

 **COVID-19 Vaccine
Report**

- December 2021 -



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About Healthwatch Cumbria

Healthwatch Cumbria (HWC) was established in April 2013 as part of the implementation of the Health and Care Act 2012.

Healthwatch England acts as the national consumer champion for all local Healthwatch organisations, enabling and supporting HWC to bring important issues to the attention of decisions makers nationally.

A key role of HWC is to champion the views of people who use health and care services in Cumbria, seeking to ensure that their experiences inform the improvement of services. HWC are constantly listening, recording and reporting on the views of local people on a wide range of health and care issues, ensuring that people in the county are able to express their views and have a voice in improving their local health and care services.

HWC embarked on a project aiming to explore the mood of the Cumbrian population towards the Coronavirus vaccine. As December 2021 marks 12 months since the COVID-19 vaccination first began to be administered, HWC shares the findings to this project.



Background

Healthwatch Together (a group made up of Healthwatch Cumbria, Healthwatch Lancashire, Healthwatch Blackpool, and Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen), did a research project as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the subsequent series of lockdowns that took effect in England. A survey was developed in response to the pandemic, with the aim of finding out how people were feeling and coping during this difficult time.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, HWT has produced four reports as part of the *How are you coping with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?* Survey research project.

- The initial survey (v1) was launched on Survey Monkey on March 23rd, 2020 and ran until April 26th, 2020.
- A second version of the survey (v2) was launched on April 27th, 2020 and ran until June 19th, 2020.
- A third version of the survey (v3) was launched on June 16th, 2020 and ran until the August 14th, 2020.
- A fourth version of the survey (v4) was launched on December 4th, 2020 and ran until March 31st, 2021.

The fourth version of the survey was the last version of the COVID-19 survey in the series. This was because it was now one year on from when the first UK lockdown was enforced. Instead, a report that told the overarching story of the last 12, months and people's experiences obtained from the responses from the four COVID-19 surveys, was created and published.

As a follow on from this earlier work, Healthwatch Cumbria wanted to complete some research into the public's thoughts and opinions of the COVID-19 vaccination, specifically why people either wanted or didn't want the vaccination. HWC wanted to hear as many views as possible, including from those individuals who had received the vaccine, those who had it reluctantly, those who would like it but can't have it, and those who do not want it.

This report will focus on analysing and discussing the results obtained from the survey respondents.



Methodology and questions

The survey was launched on Survey Monkey on August 23rd, 2021 and ran until September 9th, 2021. There was a total of 132 survey responses.

The link to the COVID-19 vaccination survey was shared on Healthwatch Cumbria's Facebook and Twitter pages. The link was also distributed via email to Healthwatch's network, which includes sharing with the Cumbrian NHS trusts, Cumbrian CCGs, community forums, and local support groups. These contacts were also encouraged to further distribute the survey through their own networks (on their social media, to their local contacts and members of the public).

Healthwatch Cumbria took a paper copy of the survey when attending face-to-face engagements during the period that the survey was open. This allowed members of the public to fill out the survey during the event and leave it with a HWC team member.

There were only five questions in the survey. The decision was made to limit the number of questions to ensure it was quick and easy to complete. Keeping the survey this short also allowed it to be very specific and direct, collecting only the key relevant information. The majority of questions (three out of five) were multiple choice to add to the ease of completing, but it also included some open questions to allow respondents to share personal opinions.

Questions:

1. How old are you?

- Under 16
- 17-18
- 19-25
- 26-44
- 45-64
- Over 65

2. Have you had (at least one dose of) the COVID-19 vaccination?

- Yes
- No
- Rather not say

3. Do you/did you want the vaccine?

- Yes
- No
- Rather not say

4. Why do you either want or do not want the COVID-19 vaccine?

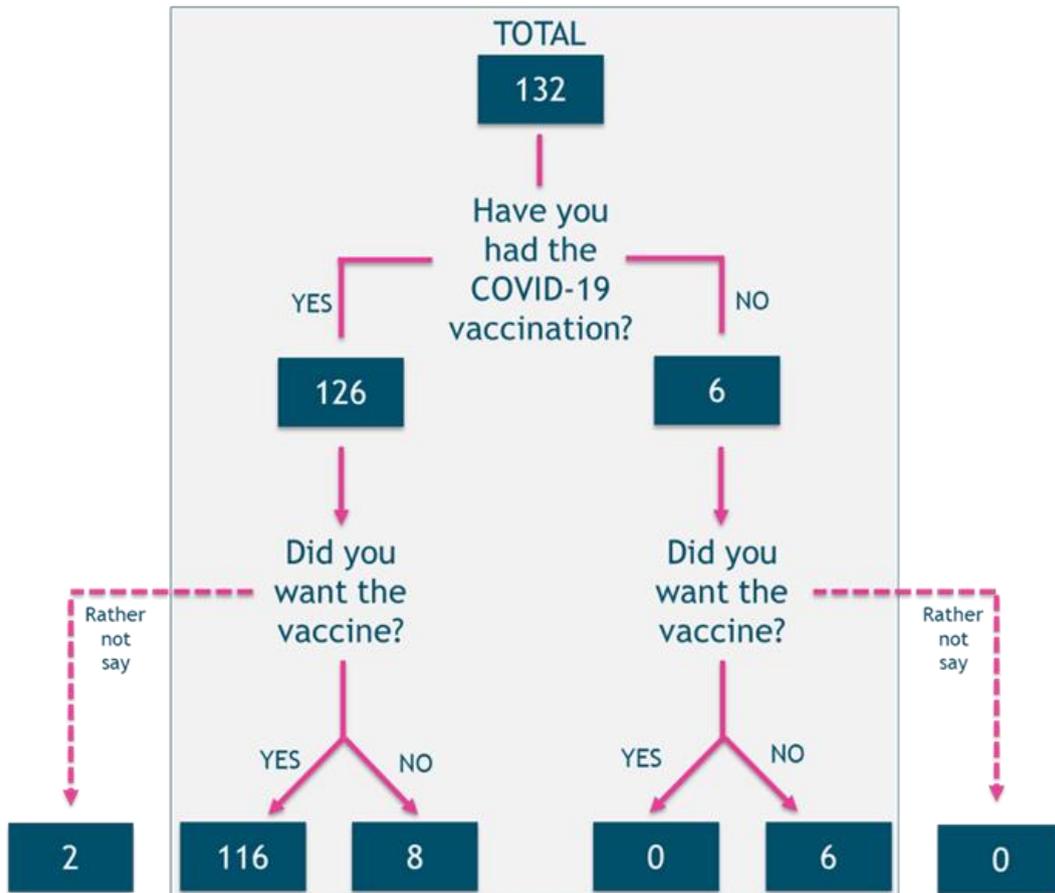
5. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the COVID-19 vaccination?



Response flow chart

Between August 23rd 2021 and September 9th 2021, there was a total of **132 respondents** to the 'COVID-19 Vaccination Survey'.

The following graphic shows the breakdown of these 132 survey responses:



- 95.5% of respondents have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination
- 87.9% of the respondents wanted the COVID-19 vaccination
-> 100% of respondents who wanted the COVID-19 vaccination have received at least one dose of the vaccine
- 10.6% of the respondents did not want the COVID-19 vaccination
-> Out of the respondents who did not want the vaccine, 57.1% have had at least one dose, while the remaining 42.9% have not had any



Had and wanted the vaccine

116 respondents to the HWC COVID-19 vaccination survey wanted and have had at least one dose of the vaccine. The table below shows the reasons that these respondents gave to why they wanted the vaccine:

Why did you want the vaccine?	Number of respondents (out of 115)	Percentage of respondents
To protect myself	80	69.6%
To protect others	64	55.7%
To regain 'normality'	18	15.7%
For work reasons	6	5.2%
Because it was the 'right thing' to do	6	5.2%
Other reason	14	12.2%

The top three reasons given by respondents were to protect themselves, to protect others (including family members, friends and colleagues) and to get closer to regaining some level of normality in their lives.

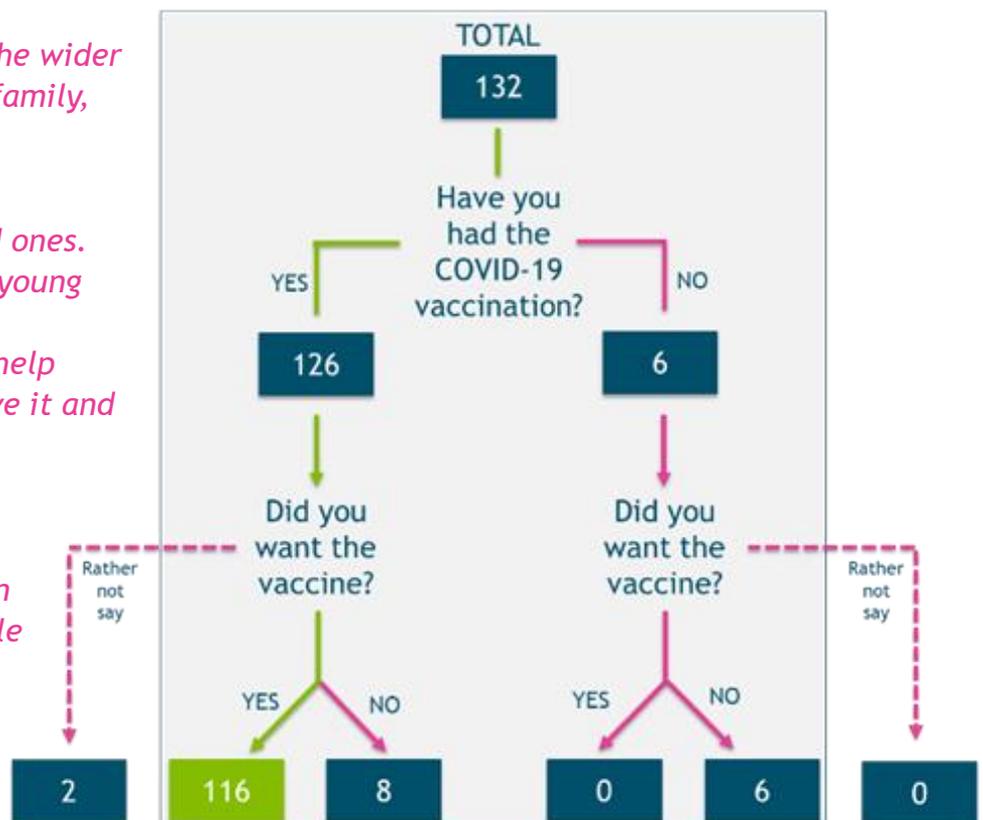
“I have health conditions, along with my parents who I live with, and did not want to risk getting Covid and passing it on to them as I feared we would really be affected by it and possibly die. I want life to return to normal and the only way to do it is to vaccinate people.”

“To start to live normally again without as much fear of the virus.”

“Protection both for myself and the wider community around me including family, friends and colleagues.”

“To help protect myself and loved ones. Especially my toddler who is too young to receive one. Feel like it is my responsibility to 'do my part' and help protect others if I am able to have it and others aren't.”

“I want to protect myself, my family and friends. Also, I work in Social Care with vulnerable people and want to protect them too.”





Had and wanted the vaccine cont.

“I wanted it to keep myself safe, although in my 20s I was worried about the impact Covid or more specifically long Covid could have on my health. I was also worried about the safety of my family, especially older relatives I want to keep them safe and vaccines are known to be safe I've had all the others I've needed growing up so its been no different to them.”

“I want the freedom to be able to live life normally without the fear of dying.”

“As a high-risk person I considered it essential to have the vaccination.”

“Because it is the right thing to do in my opinion. I have lost family members due to the impact Covid has had on hospital capacity and I also live with a vulnerable individual who would likely die if they caught Covid. So, I got the vaccine to protect myself and others, and do my part in this situation. I also want the world to open up again with as small risk as possible and I think that is only likely if we all get vaccinated.”

“To protect myself and others. To reduce the spread and therefore protect the NHS. To give me some freedom back and reduce the feeling of anxiety when going out and being in contact with others.”

“Better to take any precaution offered; did not want to become ill & a burden to the already overstretched NHS. Also wanted to protect my friends & family.”

“Stay safe, protect my friends and family, to get back to normal.”





Had but didn't want the vaccine

Eight respondents to the HWC COVID-19 vaccination survey did not want but have had at least one dose of the vaccine.

The reasons given by these respondents for not wanting the vaccine were:

- The uncertainty around the vaccine (respondents felt that there had been a lack of testing/trials and research completed before it was rolled out)

"...wouldn't have got it due to the uncertainty surrounding it."

"Still in trials."

"As it came out too quick and was nervous."

"...in hindsight I wish I had waited until more research had been carried out."

"...not tested for as long as other vaccines..."

- Worries about what the long-term effects of the vaccine will be and the impact they could have (fertility concerns were specifically mentioned)

"...was/am worried about the longer-term side effects of the vaccine."

"...No one knows the long-term side effects."

"Not enough known, reaction to the first, people still getting Covid who are double vaccinated, fertility concerns, my period changed following the first vaccination."

- Belief that natural immunity is more effective

"I had the vaccine reluctantly as I already had covid and believe in natural immunity."

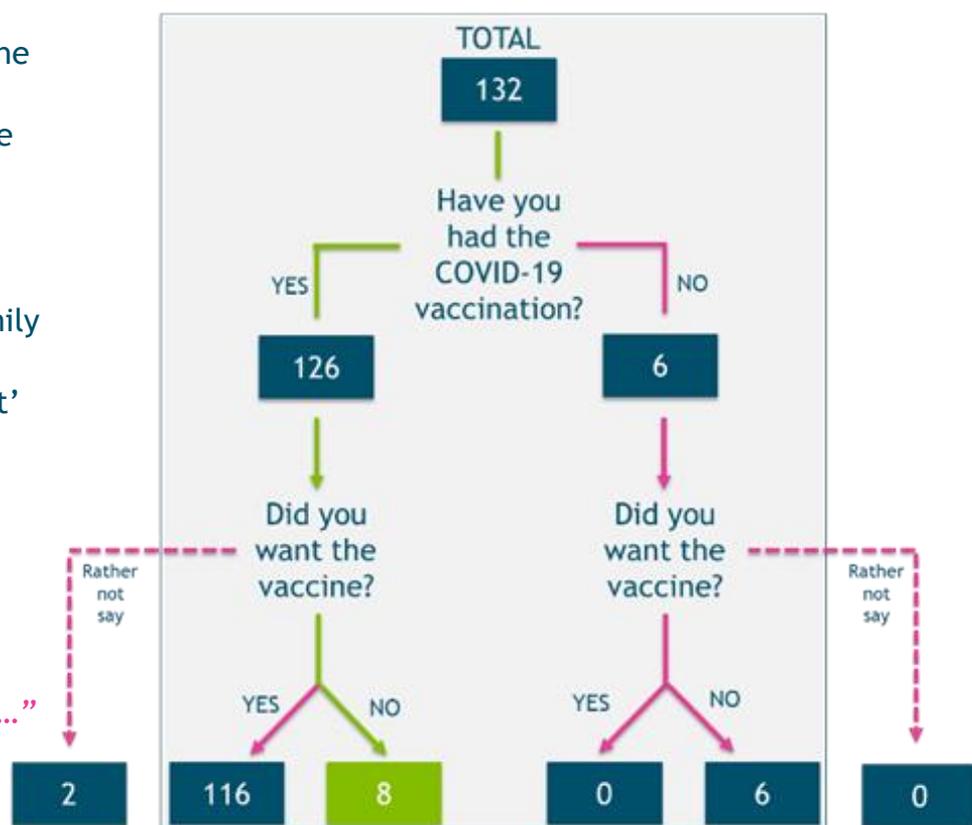
Some of these respondents shared the reasons that they still, despite their concerns, have had at least one dose of the vaccine. This included:

- Wanting to go on holiday
- For work
- Protecting others including family members
- Felt as they should 'do their bit'

"Had to get it to be able to go on holiday..."

"I got the vaccine for work and for vulnerable family..."

"I felt I should get the vaccine as it was 'doing my bit' to protect others..."





Haven't had and don't want the vaccine

Six respondents to the HWC COVID-19 vaccination survey did not want and have not had the vaccine.

The reasons that these respondents shared for making this decision and feeling this way, were varied. It included:

- Having **worries about the safety of the vaccine**. Respondents shared that they felt that the vaccine had been rushed and had not yet been tested enough, especially in terms of identifying and understanding the potential long-term effects of the vaccine.
- A **belief that the information and propaganda around the vaccine is not entirely accurate**. A respondent mentioned that they felt that the information disrupted by the media and the government has made out that COVID-19 is more 'dangerous' than it actually is. Another felt that the companies producing the vaccine have been focused on profit and thus advertised/shared information with that objective as a primary focus.
- Other reasons included, seeing no point as **already have COVID-19 antibodies**, that the respondent was currently **breastfeeding**, and respondents **feeling like they didn't need it**.

"From looking at the data available I don't believe that COVID-19 is as dangerous as it's being made out to be in the press and by the government and therefore, I don't feel that I need protection against it. The vaccine is experimental and can be harmful and it doesn't seem to stop people contracting the virus, so I don't think it's a very successful vaccine."

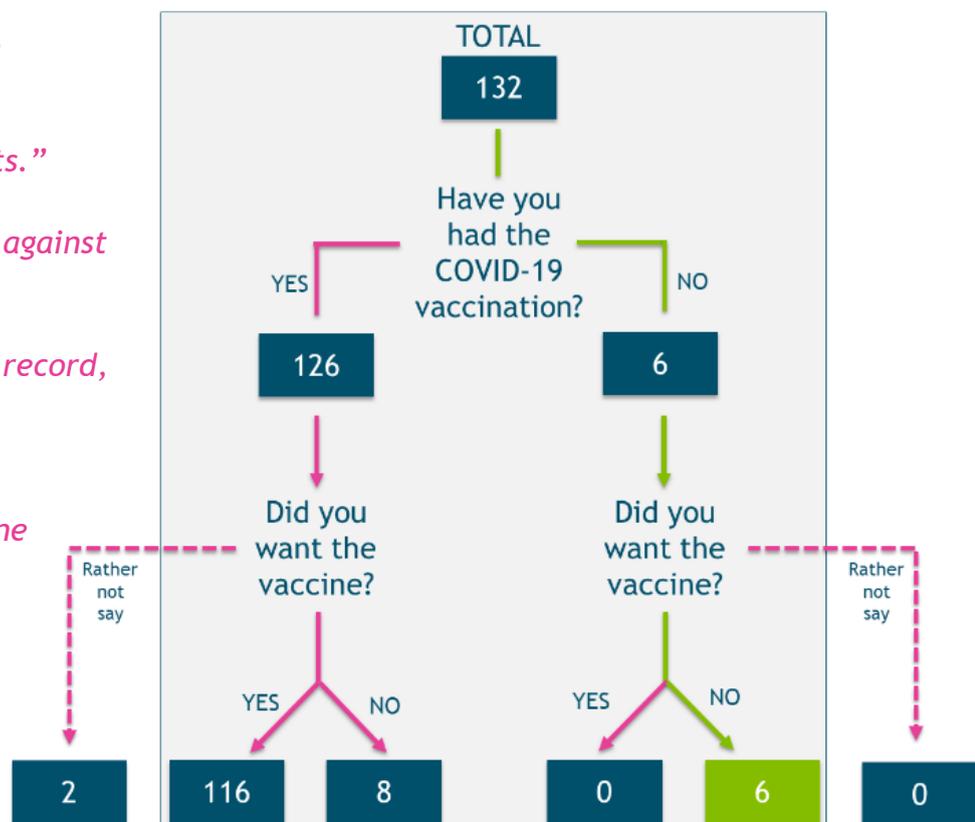
"I have antibodies from an infection in April-20. Part of SIREN study so get results monthly. Also breastfeeding."

"It isn't safe enough yet. Once it is, then I will have it."

"Worried about possible side effects."

"Do not think I need it. Not totally against it but not for myself."

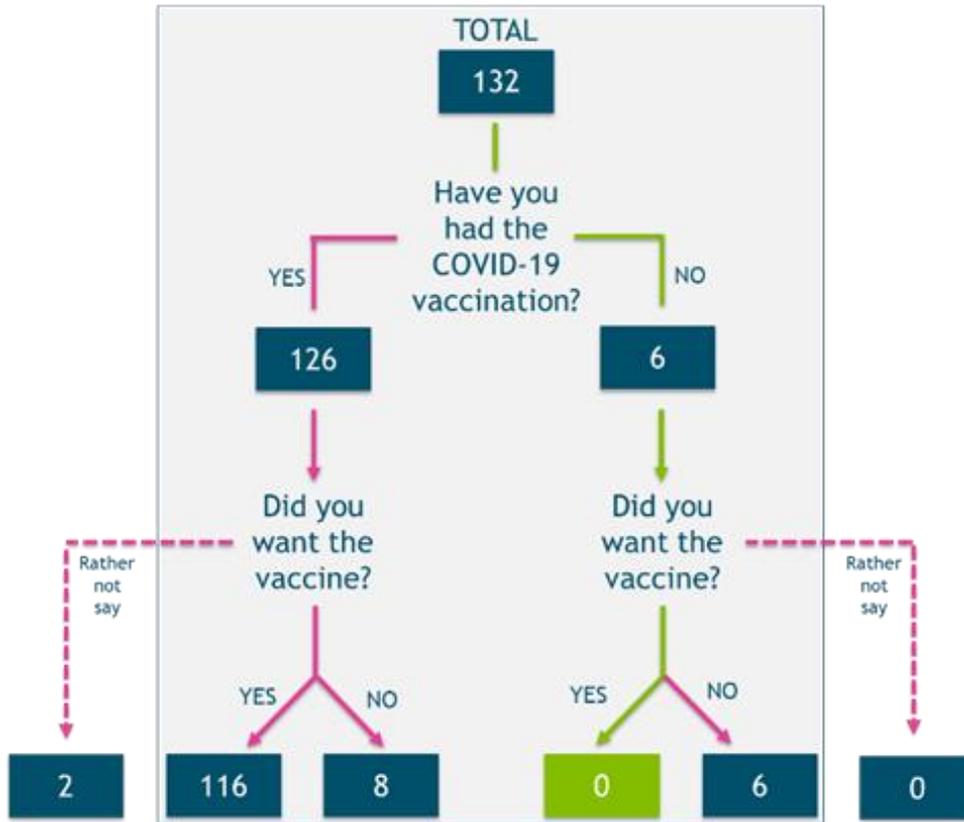
"Hesitant because of Pfizer's track record, rushed and little testing as to the long-term effects of the vaccine. Propaganda from Pfizer paying influencers to say Moderna's vaccine was 16x more dangerous. They have been focused on money rather than the protection of individuals which means cutting corners for the sake of greater profit margins."





Haven't had but want the vaccine

There were **no respondents** to the HWC COVID-19 vaccination survey who want the vaccine but have not had it.





Anything else?

69 out of the 132 respondents made an additional comment in relation to the COVID-19 vaccination. There were five main topics raised by the respondents in their responses to this question.

- There were respondents who are worried about the long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccination (especially around fertility).

“Worried about long term effects i.e. fertility.”

“Hope it works and they don’t find a frightening long-term complication with the vaccine.”

“Nervous about potential side effects, blood clots, fertility.”

- There were a mix of comments about the possibility of the implementation of COVID-19 vaccine passports and forcing people to have the vaccine. Some are strongly pro-vaccine passports and others are firmly against.

“Covid Passports are a must...”

“...Would like vaccination passports to become a reality (with obvious exemptions for those that are unable to take it for medical reasons).”

“Covid Passports are essential to stop the selfish anti-vaxxers from killing those most vulnerable in our society. They should hang their heads in shame.”

“I think that there has been too much pressure put on people to have the vaccine. It should be a matter of personal choice and personal risk. The threats of vaccine passports were undemocratic and unnecessary. I do not agree with those who refuse the vaccine, but I do respect their right to choose...”

“... I DO NOT however agree with it being forced on to the public. If they want a "normal" life then I do feel it is being forced on to them which is not acceptable.”

“...It also worries me that considering that the vaccine is experimental it's still being pushed on people. I've had about 22 texts and letters offering me this vaccine which seems very over the top.”

- Respondents shared their thoughts and opinions on children receiving the vaccine (there were a combination of people who either wanted or did not want children to have the vaccine).

“Get 12-year-olds and over’s vaccinations done.”

“Great and seems to be working well. Needs to be developed for children now, as a nasal spray if possible.”

“...I also do not agree that children should be vaccinated.”

“I have concerns about vaccinating my children.”



Anything else? Cont.

- There was a desire by multiple respondents to have more information about the booster jabs, with indication that they are eager to receive a booster when they are eligible.

“Are boosters going to be available?”

“...When are boosters being done?”

“Would like to know more about potential boosters for the CEV.”

“I will be having a booster as soon as it is available, and I am able.”

- There were many respondents who made comments praising the NHS, the vaccine programme, as well as the Cumbrian vaccine centres and staff.

“Very efficient roll out. Grateful for it...”

“I think the vaccination program has been pretty successful...”

“Very impressed with the organisation and delivery at both vaccine centres I visited.”

“Excellent process for accessing vaccinations in North Cumbria...”

“The vaccination experience at Wigton hospital was fantastic and really well organised.”

“Good experience, in and out of Morton site. Friendly, knowledgeable staff.”

“Staff administering the vaccine at the CIC were amazing, kind helpful and enthusiastic.”

“I found the experience to be really positive and the centres I had the vaccine were friendly and efficient and the staff and volunteers reassured me and answered my questions.”

“Just a massive thank you.”

“Thank you to the NHS.”

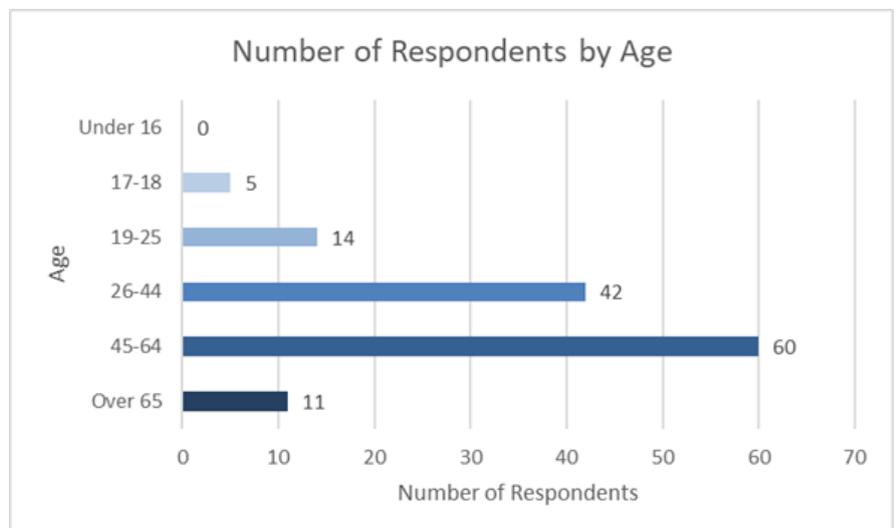


Age analysis

Overview

		Have you had the Covid-19 vaccination?		Age Group
		YES	NO	
Do you/did you want the vaccine?	YES	0	0	Under 16 (0)
	NO	0	0	
	rather not say	0	0	
	YES	3	0	17-18 (5)
	NO	0	2	
	rather not say	0	0	
	YES	12	0	19-25 (14)
	NO	1	0	
	rather not say	1	0	
	YES	34	0	26-44 (42)
	NO	5	2	
	rather not say	1	0	
	YES	56	0	45-64 (60)
	NO	2	2	
	rather not say	0	0	
YES	11	0	Over 65 (11)	
NO	0	0		
rather not say	0	0		

- 0% of respondents were under 16 years of age
- 3.8% of respondents were between 17 years and 18 years old
- 10.6% of respondents were between 19 years and 25 years old
- 31.8% of respondents were between 26 years and 44 years old
- 45.5% of respondents were between 45 years and 64 years old
- 8.3% of respondents were over 65 years of age





Age analysis cont.

Under 16

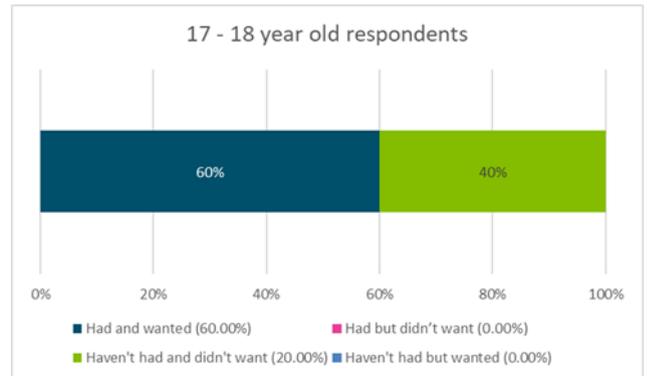
Table: Under 16 (0)		Have you had the Covid-19 vaccination?	
		YES	NO
Do you/did you want the vaccine?	YES	0	0
	NO	0	0
	rather not say	0	0

There were no respondents to the HWC COVID-19 vaccination survey who were 16 or younger.

17 - 18 years

Table: 17-18 (5)		Have you had the Covid-19 vaccination?	
		YES	NO
Do you/did you want the vaccine?	YES	3	0
	NO	0	2
	rather not say	0	0

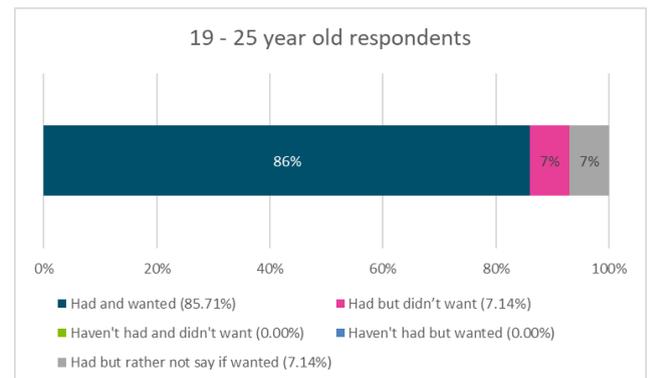
There were five respondents to the survey who were aged between 17 and 18. While 40% had not received nor want the vaccine, the remaining 60% have had and wanted the COVID-19 vaccination.



19 - 25 years

Table: 19-25 (14)		Have you had the Covid-19 vaccination?	
		YES	NO
Do you/did you want the vaccine?	YES	12	0
	NO	1	0
	rather not say	1	0

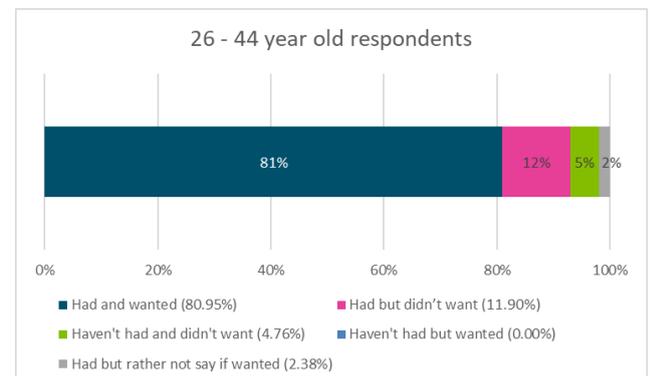
There were 14 respondents aged 19 to 25 who responded to the survey. All these respondents have had the vaccine. However, 7% did not share if they wanted or did not want it, 7% stated that they did not want it, and the other 86% said that they did want the vaccine.



26 - 44 years

Table: 26-44 (42)		Have you had the Covid-19 vaccination?	
		YES	NO
Do you/did you want the vaccine?	YES	34	0
	NO	5	2
	rather not say	1	0

There were 42 respondents who filled out this survey that were aged between 26 and 44. 95% of these respondents had received the vaccine, while 81% had and wanted it, 12% had it despite not wanting it, and 2% did not share if they wanted or didn't want the vaccine but they have had it. The 5% who had not received the vaccine also did not want it.



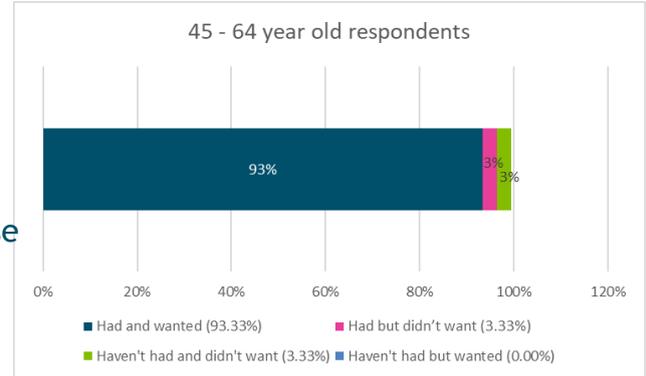


Age analysis cont.

45 - 64 years

Table: 45-64 (60)		Have you had the Covid-19 vaccination?	
		YES	NO
Do you/did you want the vaccine?	YES	56	0
	NO	2	2
	rather not say	0	0

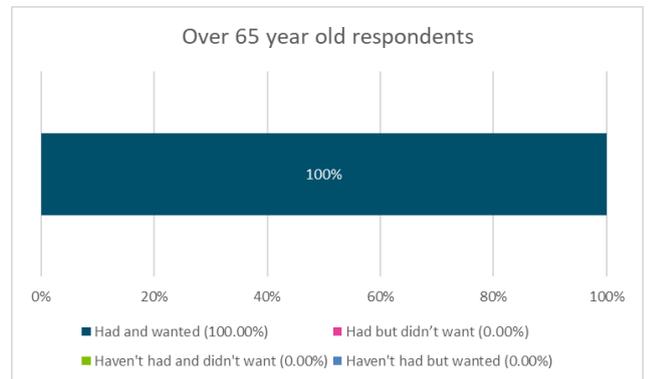
Sixty respondents of the HWC COVID-19 vaccination survey were between 45 and 64 years of age. 96% of these respondents have had the vaccine, with 93% of respondents having wanted and had the vaccine, and 3% having had the vaccine despite not wanting it. The 3% who have not had the vaccine do not want it.



Over 65 years

Table: Over 65 (11)		Have you had the Covid-19 vaccination?	
		YES	NO
Do you/did you want the vaccine?	YES	11	0
	NO	0	0
	rather not say	0	0

There were 11 respondents to the survey who were 65 or older. 100% of these respondents wanted and have had the COVID-19 vaccine.

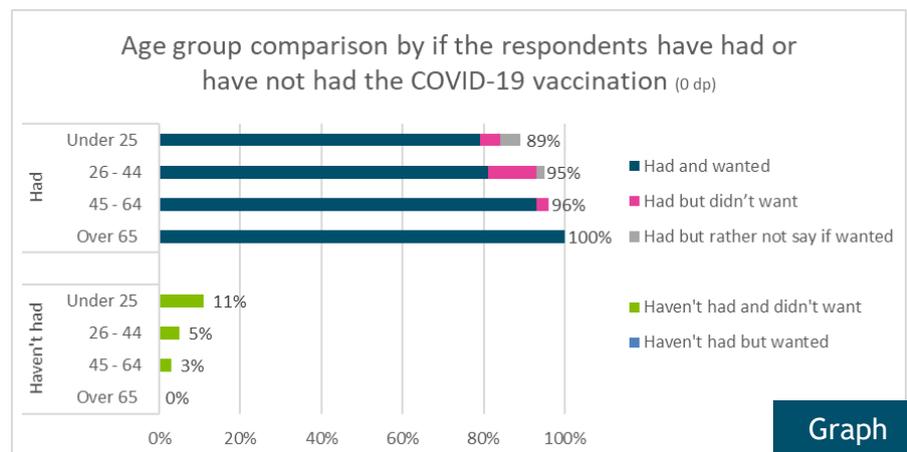


Comparison

The only two age groups that had all respondents vaccinated were 19-25s and over 65s. In every group the majority of its respondents had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The age group with the largest percentage of its respondents non-vaccinated was the 17-18s. The 26-44s had the biggest percentage of respondents who had received at least one dose of the vaccine despite not wanting it.

The under 16s, 17-18s, and the 19-25s age groups have been combined together to form a new age group of under 25s, for the following analysis. This was done so that the age groups were more consistent, covering roughly 20 years in each age bracket.

Graph A is a visual representation of the percentage of respondents who have had or not had the vaccine by age group. It shows that the older the age group the higher the percentage of respondents have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. It also evidences that the older the age group the higher the proportion of respondents have had the vaccine who wanted to have it.



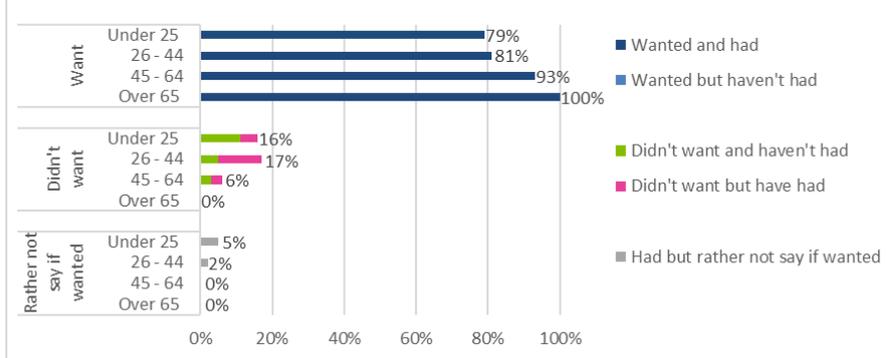
Graph A



Age analysis cont.

Graph B

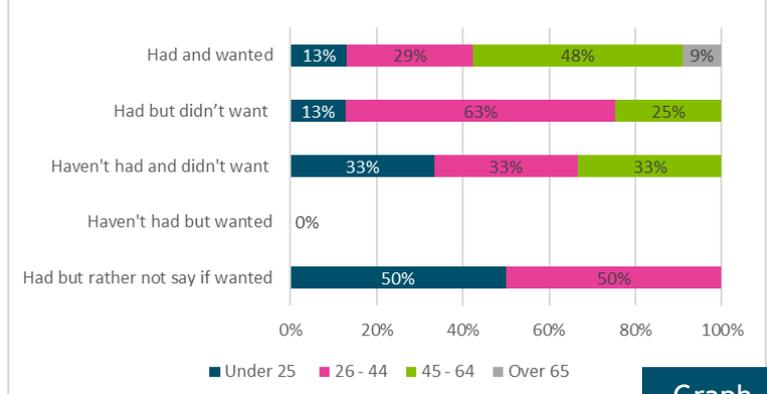
Age group comparison by if the respondents want or don't want the COVID-19 vaccine (0 dp)



Graph B visually shows the percentage of respondents who want or do not want the vaccine by age group. It indicates that an individual (respondent) in a younger age group, either under 25s or 26-44s, tend to want the vaccine less than those individuals (respondents) in the older age groups, either 45-64s or over 65s.

Graph C shows the breakdown of each category by age group. This shows that out of those respondents who have had at least one dose of the vaccine but didn't want it, the majority are aged between 26 and 44. This graph also evidences that of those respondents who do not want and have not had the vaccine are equally distributed (percentagewise) between the three age groups under 65 - under 25s, 26-44s and 45-64s.

Breakdown of each category by age group (0 dp)



Graph C

Therefore, the age analysis suggests that:

- Over 65s is the age group most likely to have had and to have wanted the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The older the age group the more likely the respondent has had the vaccine.
- Respondents in the younger age groups (under 25s and 26-44s) are less likely to want the vaccine than individuals in the older age groups (45-64s and over 65s).



Summary/ Conclusion

Healthwatch Cumbria would like to thank all the people who filled out our COVID-19 vaccination survey and shared their thoughts and opinions with us.

This project was done as a follow up to earlier work completed by HWC concerning the impact that the Coronavirus pandemic had on people, specifically on how they were feeling and coping during such a difficult period. The next step, which this project concentrated on, was to investigate the thoughts and opinions of individuals around the COVID-19 vaccination. There was a particular focus on reasons why individuals wanted or did not want the vaccine, and why they have chosen to have or not have it.

There were many interesting points and thoughts raised by respondents:

- Top three reasons given by respondents why they wanted and have had the vaccine were: to protect themselves, to protect others (including family, friends and colleagues), and in the hope of regaining some level of 'normality' in their lives.
- Some respondents felt that there is a lot of uncertainty around the vaccine and its safety. They shared the belief that there has not been enough testing/trials and research done before rolling it out to the public.
- There were respondents who shared that they believe that the government, the media and vaccine companies have created inaccurate propaganda and provided the public with false narratives about Coronavirus and the vaccine. One example provided by a respondent was that they felt that the virus has been made out to be more 'dangerous' than it actually is.
- Multiple respondents are concerned about any possible long-term effects of the vaccine, especially concerning fertility, and not knowing what they are and their subsequent impact.
- There was a divide among respondents about the potential implementation of COVID-19 vaccine passports, with some individuals thinking they should be introduced and others disagreeing.
- Respondents were also split over whether children should receive the vaccine or not.
- There was a desire by multiple respondents to have more information about booster jabs.
- There was a positive correlation shown between age and having received the vaccine (older the age group the higher the percentage of respondents have received at least one dose of the vaccine).
- It was indicated that the younger age groups (under 25s and 26-44s) are less likely to want the vaccine than individuals in the older age groups (45-64s and over 65s).

Information about the COVID-19 vaccination can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

<http://cumbriacvs.org.uk/w/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Vaccine-FAQ-v2-October-2021.pdf>





Appendix A – Additional Information

The range of topics raised by respondents have been set out in the HWC COVID-19 vaccination project report. Below is some additional information on some of the topics highlighted - all of which can be accessed and found on the NHS website.

Also included is other relevant information people might find useful about the coronavirus vaccines.

Accuracy of Information

Often it can be hard to tell if the information you are seeing and/or receiving is accurate. This was evidenced in the HWC COVID-19 vaccination project, as some of the respondents highlighted the issue that not all of the information and propaganda being circulated about coronavirus and the vaccines is entirely correct or accurate. Full Fact <https://fullfact.org/> is a useful website which checks the accuracy of stories to help decipher facts from fiction. SHARE Checklist

<https://sharechecklist.gov.uk/> features a checklist developed by the government to help people identify misinformation when reading or deciding whether or not to share information.

To view the source of this information and for more details on establishing the accuracy of data visit:

<https://cumbriacvs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Vaccine-FAQ-v2-October-2021.pdf>

Respondents said:

“It isn’t safe enough yet. Once it is, then I will have it.”

“...not tested for as long as other vaccines...”

“As it came out too quick and was nervous.”

Vaccine Safety

The coronavirus vaccines had to go through several stages of clinical trials (during which a vaccine is tested on volunteers to ensure it works and is safe, before they were approved for use). The approved coronavirus vaccines have been tested on thousands of people.

Furthermore, all of the COVID-19 vaccines used in the UK had to be approved by the Independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA makes sure that vaccines meet strict international standards of safety, quality and effectiveness. Once a vaccine is approved, it continues to be closely monitored to ensure it is safe and effective.

To view the source of this information and for more details on COVID-19 safety concerns visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/safety-and-side-effects/>

Coronavirus vaccine booster

A COVID-19 booster vaccine dose helps to enhance the protection you have from your first two doses of the vaccine, giving you a longer-term defence against getting seriously ill with COVID-19. Following the government’s announcement on December 12th, the booster is available on the NHS for all those aged 18 and older who have had the second dose of the vaccine at least three months ago.

To view the source of this information and for more details about the eligibility criteria, how or when to get the booster vaccine, and which vaccine you could receive visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>

Respondents said:

“Are boosters going to be available?”

“...When are boosters being done?”

“Would like to know more about potential boosters for the CEV.”



Appendix A – Additional Information Cont.

Long-term side effects

Millions of people have had a COVID-19 vaccine, and reports of serious side effects are very rare. Vaccine safety continues to be closely monitored. Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Not everyone experiences them and most side effects are mild and should not last longer than a week. Some examples of possible side effects include: a sore arm from the injection, a headache, feeling achy, feeling tired, feeling/being sick. If needed you can take painkillers (e.g. paracetamol), but if symptoms get worse or you are worried you are recommended to ring 111.

To view the source of this information and for more details about potential side effects, including rare side effects such as blood clots, visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/safety-and-side-effects/>

Fertility Concerns

You can receive the coronavirus vaccination if you are trying for a baby or might get pregnant in the future, if you are pregnant or think you might be, or if you are breastfeeding. There is no evidence that the coronavirus vaccine has any effect on your chances of becoming pregnant. Nor is there any need to avoid getting pregnant after being vaccinated.

To view the source of this information and for more details on the COVID-19 vaccination relating to fertility, pregnancy or breastfeeding visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/pregnancy-breastfeeding-fertility-and-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

Breastfeeding

You can have, and it is safe to get, the COVID-19 vaccination while breastfeeding. It is not possible to catch coronavirus from the COVID-19 vaccines, and you cannot pass coronavirus onto your baby through breast milk.

To view the source of this information and for more details on the COVID-19 vaccination relating to fertility, pregnancy or breastfeeding visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/pregnancy-breastfeeding-fertility-and-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

Pregnancy

The COVID-19 vaccines cannot give yourself or your baby coronavirus. The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have been widely tested during pregnancy, and there have been no safety concerns identified.*

Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, the Chief Midwifery Officer for England, has said: “The COVID-19 jab can keep you, your baby and your loved ones, safe and out of hospital. You can receive vaccination at any time in pregnancy, but the risks that unvaccinated pregnant women face of becoming severely unwell if they catch COVID-19 show exactly why we advise you to do so as soon as possible.”**

To view the source of this information and for more details on the COVID-19 vaccination relating to pregnancy visit:

* <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/pregnancy-breastfeeding-fertility-and-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

** <https://cumbriacvs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Vaccine-FAQ-v2-October-2021.pdf>

Respondents said:

“Worried about possible side effects.”

“Nervous about potential side effects, blood clots, fertility.”

“Worried about long term effects, i.e. fertility.”



Appendix A – Additional Information Cont.

Respondents said:

“Get 12-year-olds and over’s vaccinations done.”

“...Needs to be developed for children now...”

“...I also do not agree that children should be vaccinated.”

“I have concerns about vaccinating my children.”

Coronavirus vaccinations for children

While, COVID-19 is usually mild in most children, it can make some children ill. So giving a child a dose of the coronavirus vaccine provides them with good protection against getting seriously unwell. Also, having children receive the vaccine can help stop the spread of the virus to others, including within schools.

One dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to children aged 12 to 15. However, some children are being offered two doses if they either have a condition that means they are at high risk from coronavirus, and/or they live with someone who is more likely to get infections.

To view the source of this information and for more details about how and when children will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/>

Allergies

Most people with allergies can be vaccinated against coronavirus, including most of those with food or penicillin allergies.

Severe allergic reactions to the coronavirus vaccines are very rare, and if someone does have a reaction, it usually happens within minutes. Staff who are giving out the vaccine are trained to deal with allergic reactions, and thus, when necessary, will immediately provide treatment.

If you have a serious allergic reaction to your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, it is advised that you should not receive the same vaccine for your second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. If you are at all concerned or have previously had a severe allergic reaction, consult with your GP.

To view the source of this information and for more details on allergies concerning the coronavirus vaccinations visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/safety-and-side-effects/>



References/Useful Links

Healthwatch Cumbria: “12 months of Covid, 12 months of experiences” - An overview of the COVID-19 Series Report

<https://healthwatchcumbria.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/HWT-12-month-combined-report-Final.pdf>

NHS: Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

NHS: COVID-19 vaccines side effects and safety

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/safety-and-side-effects/>

NHS: COVID-19 booster vaccine

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>

NHS: Pregnancy, breastfeeding, fertility and COVID-19 vaccination

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/pregnancy-breastfeeding-fertility-and-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists: Coronavirus infection and pregnancy

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists: Information sheet and decision aid

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/guidelines/2021-02-24-combined-info-sheet-and-decision-aid.pdf>

NHS: COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Cumbria: Frequently Asked Questions about vaccination - A guide for community Leaders in Cumbria (version 2: October 2021)

<http://cumbriacvs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Vaccine-FAQ-v2-October-2021.pdf>

GOV.UK: Guidance - Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

GOV.UK: Guidance - COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a (Coronavirus vaccination information for public health professionals)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a>

Healthwatch England: COVID-19 vaccine: what you need to know

<https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/advice-and-information/2021-04-16/covid-19-vaccine-what-you-need-know>

FULL FACT

<https://fullfact.org/>

HM Government: SHAREChecklist

<https://sharechecklist.gov.uk/>

Healthwatch Cumbria Website

<https://healthwatchcumbria.co.uk/>





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