerns are aged between 18-49.

We wanted to know:

- ❖ What concerns people have?
- ❖ If there are any practical difficulties that may stop them having the vaccine?
- ❖ How people find their information about the COVID-19 vaccine?



What concerns do people have?



The top three concerns identified were:

- ❖ Safety - insufficient testing - **(35)**
- ❖ Long term effects - **(32)**
- ❖ Blood clots - **(23)**

Other concerns identified include - Short Term effects following the vaccination (**12**), Contraindications of vaccine with existing health conditions (**7**) and Potential impact on fertility (**7**).

A small number of respondents (**6**) said they think it is unnecessary for them to have the vaccine as they do not fear getting COVID-19.

6 respondents said the only reason they would have the vaccine was to enable them to travel.

Responses from **18-29**-year-olds reveal Fertility to be in their top three along with Long Term Effects and Blood Clots.

Practical difficulties that may stop people from receiving the vaccine

58 people responded to this question which provided a list of options, respondents could tick all that applied. Top issues identified are: Location - preference for having the vaccination at their GP surgery - **50%**

- ❖ Appointment times - unable to attend during working hours - **19%**
- ❖ Online booking - preference for telephone booking - **17%**
- ❖ Language barriers - during booking and/or when receiving the vaccine - **17%**
- ❖ Access - no viable transport options to reach the vaccination site - **17%**
- ❖ Distance - vaccination clinic is too far from where they live - **14%**



Where do people find their information about the COVID-19 vaccine?

114 people told us where they get their information. The most popular source was official websites such as the NHS and Government - **68%**. This was followed by friends and relatives - **40%**.



The most popular Social Media sites used are:

- ❖ Facebook - **20%**
- ❖ YouTube - **13%**
- ❖ Instagram - **7%**

Respondents from Black and Asian ethnic backgrounds reported friends and relatives as the most popular source of information - **59%**. This was followed by official websites - **44%** and community groups/religious organisations - **30%**.

Our Thanks

Healthwatch Worcestershire would like to say a particular thank you to those organisations who supported us in promoting this survey to their communities and to all who responded.

This report has been shared with leaders of NHS services and Public Health in Worcestershire and the Vaccine Inequality Programme. A copy of the report can be found on our website.



