

# **Attitudes and behaviours towards vaccination and the COVID-19 second booster vaccine**

## **August 2022 Report**

**Prepared for:**

Evaluation and Behavioural Science - Science & Technical Advisory  
Intelligence, Surveillance and Knowledge  
Public Health Agency  
Manatū Hauora - Ministry of Health

**By Horizon Research in association with:**

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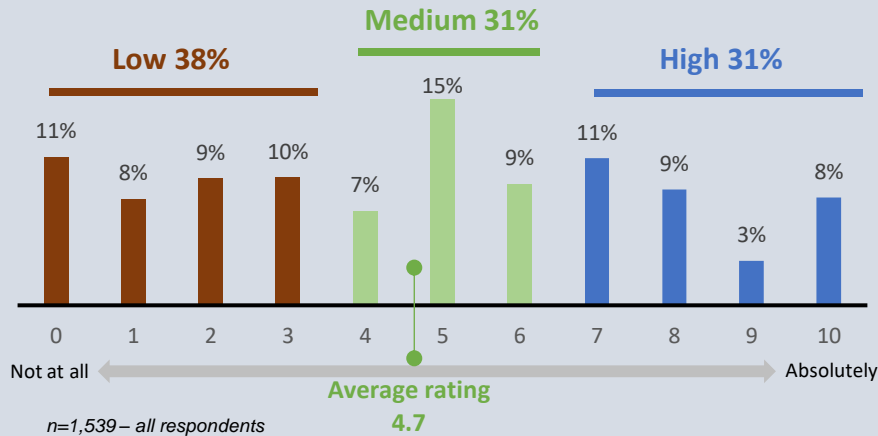
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## KEY FINDINGS – PERCEIVED THREAT OF COVID-19 TO MY HEALTH

### PERCEIVED THREAT TO MY HEALTH IF INFECTED WITH COVID-19

Using a rating scale from 0 to 10



Results are evenly spread for those who perceive:

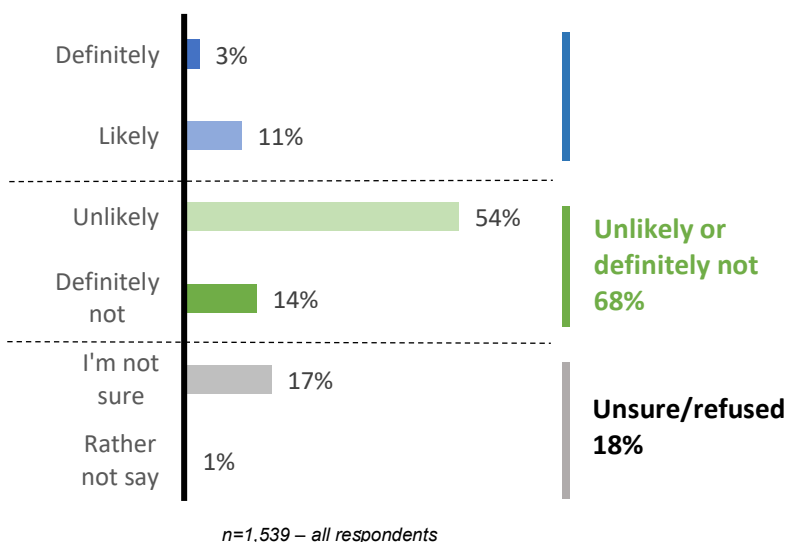
- a low level of threat (38%)
- a medium level (31%)
- a high level (31%).

Cross analysis of the results features statistically significant differences from the total, at the 95% confidence level. These results are indicated by the following symbols:

▼ significantly less than the total ▲ significantly more than the total.

Perceived threat to my health if infected with COVID-19	
Average rating overall 4.7 out of 10	
Sub-groups who perceive COVID-19 infection will be <u>less</u> of a threat to their health ▼ Average rating out of 10	Sub-groups who perceive COVID-19 infection will be <u>more</u> of a threat to their health ▲ Average rating out of 10
No health impairment/ long-term condition 4.1	I believe I am likely to be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19 7.1
Have children in the household 4.1	Had 4+ doses including 2 boosters 6.2
I believe I am not likely to be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19 3.8	Aged 75 or more 6.0
5+ adults in household 3.6	Likely to have a second booster dose if recommended 5.7
5+ total people in household 3.6	Have a health impairment/ long-term condition 5.6
Not specifically tested for COVID-19 in past 3 months 3.5	Support COVID-19 vaccinations 5.6
Oppose vaccinations in general 2.8	Aged 65 to 74 5.5
Unlikely to have a second booster dose if recommended 2.6	Aged 55 or over 5.4
Oppose COVID-19 vaccinations 2.3	Support vaccinations in general 5.1
Have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 1.8	

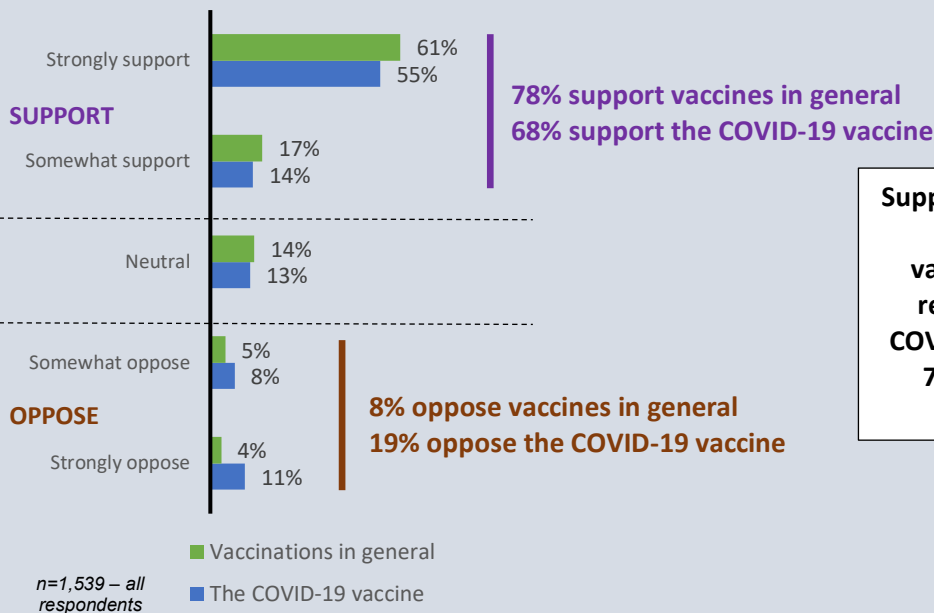
### PERCEIVED LIKELIHOOD OF BEING HOSPITALISED IF INFECTED WITH COVID-19



Sub-groups who are most likely to say they could be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19	
% definitely & likely ▲	
Identify as disabled	33%
Have an impairment/ long-term health condition	25%
Ethnic priority Māori	24%
Caregivers	24%
Healthcare workers	22%
Had four vaccine doses or more, including two booster shots	21%
Live on my own	21%
Aged under 35	20%
Lower education level NCEA 2 or less	20%

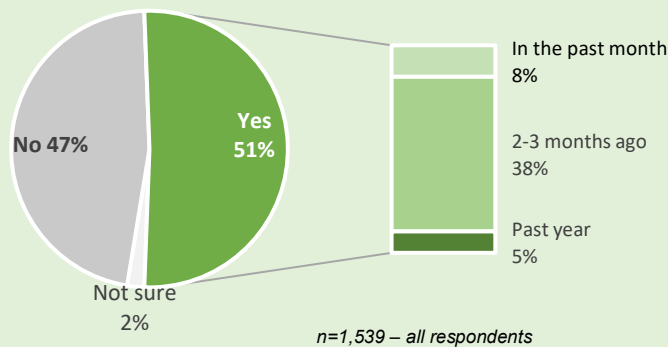
## KEY FINDINGS – SUPPORT OR OPPOSE VACCINES

### SUPPORT OR OPPOSE VACCINES



**Support for the COVID-19 vaccine is weaker than support for vaccinations in general. 68% of respondents say they support COVID-19 vaccines compared with 78% who support vaccines in general.**

## KEY FINDINGS - HAD THE 'FLU VACCINE IN THE PAST YEAR

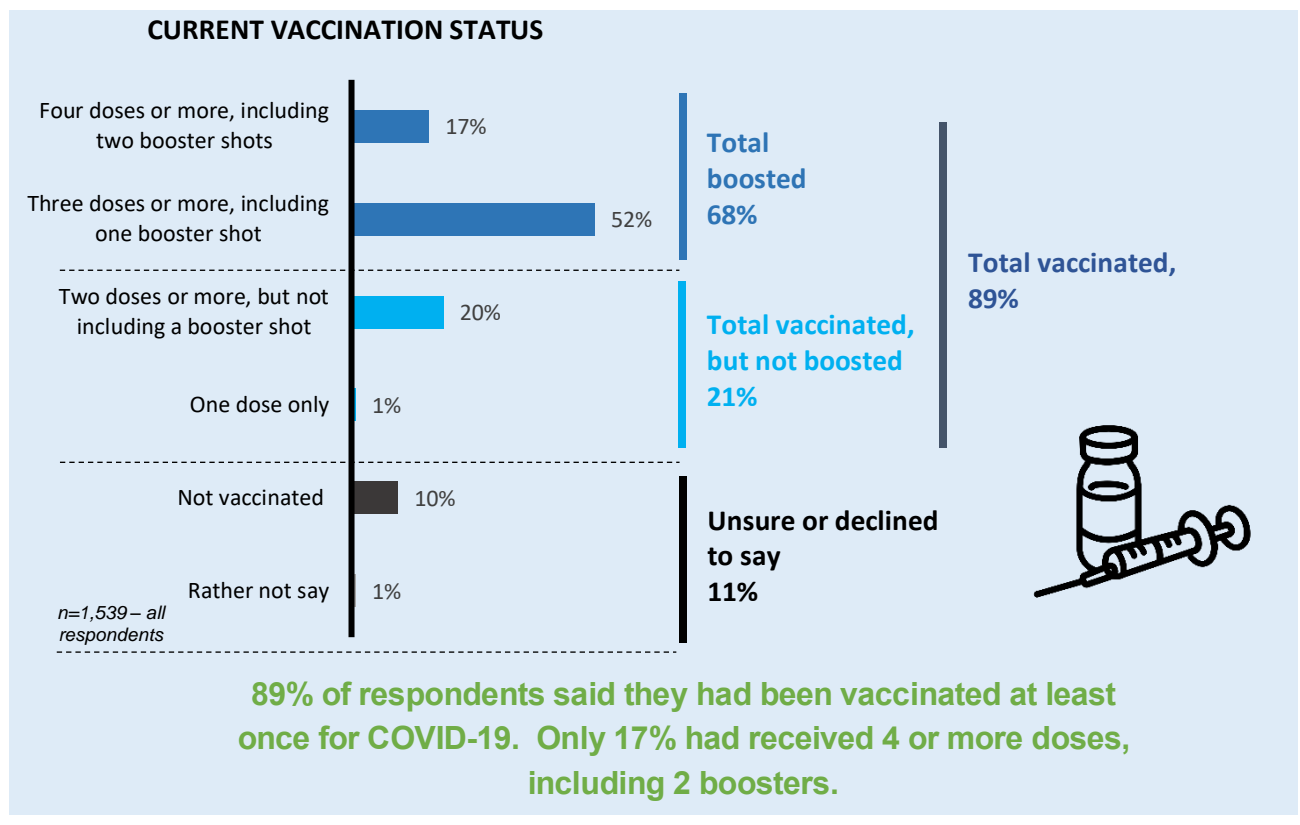


**51% had the flu vaccine in the past year - 46% within the past three months.**



<b>A total of 51% of respondents said they had the 'flu vaccine in the past 12 months</b>			
<b>Sub-groups <u>less</u> likely to have 'flu vaccine ▼</b>	<b>Sub-groups <u>more</u> likely to have 'flu vaccine ▲</b>		
Children in the household	44%	Had 4+ COVID-19 doses incl. 2 boosters	87%
Aged 35 to 54	43%	Aged 75 or more	85%
Aged less than 35	41%	Aged 65 to 74	73%
From a rural area	40%	Aged 55 and over	68%
Ethnic priority Pasifika	37%	I believe I am likely to be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19	64%
Not tested for COVID-19 in past 3 months	36%	Support COVID-19 vaccinations	64%
5+ adults in the household	28%	Support vaccinations in general	59%
Extremely concerned about the side effects of vaccinations	24%	Have a university degree	58%
Oppose vaccinations in general	22%	Live on my own	58%
7+ people in the household	20%	Have an impairment or long-term health condition	56%
Oppose COVID-19 vaccinations	20%	No children in household	56%
Have <u>not</u> been vaccinated for COVID-19	9%		

## KEY FINDINGS – CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS



### VACCINATION STATUS BY AGE

	UNDER 35	35 TO 54	55 AND OVER
Four doses or more, including two booster shots	3% ▼	9% ▼	34% ▲
Three doses or more, including one booster shot	53%	56%	46% ▼
<b>Received a booster dose</b>	<b>56% ▼</b>	66%*	<b>80% ▲</b>
Two doses or more, but not including a booster shot	29% ▲	21%	10% ▼
One dose only	3%	1%	1%
Not vaccinated	12%	11%	8%
Rather not say	1%	2%	1%
<i>n=</i>	361	510	668

34% of those aged 55 or more have received two boosters and 80% at least 1 booster. By contrast, only 56% of those aged less than 35 have received a booster and 3% two boosters.

No significant differences by age for receiving 1 dose, not being vaccinated, or refusing to say

\*"Received a booster shot" is different from the sum of the individual percentages shown owing to rounding.

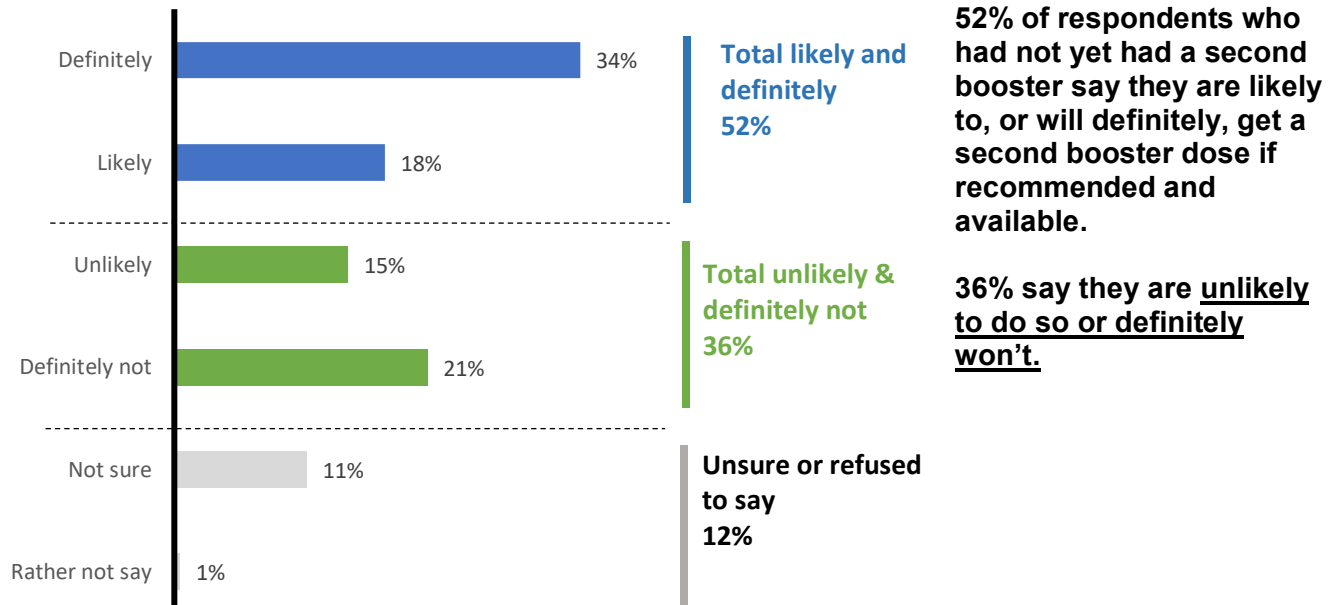
### OTHER SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES FOR HAVING AT LEAST ONE BOOSTER SHOT

Total with 1 or 2 booster shots 68%	
Sub-groups <u>less</u> likely to have at least one booster shot ▼	Sub-groups <u>more</u> likely to have at least one booster shot ▲
NCEA 2 or less 62%	Have a university degree 75%
Children in the household 56%	No children in household 75%
Ethnic priority Pasifika 51%	
5+ adults in the household 44%	
7+ people in the household 38%	

## KEY FINDINGS – LIKELIHOOD OF GETTING A SECOND BOOSTER DOSE

### LIKELIHOOD OF GETTING A SECOND BOOSTER DOSE IF RECOMMENDED AND AVAILABLE

Base excludes those who have already had a second booster



n=1,250 – excludes those with 2 booster shots already

Not had a second booster: <u>Unlikely to, or definitely won't get a second booster</u> Overall total 36%	
<b>Sub-groups <u>less</u> likely to get a second booster ▲</b>	
Have not been vaccinated for COVID-19	93%
<u>Disagree</u> that they will get a 2 <sup>nd</sup> booster if recommended by Ministry of Health	89%
Oppose COVID-19 vaccinations	88%
Extremely concerned about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine	84%
Oppose vaccinations in general	78%
Disagree "I'd be more likely to get a 2nd booster if people whose opinions I value support vaccination"	65%
Had 2+ doses, but no booster shot	54%
Have not had the flu vaccine in the past year	51%
Aged 25 to 34	46%
From a regional town or rural area	45%
Low education level (NCEA 2 or below)	43%
Children in the household	41%
I believe I am <u>not</u> likely to be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19	41%

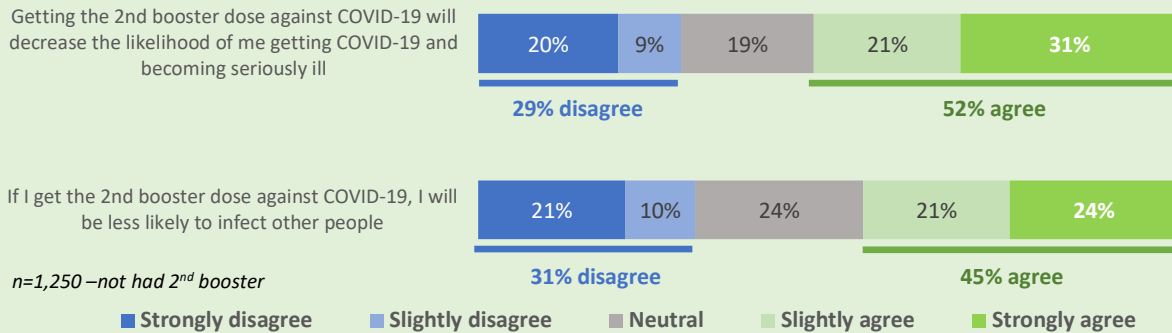
Not had a second booster: <u>Likely to, or definitely will get a second booster</u> Overall total 52%	
<b>Sub-groups <u>more</u> likely to get a second booster ▲</b>	
<u>Agree</u> that they will get a 2 <sup>nd</sup> booster if it is recommended by Ministry of Health	88%
Not at all concerned about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine	84%
Support COVID-19 vaccinations	75%
Agree they follow news about COVID-19 case Statistics because it is important to them	73%
Had the flu vaccine in the past year	72%
Agree "I'd be more likely to get a 2nd booster if people whose opinions I value support vaccination"	72%
Had 3+ doses, incl. 1 booster shot	70%
I believe I am likely to be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19	67%
Support vaccinations in general	63%
Have a university degree	60%
Tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 3 months	59%

Analysis excludes those with 2 booster shots already

## KEY FINDINGS – ATTITUDES TO SECOND BOOSTERS & COVID-19 STATISTICS

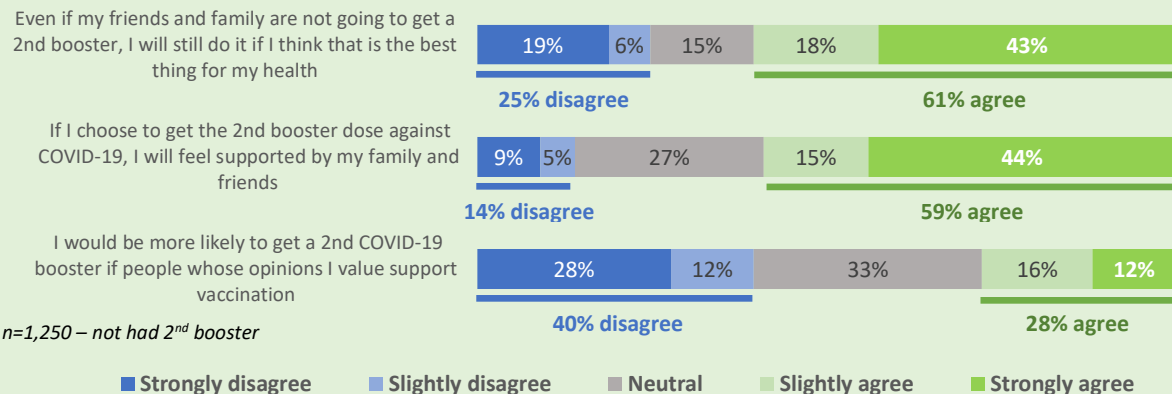
### BELIEFS ABOUT THE VALUE OF GETTING A SECOND BOOSTER

Base *excludes* those who have already had a second booster dose



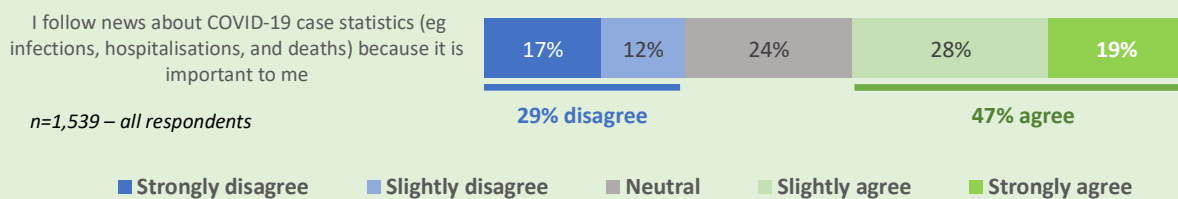
### SOCIAL SUPPORT TO GET A SECOND BOOSTER

Base *excludes* those who have already had a second booster dose



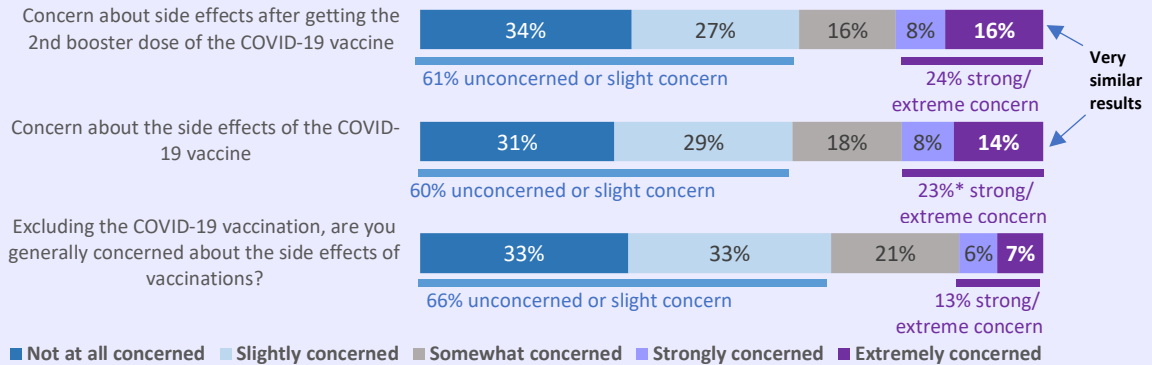
### IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING NEWS ABOUT COVID-19 CASE STATISTICS

Base is the *full sample*, including those who have had a second booster dose



## KEY FINDINGS – CONCERNS ABOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VACCINATION

### CONCERNS ABOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VACCINATION



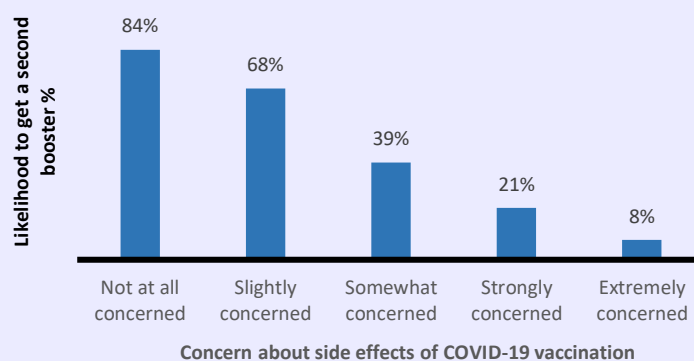
n=1,539 – all respondents

\*Total is different from the sum of the individual percentages shown owing to rounding.

**13% of respondents were strongly or extremely concerned about the side effects of vaccines in general. This increases to 23% for the COVID-19 vaccine and 24% for the second booster dose.**

Have strong or extreme concern about the side effects of a second booster	
Total 24%	
Sub-groups <u>less</u> likely to have strong or extreme concerns about the side effects of a second booster ▼	Sub-groups <u>more</u> likely to have strong or extreme concerns about the side effects of a second booster ▲
Aged 55 and over	Have not been vaccinated for COVID-19
Support vaccinations in general	Oppose COVID-19 vaccinations
Aged 65 to 74	Oppose vaccinations in general
Support COVID-19 vaccinations	Unlikely to have a second booster dose if recommended
Aged 75 or more	Had 2+ doses but no booster dose
Likely to have a second booster dose if recommended	Not tested for COVID-19 in past 3 months
	7+ people in the household
	5+ adults in the household
	From a rural area
	Caregivers
	Aged less than 35

### LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 VACCINE IN THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO GET A SECOND BOOSTER

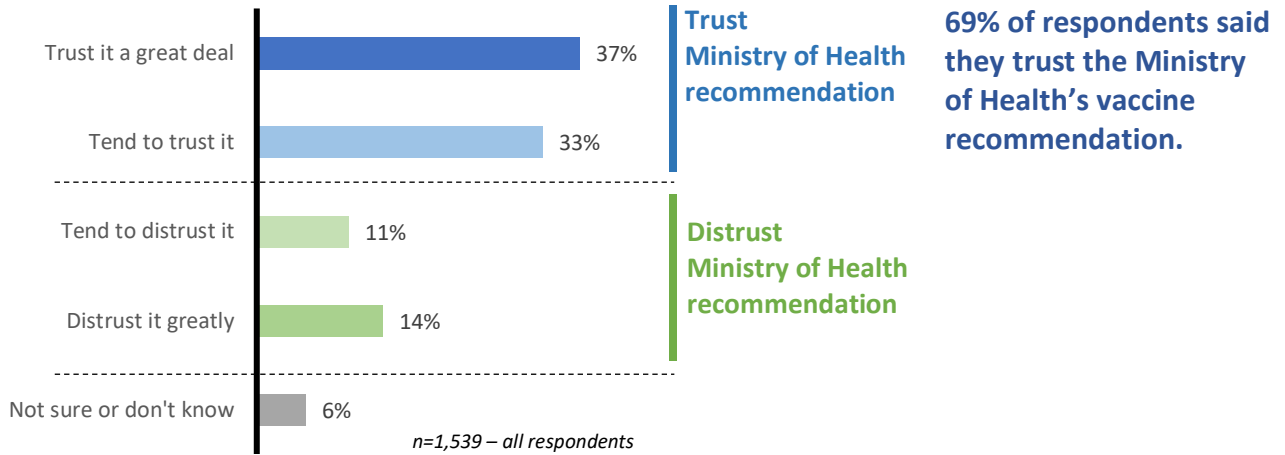


**There is a strong linear relationship between concern about the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines and likelihood to get a second booster.**



**KEY FINDINGS – MINISTRY OF HEALTH VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**TRUST THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATION ON COVID-19 VACCINATIONS**

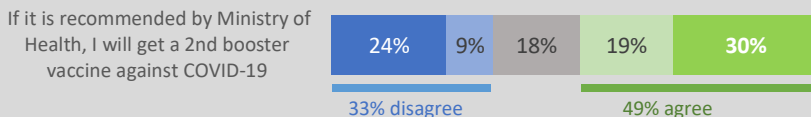


<b>Distrust Ministry of Health's recommendation on COVID-19 vaccination</b>		<b>Total 25%</b>
Sub-groups more likely to <b>distrust</b> the Ministry of Health's recommendation on COVID-19 vaccination ▲		
Have not been vaccinated for COVID-19	88%	
Oppose COVID-19 vaccinations	88%	
Oppose vaccinations in general	73%	
Not tested for COVID-19 in past 3 months	45%	
From a rural area	43%	
Had two doses of COVID-19 vaccines or more, but not including a booster	39%	
7+ people in the household	38%	
From a regional town	34%	
Aged 25 to 34 years	32%	
From Te Manawa Taki (Midland)		
Te Whatu Ora region	32%	
Children in household	31%	
I believe I am <b>not</b> likely to be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19	29%	

<b>Trust Ministry of Health's recommendation on COVID-19 vaccination</b>		<b>Total 69%</b>
Sub-groups more likely to <b>trust</b> the Ministry of Health's recommendation on COVID-19 vaccination ▲		
Had four doses of COVID-19 vaccine or more, including two booster shots	92%	
Support COVID-19 vaccinations	92%	
Had three doses or more, including one booster shot	83%	
Aged 75 plus	82%	
Support vaccinations in general	80%	
I believe I am likely to be hospitalised if infected with COVID-19	78%	
Aged 65 to 74 years	78%	
Have a university degree	76%	
From a large city	75%	
From Auckland	74%	

**WILL FOLLOW A MINISTRY OF HEALTH RECOMMENDATION TO GET A SECOND BOOSTER**

*Base excludes those who have already had a second booster dose*



*n=1,250 – not had 2<sup>nd</sup> booster*

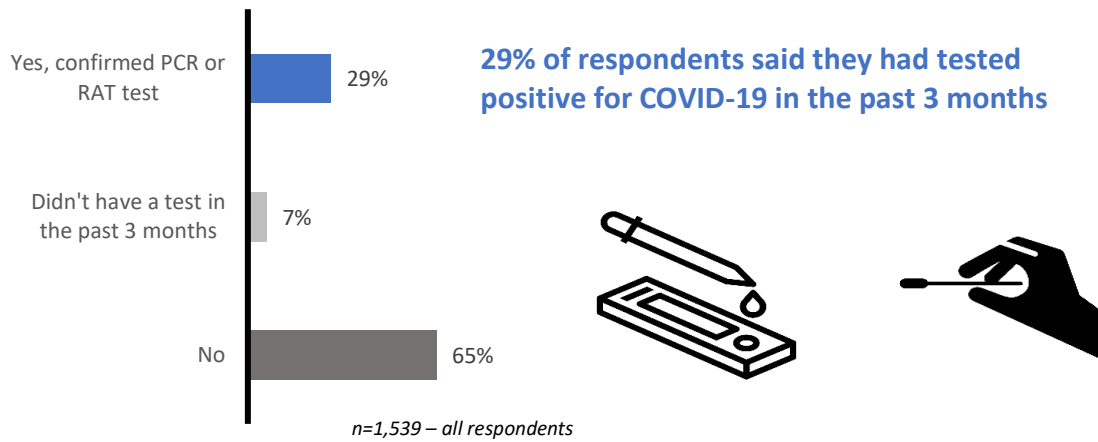
■ Strongly disagree ■ Slightly disagree ■ Neutral ■ Slightly agree ■ Strongly agree

Almost half (49%) of those who haven't had a second booster agree that they will get a second booster if this is recommended by the Ministry of Health: 30% strongly agree.

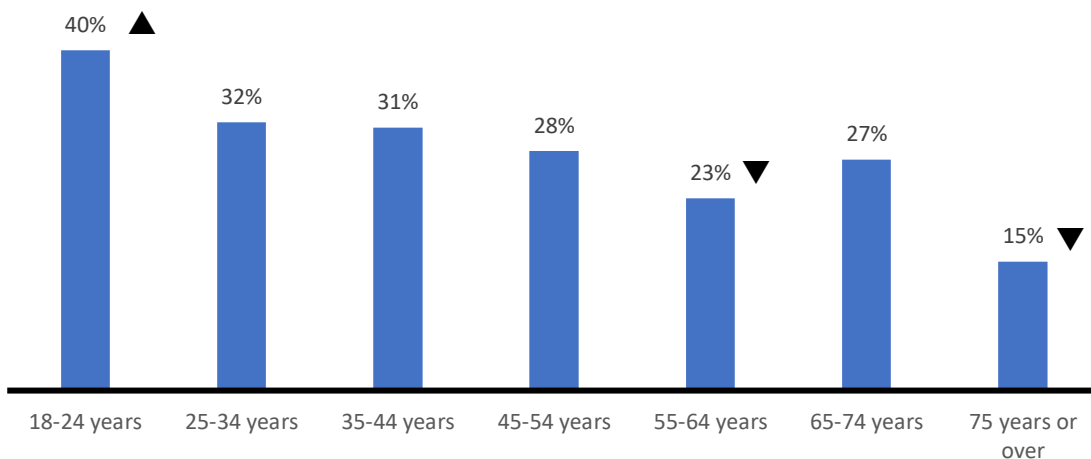
Around a quarter (24%) strongly disagree that they will follow a Ministry of Health recommendation.

**KEY FINDINGS – TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS**

**TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS**



**TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 BY AGE**



**TESTED POSITIVE BY OTHER VARIABLES**

Tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or RAT test. Total 29%	
Sub-groups less likely to have tested positive for COVID-19 ▼	Sub-groups more likely to have tested positive for COVID-19 ▲
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Live on my own 22%</li> <li>Had four COVID-19 vaccine doses or more, including two booster shots 11%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare worker 41%</li> <li>Ethnic priority Māori 37%</li> <li>Have an undergraduate degree 35%</li> <li>Caregivers 35%</li> <li>Children in household 34%</li> </ul>

## Appendix 1 – Methodology



### Research method

An online survey of people living in New Zealand aged 18 and older.

### Sample sources

Four research panels are used to ensure coverage and diversity: The nationwide HorizonPoll and Horizon Research Māori research panels, and two third-party research panels.

### Fieldwork dates

8 to 15 August 2022

### Sample size

A total of 1,539 respondents (n=1,539).

### Survey reliability

For the total sample the maximum margin of error is  $\pm 2.5\%$  at the 95% confidence level (CI).

### Key subsamples and their maximum margins of error (at 95% CI)

- Had first booster (but not second booster): n=821, maximum margin of error  $\pm 3.4\%$
- Not had first booster: n=412,  $\pm 4.8\%$
- Māori: n=364,  $\pm 5.1\%$
- 50 years or over: n=821,  $\pm 3.4\%$

### Quotas

Demographic quotas were used to ensure a representative sample. In addition, quotas for Māori respondents were boosted to achieve sufficient respondents to ensure reliable results.

### Priority ethnic groups

Horizon used priority ethnic groups to determine ethnicity.<sup>1</sup>

### Weighting

The total sample is weighted on age, gender, ethnicity, education, personal income and region to match the New Zealand adult (18+) population.

### Age groups

The five-year age groupings asked in the survey have been grouped into 10-year age groups.

### Statistical tests of significance

- Cross analysis of the results only features statistically significant differences from the total at the 95% confidence level. These results are indicated by the following symbols:  
▼ significantly **less** than the total   ▲ significantly **more** than the total.
- Two-tailed t-testing is used to indicate significant differences between figures in the tabulated survey results. This indicates whether the difference between the two results being compared is significant (at a 95% significance level) regardless of the “direction” of the difference (ie either above or below the figure to which the result is being compared).
- Tests of significance of tabulated results look at whether the result for each option in a table row is significantly different to the others in that row, not at the question as a whole.

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<sup>1</sup> If someone identifies as Māori, they are Māori. If someone does not, but identifies as Pasifika, they are Pasifika. If someone identifies as neither, but Asian (including Indian), they are Asian. If someone does not identify as any of these groups but instead European (either of New Zealand descent or not) they are European. Otherwise, they are Other.



## Appendix 2 – Sample profile

### A) By demographics *(Note that some percentages may not sum to 100% owing to rounding)*

Gender	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Male	709	46%	49%
Female	815	53%	50%
Another gender	15	1%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Age	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
18-24	122	8%	11%
25-34	239	16%	18%
35-44	228	15%	15%
45-54	282	18%	20%
55-64	269	17%	13%
65-74	279	18%	15%
75 or more	120	8%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Priority Ethnicity	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Māori	364	24%	20%
Pasifika	91	6%	6%
Asian	80	5%	4%
European	958	62%	69%
Other	46	3%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Highest education level	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Postgraduate degree (Masters or PhD)	208	14%	10%
Undergraduate (Bachelor) degree	392	25%	19%
Vocational qualification (includes trade certificates, diplomas etc)	443	29%	29%
University Bursary or 7th form	105	7%	8%
Sixth form/UE/NCEA Level 2	131	9%	12%
NCEA Level 1 or School Certificate	142	9%	12%
No formal school qualification	78	5%	6%
Prefer not to say	40	3%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Household	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Flatting	112	7%	9%
Boarding/ hostel/ shared housing	41	3%	3%
Living with family/partner	1,021	66%	66%
Living on my own	260	15%	16%
Living with extended family	105	9%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Healthcare worker	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Yes	180	12%	11%
No	1,359	88%	89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Look after or help others because of their long-term health issues	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Yes	258	17%	16%
No	1,258	82%	82%
Prefer not to say	23	1%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand Regions	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Northern	585	38%	39%
Te Manawa Taki (Midland)	264	17%	19%
Central	348	23%	20%
Southern	342	22%	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Region	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Northland	52	3%	4%
Auckland	533	35%	34%
Waikato	111	7%	8%
Bay of Plenty	109	7%	9%
Taranaki	34	2%	2%
Gisborne/Hawkes' Bay	61	4%	4%
Wairarapa	23	1%	1%
Whanganui/ Manawatu/ Palmerston North	98	6%	6%
Wellington	177	12%	10%
Nelson/ Tasman/ Marlborough	42	3%	3%
Canterbury	190	12%	13%
West Coast	12	1%	1%
Otago	69	4%	5%
Southland	28	2%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Area Type	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Large city	856	56%	55%
Regional city	267	17%	16%
Regional town	236	15%	17%
Rural	159	10%	10%
Remote rural	21	1%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## B) By health and disability status

Identify as disabled	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Yes	179	12%	13%
No	1,360	88%	87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Live with impairments or long-term health conditions	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Yes	613	40%	40%
No	926	60%	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## C) By number of people in the household

Adults in household	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
1	277	18%	17%
2	809	53%	51%
3 or 4	350	23%	25%
5 or more	103	7%	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Children in household	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
1	223	14%	14%
2	195	13%	13%
3 or 4	86	6%	6%
5 or more	18	1%	1%
None	1,017	66%	65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Total in household	n= (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	% (weighted)
1	249	16%	15%
2	557	36%	35%
3	248	16%	16%
4	241	16%	16%
5 or 6	157	10%	11%
7 or more	87	6%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>