

Covid-19: Global attitudes towards a COVID-19 vaccine

► **Report** February 2021

Insights and trends in people's behaviours related to COVID-19. Brought to you by a team of health and behavioural experts at the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) at Imperial College London and YouGov. These reports are created on a regular basis, following new survey results.

With special acknowledgement of the contribution from the WHO working group on measuring behavioural and social drivers (BeSD) of COVID-19 vaccination.

Key insights from this report

This report looks at attitudes towards a COVID-19 vaccine in 15 countries between November 2020 and February 2021. Countries included are Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Israel (added in January), Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. For each country except Israel there are at least 5 waves of responses. Exact sample sizes in each country and wave are included at the end of the report.

As of mid-February,

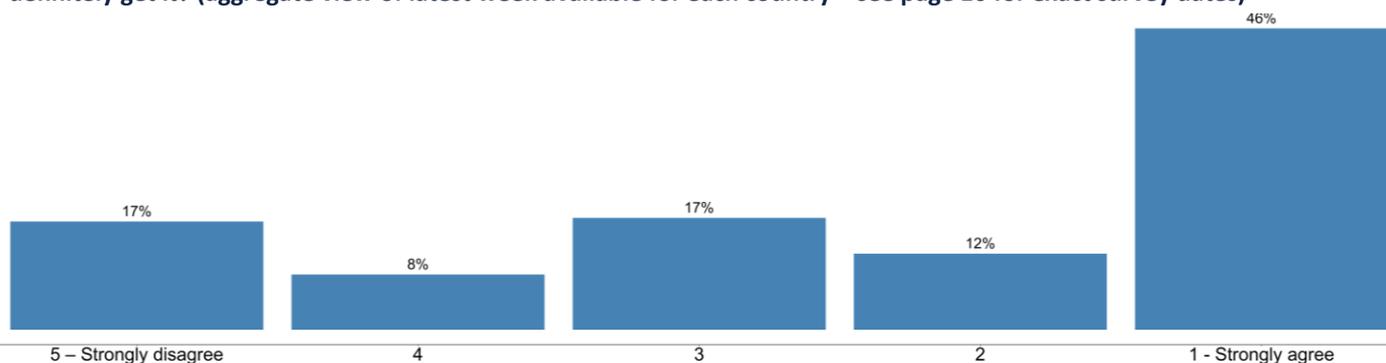
- **Over half (58%) of respondents report they would definitely get a COVID-19 vaccine if it were made available to them** the week of the survey. Comparing November 2020 and February 2021, the share of respondents who “strongly agreed” that they would get the vaccine has increased by at least 9 percentage points in 11 of the 14 countries surveyed, and by over 20 percentage points in 7 of these. The share of respondents who “strongly disagreed” has decreased or remained relatively constant across all 14 countries surveyed.
- **Less than half (45%) of respondents feel worried about potential side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine.** One in four (25%) state they are indifferent. Comparing November 2020 and February 2021, the share of respondents who “strongly agreed” that they were worried about side effects has decreased or remained relatively constant across all 14 countries surveyed.
- **Less than half (45%) of respondents are worried about getting COVID-19.** One in four (28%) state they are indifferent. Comparing November 2020 and February 2021, the share of those that are indifferent has remained close to or above 30% in 11 of the 14 countries surveyed. Across all countries, there has been relatively little variation in the responses during this time.
- **Over half (56%) of respondents believe their government health authorities will provide them with an effective COVID-19 vaccine.** One in four (27%) report no opinion on the matter. While there was an increase in confidence from November 2020 to January 2021, this may be decreasing in some countries. The share of those who “strongly agree” that their government will be able to provide a vaccine decreased between January and February in 8 of the 14 countries surveyed. As of mid-February, the share of those who “strongly agree” is within +/-8 percentage points of its respective rate in November in all countries except the UK, where this share has increased from 19% to 38%.
- **Two of every three respondents (68%) trust COVID-19 vaccines “very much” or “moderately”,** with only 11% reporting no trust at all. Except for Israel and Denmark, response rates across countries surveyed have remained relatively consistent, with changes of +/- 5 percentage points between January and February. In Israel, the share of those who report trusting the vaccine “very much” increased from 34% at the end of January to 47% mid-February. In Denmark, this rate decreased from 43% to 35% during the same time period.
- **Over half (55%) of respondents report that it would be hard to get a COVID-19 vaccine.** This is the case in 9 of the 15 countries surveyed. Except for the UK, response rates in all countries have remained relatively consistent, with changes of +/- 7 percentage points between January and February. In the UK, the share of those who report it would not be hard to get a vaccine increased from 42% mid-January to 54% mid-February.

How willing are people to get the COVID-19 vaccine if made available the week of the survey?

These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

As of mid-February, 58% of respondents report they would definitely get a COVID-19 vaccine if it were made available to them the week of the survey. The country with the highest share of respondents who “strongly agree” is the UK (70%). The country with the highest share of respondents who “strongly disagree” is France (33%). Comparing November 2020 and February 2021, the share of respondents who “strongly agreed” has increased by at least 9 percentage points in 11 of the 14 countries surveyed, and by over 20 percentage points in 7 of these. The share of respondents who “strongly disagreed” has decreased or remained relatively constant across all 14 countries surveyed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that if a COVID-19 vaccine were made available to you this week, you would definitely get it? (aggregate view of latest week available for each country – see page 10 for exact survey dates)



To what extent do you agree or disagree that if a COVID-19 vaccine were made available to you this week, you would definitely get it? Country breakdown over time (%)



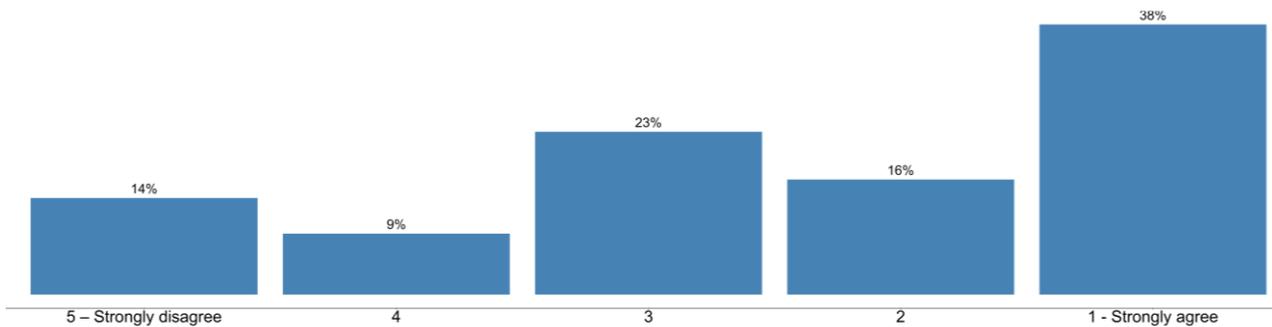
Changes comparing November 2020 and February 2021 were statistically significant for Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom using a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Israel was not included in this analysis.

How much do people feel they will regret not getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available?

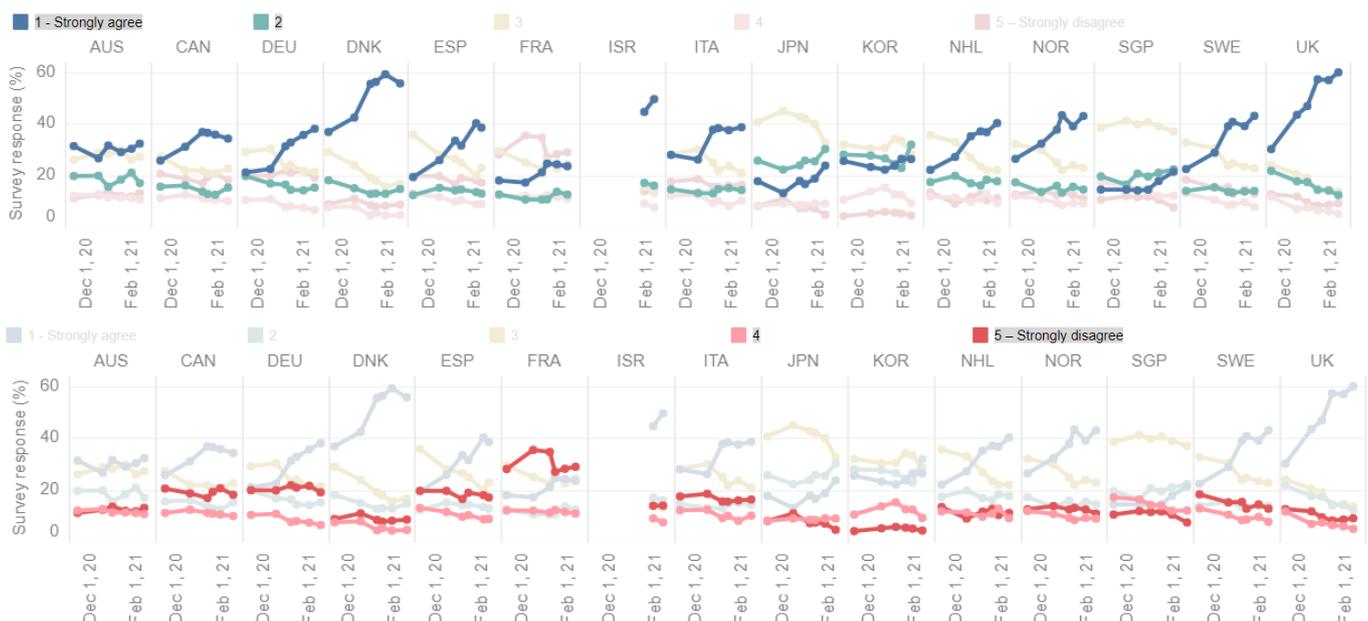
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

As of mid-February, over half of respondents (54%) report that they would regret not getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available. The country with the highest share of respondents who “strongly agree” is the UK (60%). The country with the highest share of respondents who “strongly disagree” is France (29%). Comparing November 2020 and February 2021, the share of respondents who “strongly agreed” has increased by 8 percentage points or more in 9 of the 14 countries surveyed, slightly increasing or remaining relatively constant in the other 5 countries. The share of respondents who “strongly disagreed” has decreased or remained relatively constant across all 14 countries surveyed since November.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that if you do not get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, you will regret it? (aggregate view of latest week available for each country – see page 10 for exact survey dates)



To what extent do you agree or disagree that if you do not get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, you will regret it? Country breakdown over time (%)



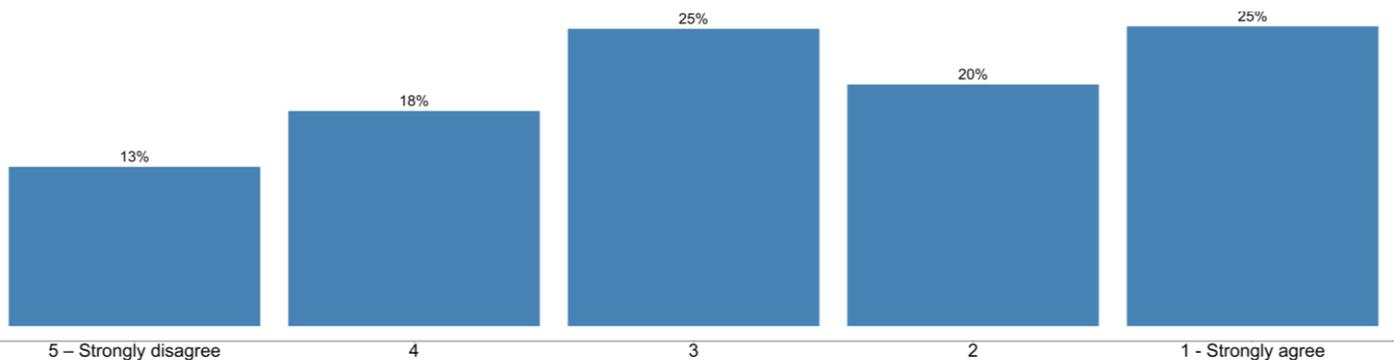
Changes comparing November 2020 and February 2021 were statistically significant for Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and United kingdom using a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Israel was not included in this analysis.

How concerned are people about possible side-effects from a COVID-19 vaccine?

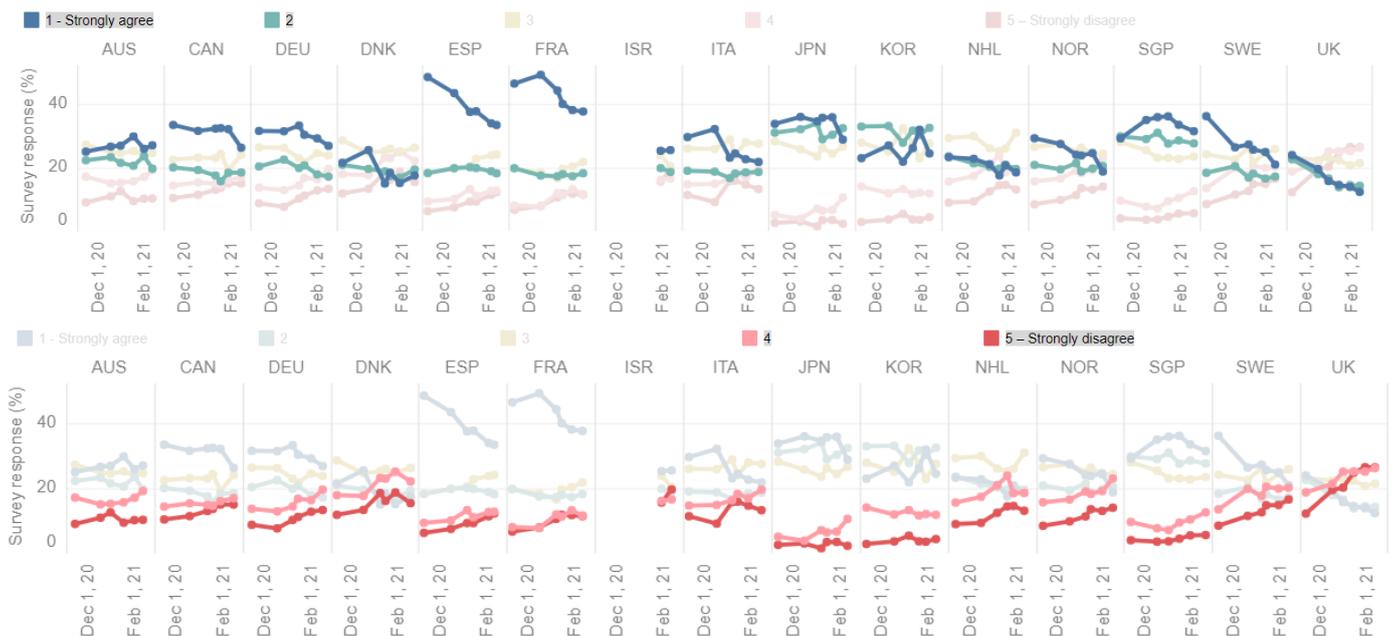
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

As of mid-February, 45% of respondents report feeling worried about potential side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine. A quarter of people surveyed (25%) report that they are indifferent about the potential side effects. France has the highest share of people who “strongly agree” that they are worried about side effects (38%) and the UK has the lowest (12%). Comparing November 2020 and February 2021, the share of respondents who “strongly agreed” that they were worried about side effects has decreased or remained relatively constant across all 14 countries surveyed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that you are worried about potential side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine? (aggregate view of latest week available for each country – see page 10 for exact survey dates)



To what extent do you agree or disagree that you are worried about potential side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine? Country breakdown over time (%)



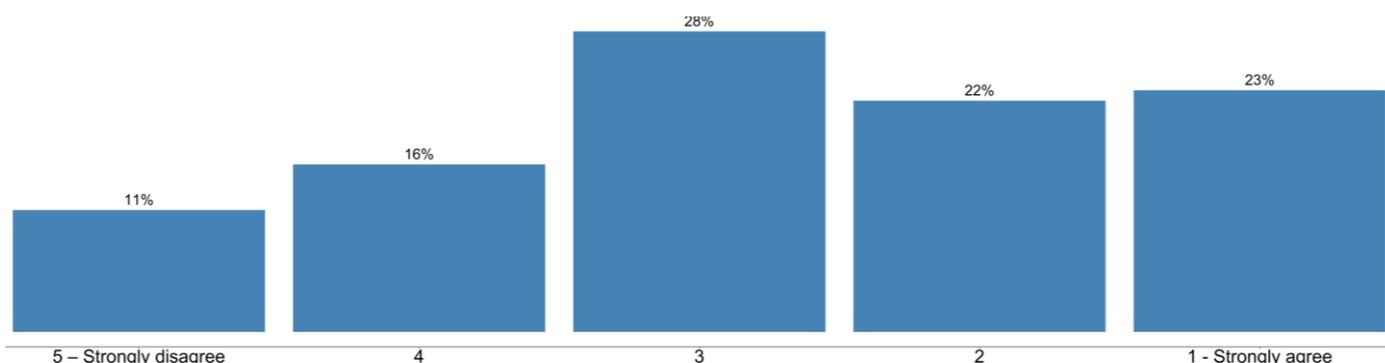
Changes comparing November 2020 and February 2021 were statistically significant for Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom using a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Israel was not included in this analysis

How worried are people about contracting COVID-19?

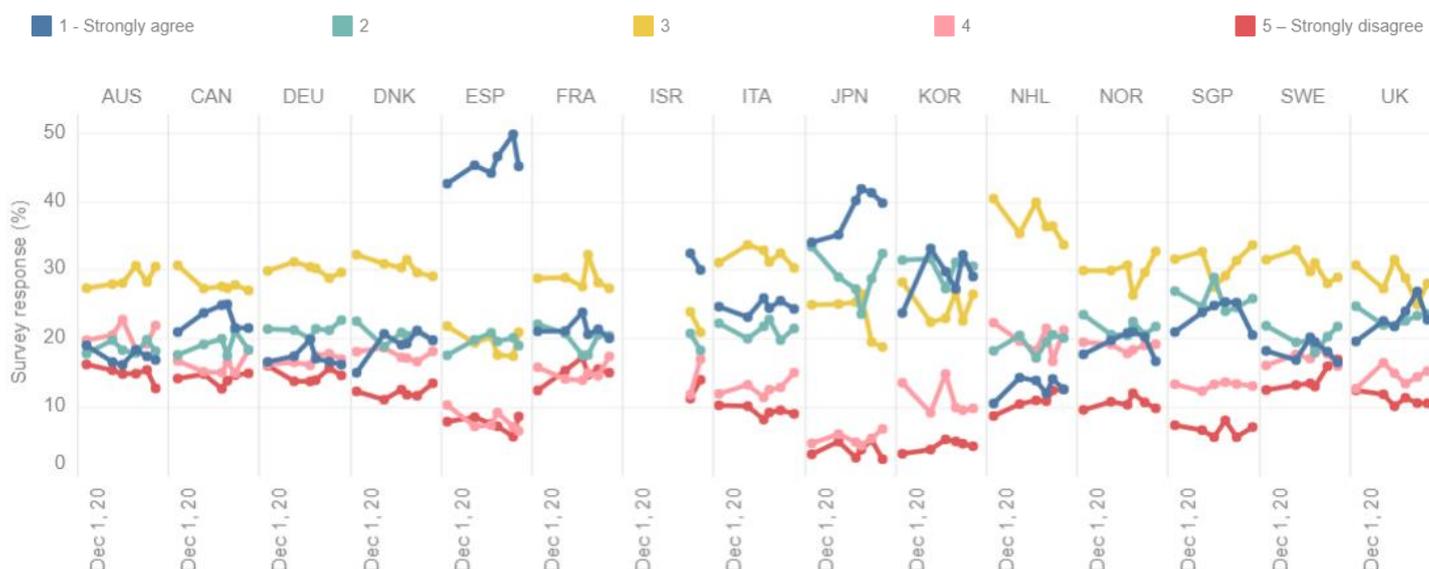
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

As of mid-February, 45% of respondents report they are worried about getting COVID-19 and 28% report they are indifferent. Spain and Japan have the highest share of respondents reporting they “strongly agree” that they are worried about getting COVID-19 (45% and 40%, respectively). Comparing November 2020 and February 2021, the share of those that report indifference has remained close to or above 30% in 11 of the 14 countries surveyed. Across all countries, there has been relatively little variation in the share of those who “strongly agree” (+/- 6 percentage points) and those who “strongly disagree” (+/-5 percentage points).

To what extent do you agree or disagree that you are worried about getting COVID-19? (aggregate view of latest week available for each country – see page 10 for exact survey dates)



To what extent do you agree or disagree that you are worried about getting COVID-19? Country breakdown over time (%)



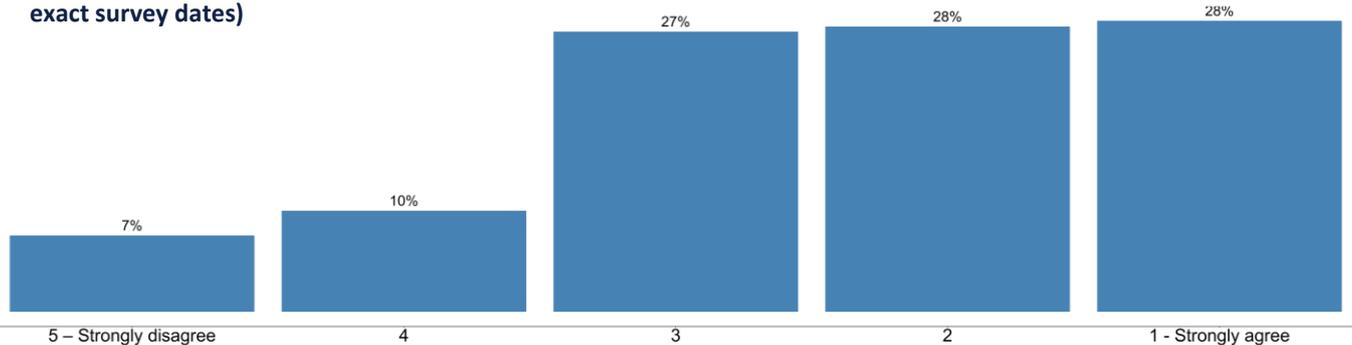
Change comparing November 2020 and February 2021 was statistically significant for Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom using a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Israel was not included in this analysis

How much do people believe in government health authorities' ability to provide an effective COVID-19 vaccine?

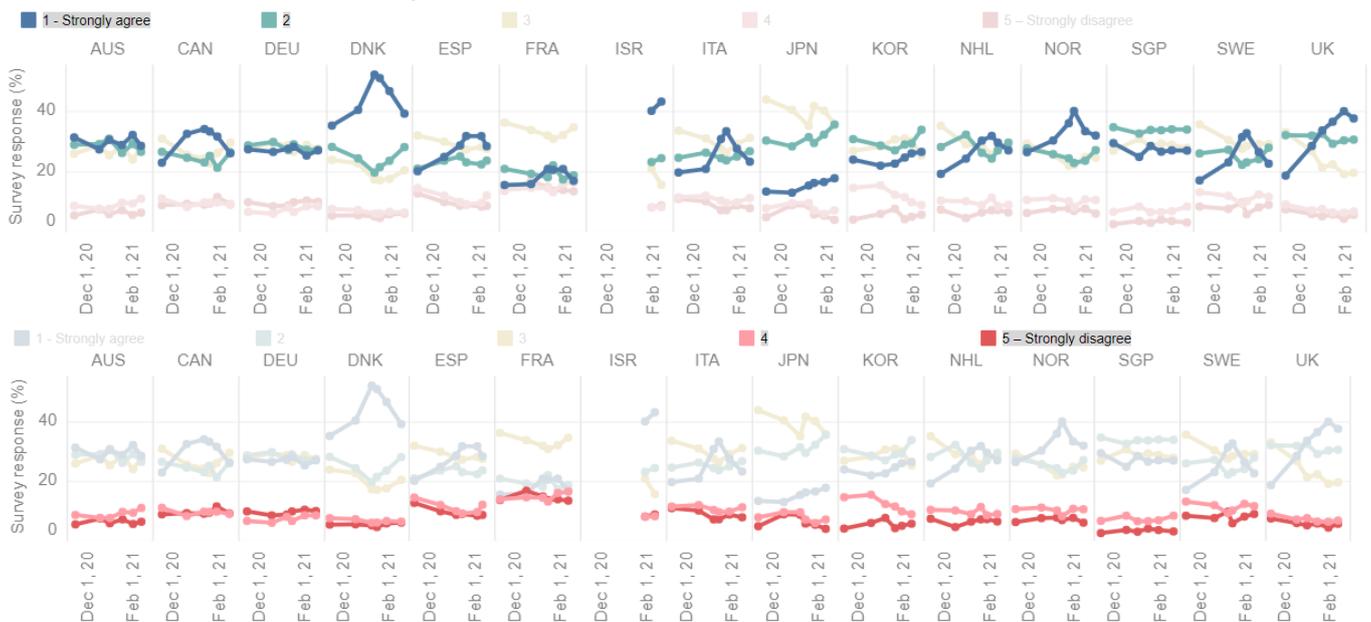
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

As of mid-February, over half of those surveyed (56%) report they believe their government health authorities will provide them with an effective COVID-19 vaccine. One in four (27%) report no opinion on the matter. While there was an increase in confidence from November 2020 to January 2021, this may be decreasing in some countries. The share of those who “strongly agree” that their government will be able to provide a vaccine decreased between January and February in 8 of the 14 countries surveyed. As of mid-February, the share of those who “strongly agree” is within +/-8 percentage points of its respective rate in November in all countries except the UK, where this share has increased from 19% to 38%.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that you believe government health authorities in your country will provide you with an effective COVID-19 vaccine? (aggregate view of latest week available for each country – see page 10 for exact survey dates)



To what extent do you agree or disagree that you believe government health authorities in your country will provide you with an effective COVID-19 vaccine? Country breakdown over time (%)



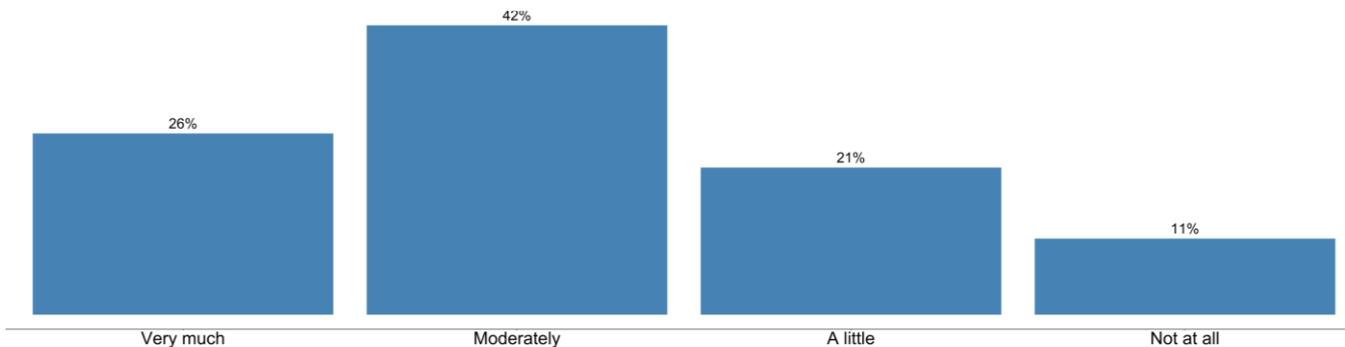
Changes comparing November 2020 and February 2021 were statistically significant for Italy, Japan, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom using a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Israel was not included in this analysis

How much do people trust the COVID-19 vaccines?

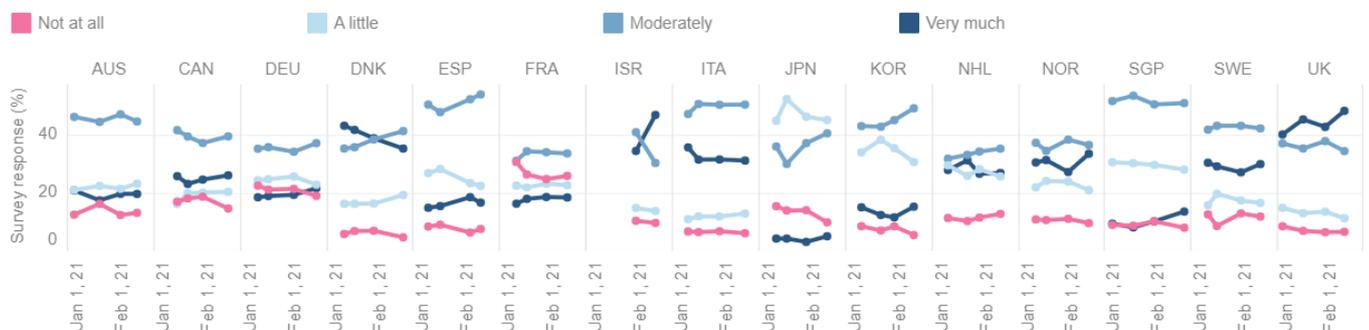
These graphs show the extent of people’s trust in the COVID-19 vaccines

As of mid-February, two of every three people (68%) “very much” or “moderately” trust COVID-19 vaccines, with only 11% reporting no trust at all. The UK and Israel have the highest shares of respondents who report trusting the vaccines “very much” (48% and 47% respectively), compared to only 5% in Japan. France has the highest share of respondents who report “not at all” trusting the vaccines, at 26%. Except for Israel and Denmark, response rates across countries surveyed have remained relatively consistent, with changes of +/- 5 percentage points between January and February. In Israel, the share of those who report trusting the vaccine “very much” increased from 34% at the end of January to 47% mid-February. In Denmark, this rate decreased from 43% to 35% during the same time period.

How much do you trust COVID-19 vaccines? (aggregate view of latest week available for each country – see page 10 for exact survey dates)



How much do you trust COVID-19 vaccines? Country breakdown over time (%)

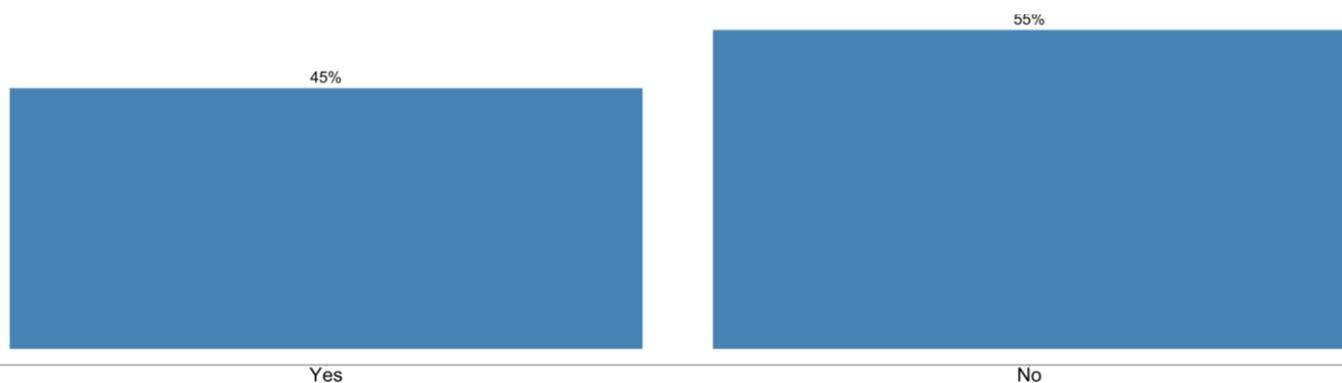


Is it easy for people to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

These graphs show whether people agree it not would be hard to get a COVID-19 vaccine

As of mid-February, over half of respondents report that it would be hard to get a COVID-19 vaccine. This is the case in 9 of the 15 countries surveyed. The country with the highest share of respondents who state it would not be hard was Israel, at 64%. The countries with the lowest share of respondents who state it would not be hard were Germany, France and Canada at 35%. Except for the UK, response rates in all countries have remained relatively consistent, with changes of +/- 7 percentage points between January and February. In the UK, the share of those who report it would not be hard to get a vaccine increased from 42% mid-January to 54% mid-February.

Share of respondents who agree that it would not be hard to get a COVID-19 vaccine (aggregate view of latest week available for each country – see page 10 for exact survey dates)



Share of respondents who agree that it would not be hard to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Country breakdown over time (%)



Countries included in this report (1/3)

This table shows the countries included in this report, dates of the survey and the number of participants

This report looks at all countries surveyed from November 2020 to mid-February 2021. The table below indicates the survey dates and the number of respondents per country.

Country	Survey date	Number of Participants
Australia	November 09 - November 15	1001
	December 14 - December 20	1002
	December 28 - January 03	924
	January 03 - January 11	1001
	January 25 - January 31	1003
	February 08 – February 14	1011
Canada	November 16 - November 22	1003
	December 14 - December 20	960
	January 11 – January 17	1003
	January 18 – January 24	968
	January 25 – January 31	976
	February 08 – February 14	999
Denmark	November 09 - November 15	1006
	December 14 - December 20	1001
	January 04 – January 10	1001
	January 11 – January 17	1000
	January 25 – January 31	1068
	February 15 – February 21	
France	November 09 - November 15	1000
	December 14 - December 20	1000
	January 04 – January 10	1035
	January 11 – January 17	1002
	January 25 – January 31	1032
	February 08 – February 14	1002
Germany	November 09 - November 15	1000
	December 14 - December 20	1041
	January 04 – January 10	1059
	January 11 – January 17	1000
	January 25 – January 31	1001
	February 15 – February 21	1000

Countries included in this report (2/3)

This table shows the countries included in this report, dates of the survey and the number of participants

This report looks at all countries surveyed from November 2020 to mid-February 2021. The table below indicates the survey dates and the number of respondents per country.

Country	Survey date	Number of Participants
Israel	January 25 – January 31	503
	February 08 – February 14	508
Italy	November 09 - November 15	1005
	December 14 - December 20	1004
	January 04 – January 10	1001
	January 11 – January 17	999
	January 25 – January 31	1004
	February 08 – February 14	1002
Japan	November 09 - November 15	505
	December 14 - December 20	499
	January 04 – January 10	501
	January 11 – January 17	502
	January 25 – January 31	499
	February 08 – February 14	501
Netherlands	November 09 - November 15	502
	December 14 - December 20	517
	January 04 – January 10	500
	January 18 – January 24	504
	February 08 – February 14	500
Norway	November 09 - November 15	1001
	December 14 - December 20	1000
	January 04 – January 10	1003
	January 11 – January 17	1000
	January 25 – January 31	1002
	February 08 – February 14	1003
Singapore	November 09 - November 15	1000
	December 14 - December 20	1001
	December 28 – January 03	960
	January 25 – January 31	1006
	February 15 – February 21	1006

Countries included in this report (3/3)

This table shows the countries included in this report, dates of the survey and the number of participants

This report looks at all countries surveyed from November 2020 to mid-February 2021. The table below indicates the survey dates and the number of respondents per country.

Country	Survey date	Number of Participants
South Korea	November 09 - November 15	499
	December 14 - December 20	498
	January 04 – January 10	495
	January 25 – January 31	500
	February 08 – February 14	499
Spain	November 09 - November 15	1009
	December 14 - December 20	1000
	January 04 – January 10	1007
	January 11 – January 17	1001
	January 25 – January 31	1000
	February 08 – February 14	1001
Sweden	November 09 - November 15	1001
	December 14 - December 20	1000
	January 04 – January 10	1000
	January 11 – January 17	1005
	January 25 – January 31	1000
	February 08 – February 14	1005
United Kingdom	November 09 - November 15	1005
	December 14 - December 20	1003
	December 28 – January 03	1003
	January 11 – January 17	1000
	January 25 – January 31	1001
	February 08 – February 14	1000

About this report

Led by Imperial College London's Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) and YouGov



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With special acknowledgement of the contribution from the WHO working group on measuring behavioural and social drivers (BeSD) of COVID-19 vaccination.

The members of the BeSD COVID-19 working group are: Neetu Abad (United States Centers for Disease Control); Helena Ballester Bon (United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF]); Cornelia Betsch (University of Erfurt, Germany); Noel Brewer (University of North Carolina, United States of America); Melissa Gilkey (University of North Carolina, United States of America); Julie Leask (University of Sydney, Australia); Abdul Momin Kazi (Aga Khan University, Pakistan); Ana Lisa Ong-Lim (University of the Philippines, Manila); Aaron Scherer (University of Iowa, United States of America); Holly Seale (University of New South Wales, Australia); Gilla Shapiro (University of Toronto, Canada); Smita Singh (Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance); Gillian SteelFisher (Harvard University, United States of America); Kerrie Wiley (University of Sydney, Australia); Charles Wiysonge (Cochrane South Africa). Lisa Menning and Francine Ganter Restrepo from WHO serve as the group Secretariat.

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Realised by



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Supporters



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Question for the research team? Get in touch [here](#)

Press enquiry? Contact Dr. Justine Alford at j.alford@imperial.ac.uk

For more behavioural data on a global level, visit coviddatahub.com to explore our interactive charts

The [CovidDataHub.com](https://coviddatahub.com) project is a joint collaboration between the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) at Imperial College London and YouGov Plc to gather global insights on people's behaviours and life satisfaction in response to COVID-19. The research covers 29 countries, areas or territories and surveys are conducted on a regular basis since the first week of April.

This report is designed to provide insights on how different populations are responding to the pandemic, helping public health bodies in their efforts to limit the impact of the disease. Anonymized respondent level data is generously made available for all public health and academic institutions globally by YouGov Plc at our [GitHub site](#).

In collaboration with