

# Safely Managing COVID-19: Greater Manchester Population Survey

Survey 10 Report

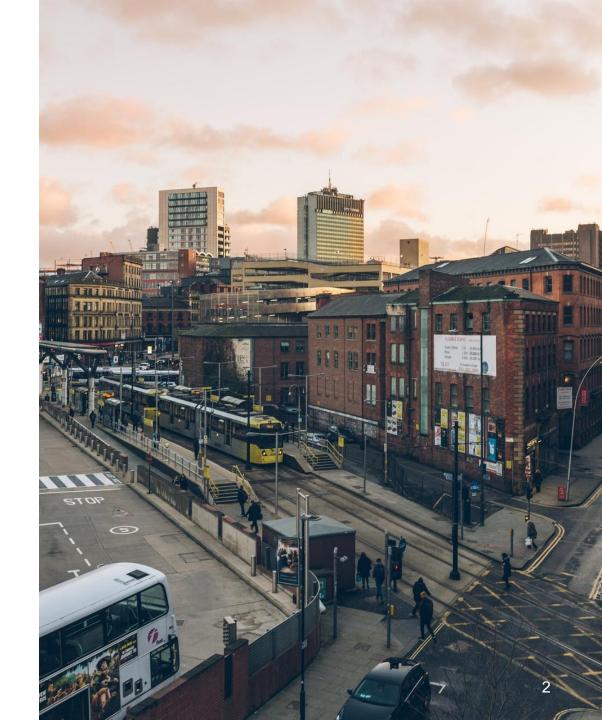
December 2021

Based on fieldwork 17 November – 1 December



### **Report contents**

Introduction and methodology	<u>3</u>
Key measures in the 'Omicron' response	<u>6</u>
Feelings and concerns	<u>36</u>
Coronavirus impacts	53





### Introduction and methodology

Background page 4

Methodology page 4

Report contents and guidance page 5





### **Background and methodology**

### **Background**

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is having significant impacts on the lives of residents and the city region of Greater Manchester (GM) as a whole.
- The nature and extent of these impacts are not evenly experienced across the population. Residents are unequally equipped and empowered to stop the spread of the virus and its resulting impacts.
- Although there is extensive national research into these issues, particularly from during
  the earlier stages of the pandemic, relying on national surveys does not give the level
  of detail required on who within the Greater Manchester population is being most
  affected, the issues they are facing, the support they need, and how communications
  and support be best targeted and delivered.
- The focus of this research is therefore to provide regular ongoing insight on these issues and impacts across Greater Manchester as a whole, and within its 10 Local Authorities, to:
  - Help ensure communications and engagement activities are insight-led and appropriately delivered and targeted; and
  - Support the behaviour change that needs to be inspired across the population to stop the spread of coronavirus and its unequal impacts.

### Methodology

- From November 2020, BMG Research was commissioned to undertake monthly online and telephone (CATI) surveys, of at least 1,000 respondents of Greater Manchester each time, with a sample of at least 100 respondents in each Local Authority.
- Quotas were set to ensure the sample broadly reflected the profile of respondents by gender, age, ethnicity and disability, with further consideration for wider protected and key characteristics.
- Weights have been applied to the data gathered to ensure the sample matches the
  population profile by these quota variables more precisely, and to ensure consistency
  between individual surveys.
- Each monthly survey should take 15 minutes on average for respondents to complete; however, due to the emotive nature of the topic interviews by telephone take longer than this.
- Ten surveys have so far been completed. Details of responses are below.

Survey	Fieldwork start	Fieldwork end	Total respondents	Web respondents	Phone respondents
1	20 November 2020	2 December 2020	1016	707 (70%)	309 (30%)
2	18 December 2020	31 December 2020	1007	751 (75%)	256 (25%)
3	14 January 2021	27 January 2021	1010	757 (75%)	253 (25%)
4	11 February 2021	25 February 2021	1003	753 (75%)	250 (25%)
5	17 March 2021	29 March 2021	1008	750 (74%)	258 (26%)
6	22 April 2021	3 May 2021	1007	757 (75%)	250 (25%)
7	8 June 2021	15 June 2021	1013	772 (76%)	241 (24%)
8	22 July 2021	31 July 2021	1017	773 (76%)	244 (24%)
9	13 September 2021	4 October 2021	1021	766 (75%)	255 (25%)
10	17 November 2021	1 December 2021	1015	765 (75%)	250 (25%)

### Report contents and guidance

### Report contents & guidance

- This report focuses on the findings from survey 10, which took place in late November early December 2021, exactly one year on from the first such survey. This period was four months after the easing of national restrictions in July, following which national policy made people's personal judgement key in learning to live with the virus. The period was characterized by rates of coronavirus infections remaining far higher than when the restrictions were first introduced, but following the roll-out of the vaccine rates of serious illness and death from coronavirus much lower. But eleven days into the fieldwork, and with five days remaining, the Prime Minister announced the first of new, temporary measures as a precautionary response to the emergence of UK cases of the Omicron variant of the virus. These measures were introduced over the following days, as the fieldwork for this survey came to completion.
- The survey provides insight into concerns and impacts of the pandemic among respondents, and how their attitudes and behaviours around coronavirus are affected by a move away from rules and towards personal decision making. Survey 10 also aims to understand attitudes towards restrictions from throughout pandemic, and how behaviours and attitudes are changing with the emergence of the Omicron variant.
- The report presents a range of tables and charts with accompanying narrative to highlight the key findings from each section of the survey among the 'total Greater Manchester' sample i.e. all 1015 respondents. Where relevant, differences by local authority and other population characteristics are also reported. These differences are significantly different statistically (at the 95% level of confidence) compared with the 'total Greater Manchester' figures (i.e. the Greater Manchester average).
- Where questions have remained consistent, the report provides comparisons with previous surveys; statistically significant differences between surveys are indicated by up and down arrows.
- On some questions responses have been filtered on those who were asked relevant questions (e.g. those in work or with children), and bases may be lower than the full sample of 1015 in some instances. Where relevant, this has been noted on the slides, along with the unweighted base sizes. Any low bases with an unweighted base size below 50 have also been noted.
- The <u>initial section</u> provides an overview of respondents' attitudes and behaviours around key <u>measures of the response to the Omicron</u> <u>variant</u>. This is followed by more general insight into their <u>feelings and concerns</u> and <u>coronavirus impacts</u> experienced.



# Key measures in the 'Omicron' response

Overview

page 7

**Attitudes** 

pages 8-10

**Vaccines and boosters** 

pages 11-14

**Face coverings** 

**Self-isolation and testing** 

pages 15-18

pages 19-28

Work from home

page 27

**Covid-safe behaviours** 

pages 28-33

NHS Covid Pass (results taken

pages 34-35

from September survey)





### The Omicron variant and the national response

On Wednesday 24 November, it was announced that a new variant of coronavirus - called the Omicron variant – had been identified in South Africa. It was found to be spreading around the world and, within three days, two cases had been identified in the UK. While there were, and still are, many things that were not known about the variant, it appeared to be able to spread very rapidly and between people who are double vaccinated and could potentially, at least in part, reduce the protection of vaccines over time.

Over a series of announcements, measures were introduced to in an attempt to slow the spread of this variant. These included:

### On Saturday 27 November:

- Changes to **international travel**, with anyone traveling from overseas required to take a PCR test within 48 hours of arriving and self-isolate until they receive a negative result (from Tuesday 30); additional countries were added to the UK's red list (from Sunday 28)
- Face coverings were made compulsory in shops and on public transport (from Tuesday 30)
- Anyone who had recently been close to someone suspected to be infected with the Omicron variant would be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and have to self-isolate, regardless of their age or vaccination status (from Tuesday 30)

### On <u>Tuesday 30 November</u>:

 Vaccine boosters would be made available to all over 18s, second doses to those aged 12-15, and additional doses to people who are immunosuppressed

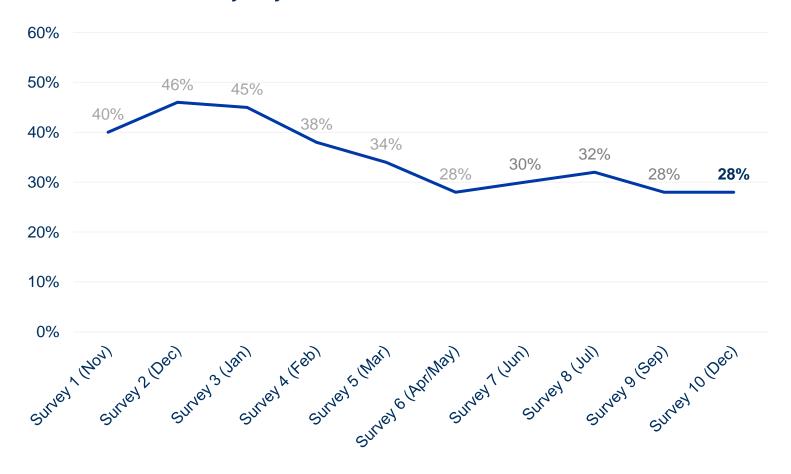
### On Wednesday 8 December:

- Face coverings would become compulsory in most public indoor venues, other than hospitality (from Friday 10)
- People would be asked to work from home if they can (from Monday 13)
- Vaccinated people and under 18s who has recently been close to those infected with the virus (including the Omicron variant) would be
  asked to take daily rapid tests instead of self-isolating (from Tuesday 14)
- The NHS Covid Pass showing a recent negative test of full vaccination would be mandatory in specific settings (from Wednesday 15)

The following section provides insight into respondents' attitudes and behaviours around these measures.

The proportion of respondents who are extremely or very worried about coronavirus has remained stable since September (both 28%). This, together with survey 6 in Apr/May (28%), is the lowest level of worry since tracking began in November 2020. But some groups remain significantly more worried.

### % Extremely/very worried about COVID-19 – overall

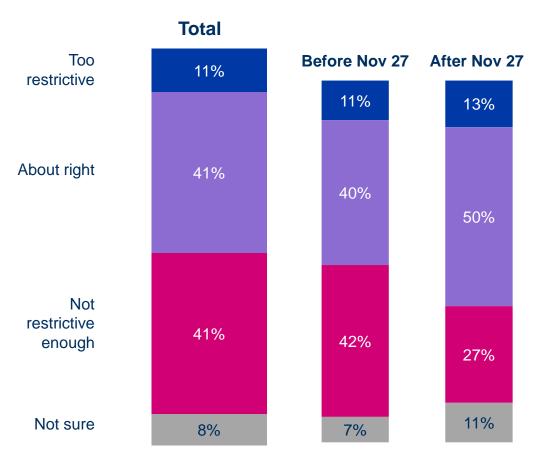


# While 28% of all respondents are extremely / very worried about coronavirus, the proportion is significantly higher among:

- Those who have claimed financial support to selfisolate (64%)
- Those who have needed to use a foodbank (58%)
- Those working reduced hours (58%)
- Those who have been told they are at higher risk of COVID-19 (50%)
- Those not in work due to ill health or disability (50%)
- Parents with children at college (44%)
- Current or former members of armed forces (44%)
- Disabled people (42%)
- Carers (41%)

With the majority of fieldwork undertaken before any new measures were introduced in response to Omicron, only 1 in 10 (11%) respondents felt the coronavirus measures in place were too restrictive. Most felt the measures then in place were either about right or not restrictive enough (both 41%). Older respondents were more likely to welcome additional restrictions than younger ones.

### **Evaluation of current coronavirus measures**



### Groups more likely to say measures are too restrictive

**Ages 16-24** (22%), ethnic minorities (18%) including BME (19%), those who speak another language (21%), has a disability (19%) including learning disability (47%), those who are currently carers (24%), those who are at high risk of COVID (21%), those with children (14%) including aged 0-4 (24%), those working reduced hours (36%)

### Groups more likely to say measures are about right

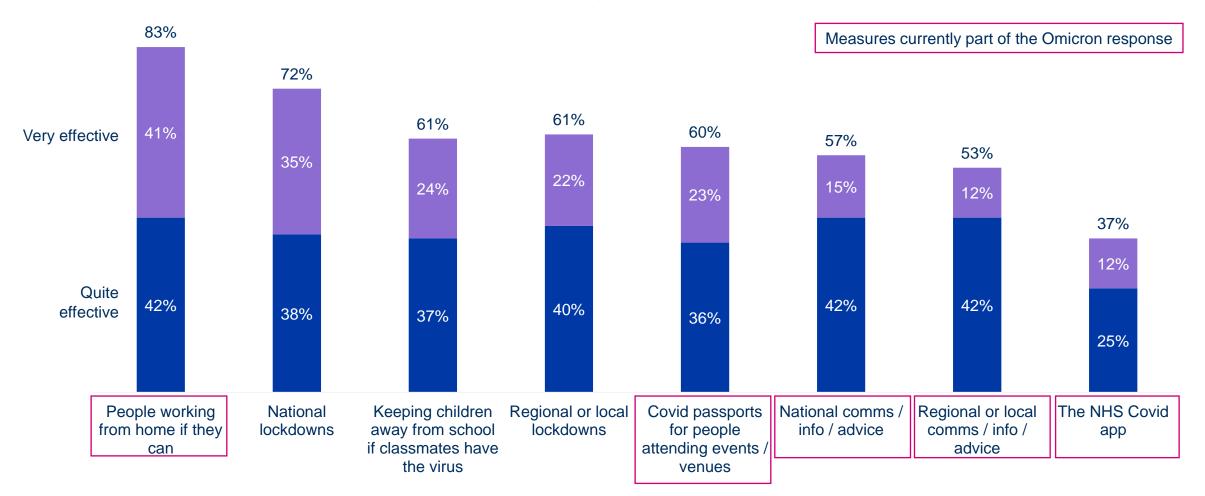
**Ages 25-44** (45%), those without a disability (43%), those working full-time (45%), who work in Wholesale/retail/distribution/personal services (51%), or non-public industries (46%), those who think their employer offers a safe work environment to a great extent (54%), those not working at home at all (46%)

#### Groups more likely to say measures are not restrictive enough

**Ages 45-64** (49%) and 65+ (57%), those without children (44%), those with two adults in household (44%), retired (56%), live in Trafford (51%), those in the least deprived IMD quintile (52%), those extremely/ very worried about coronavirus (55%), those who aren't sure whether they've had coronavirus (48%), those who have already received the vaccine (43%)

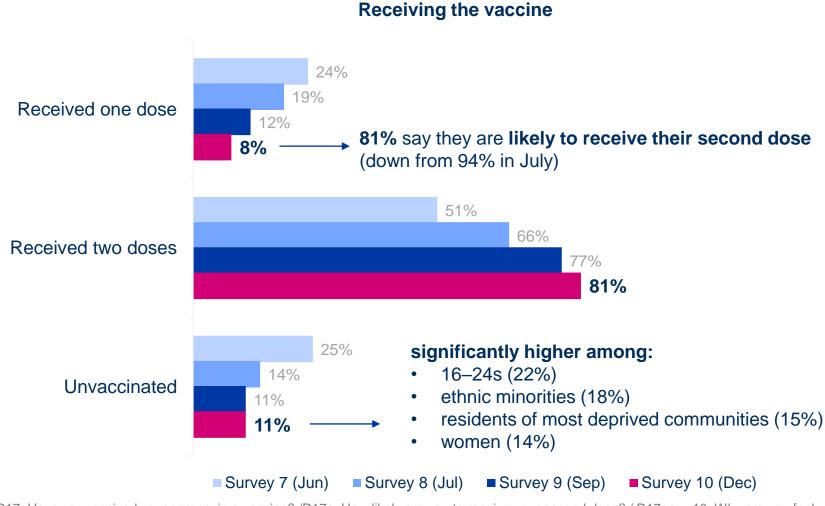
Working from home is seen as the most effective way of preventing the spread of coronavirus (83%) followed by national lockdowns (72%). The NHS Covid app is seen as effective by just over 1 in 3 (37%)

### Effectiveness of measures aiming to prevent the spread of coronavirus



D3. How effective do you believe each of the following are at preventing the spread of coronavirus? Unweighted base: 1015 (all respondents)

Almost 9 in 10 respondents (89%) had received at least one vaccine, with over three quarters (81%) having both doses. Of those who had only received one dose (12%), the large majority (81%) said they were likely to get their second.



### Main reasons for not being very likely to receive second vaccine\*

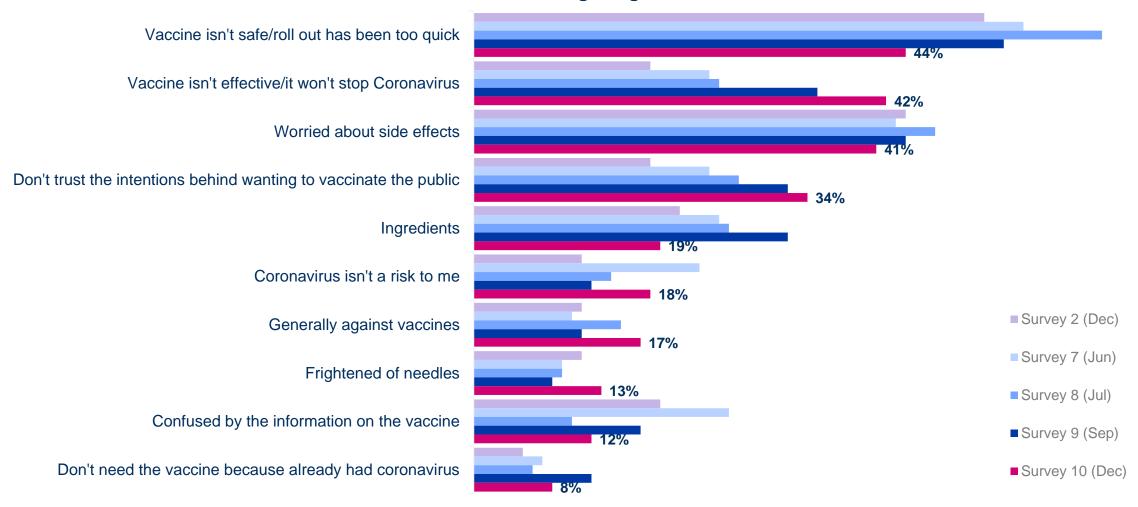
- Worried about side effects (56%)
- First dose hurt (16%)
- I know people with two doses who still got coronavirus (16%)
- Already had coronavirus (16%)
- Not available at a convenient time (16%)
- Not available at convenient location (14%)
- Think one dose gives enough protection (11%)

D17. Have you received your coronavirus vaccine? /D17a. How likely are you to receive your second dose? / D17aa\_w10. Why are you [only fairly likely to/not very likely to/not at all likely to/not sure whether you will] to receive your second dose?

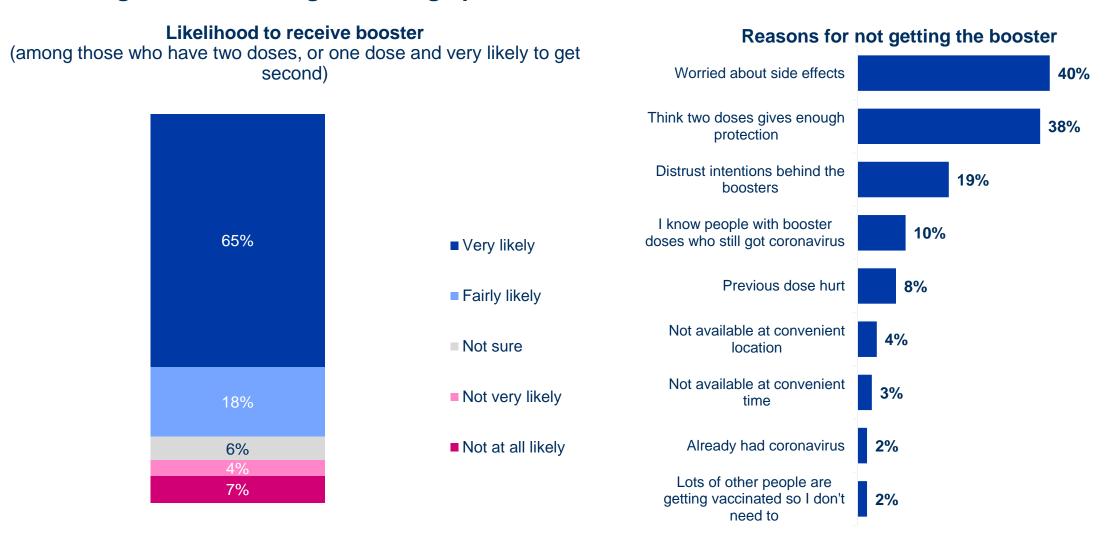
Unweighted base: Survey 7: 1013; Survey 8: 1017; Survey 9: 1021 (All respondents); Survey 10: 1015 (all respondents), 64 (Those who have received one dose) 32 (not very likely to receive second dose)

Of those unvaccinated who say they are unlikely to get the vaccine, most (44%) say it's because the vaccine isn't safe and/or the rollout has been too quick. The proportion who think the virus isn't effective or won't stop coronavirus has continued to increase (to 42%).

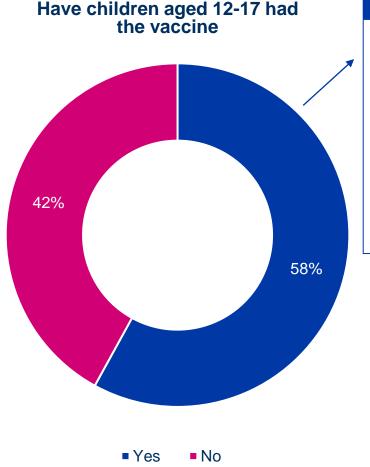
### Reasons for not getting vaccinated



Over 1 in 3 (34%) respondents had already received a vaccine booster. The majority of those vaccinated (83%) are likely to also get the booster. The main barriers for those reluctant are worries about side effects, or thinking that two doses gives enough protection.



At the time of fieldwork, over half (58%) of those parents said that their children aged 12-17 had received the vaccine. Of those who had children not yet vaccinated (42%), over 1 in 3 (34%) are unlikely to have them vaccinated.



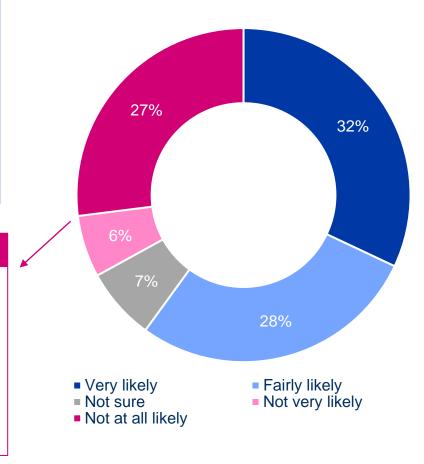
### Main reasons for having children vaccinated...

- The vaccine will keep them safe from the virus (48%)
- They can stay in education more safely (35%)
- Help keep me/household safe from the virus (30%)
- They told me they want to be vaccinated (30%)
- The government has asked that everyone gets vaccinated (26%)
- Their school / college / education setting has asked that everyone gets vaccinated (25%)
- My child can socialise more safely (22%)

### Main reasons for not having children vaccinated...

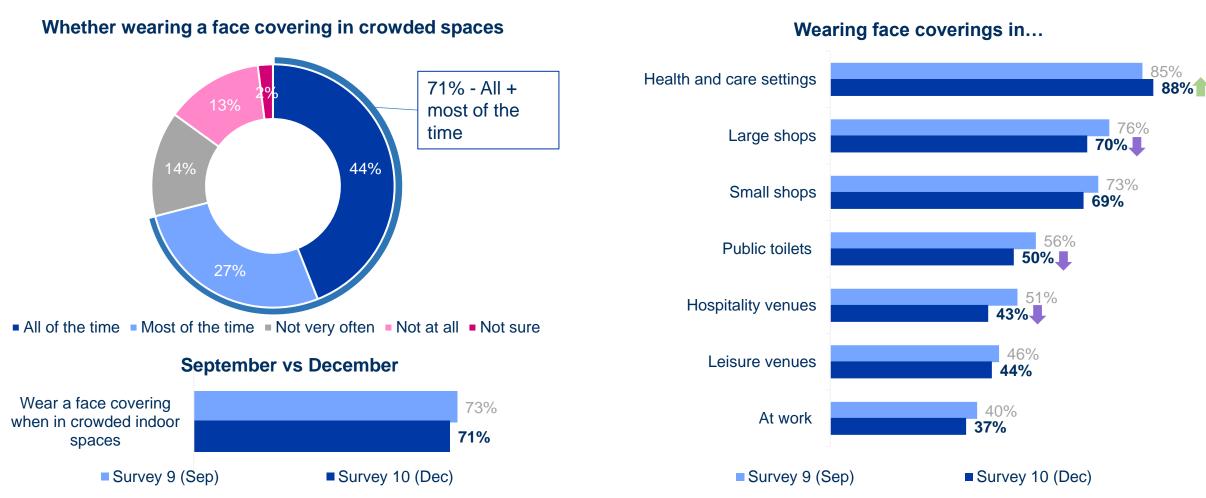
- I want them to make decision for themselves (24%)
- Worried about potential impacts on their ability to have children (19%)
- Worried about the ingredients (18%)
- Don't think the vaccine is safe (18%)
- Worried about side effects (15%)
- Don't think the vaccine is effective/ it won't stop coronavirus (15%)

### Likelihood to have their child vaccinated (if not already)



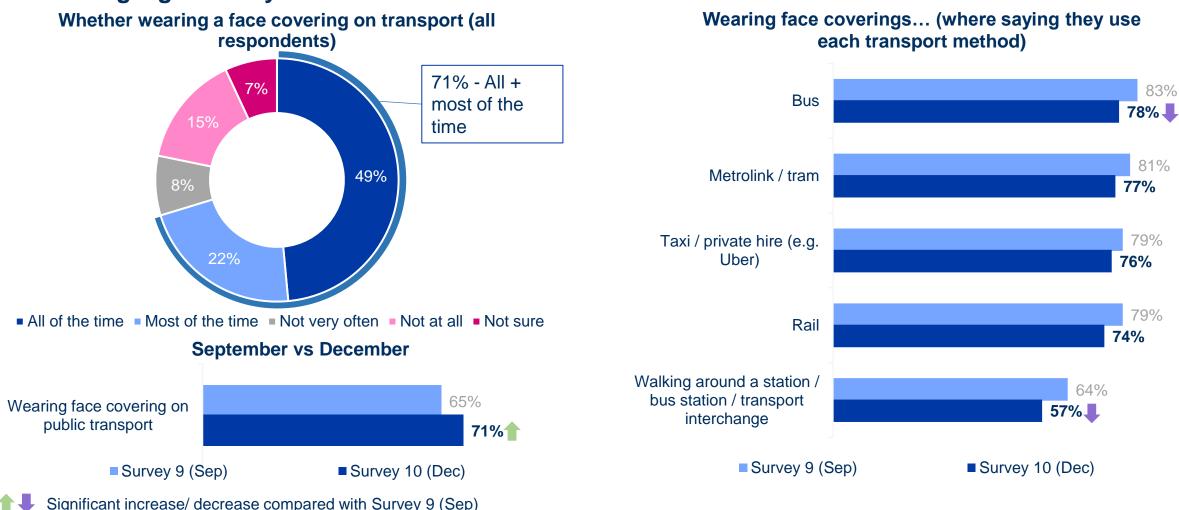
D24. Have all of your children aged 12-17 already had the COVID-19 vaccine? / D27. Why did you get your child vaccinated? / D25. For your children aged 12-17, who have not yet been vaccinated, how likely is it you would allow them get the COVID-19 vaccine? / D26. Why have your children who were offered the vaccine not taken it up? Unweighted base:166 (Those who have a child aged 12-17 who have been offered the vaccine); 91 (Those whose child, aged 12-17, has been vaccinated), 75 (Those who have a child aged 12-17 but not all have had COVID-19 vaccine). At time of fieldwork, vaccines were available all children aged 12+

7 in 10 respondents still say they wear face coverings in crowded places all or most of the time. But there have been significant decreases in the proportions of these doing so in large shops, public toilets and hospitality venues, and slight decreases in all other settings apart from health and social care.



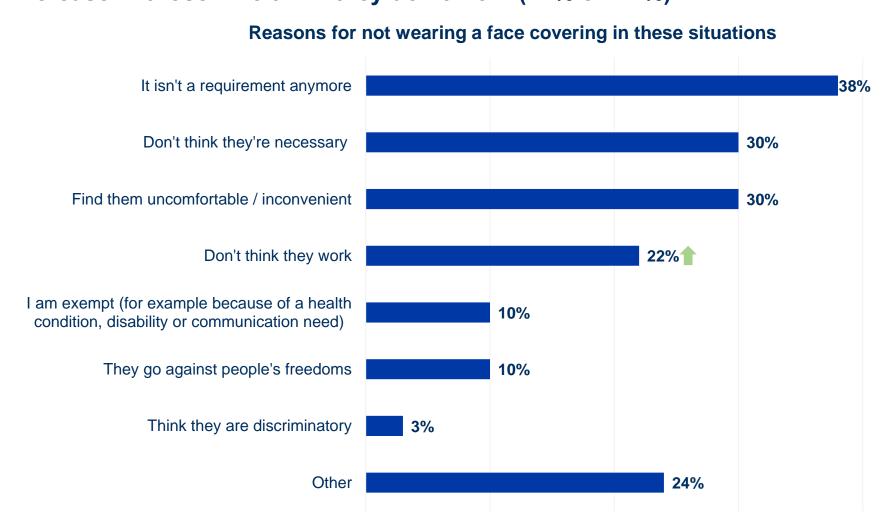
<sup>↑</sup> Significant increase/ decrease compared with Survey 9 (Sep)

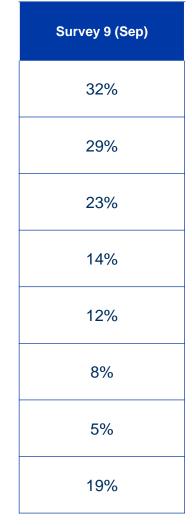
While overall there has been a significant increase in the proportion of respondents saying they wear face coverings on public transport, there have been decreases in those saying they do so on every form of transport, with those doing so on buses and while walking around stations / interchanges decreasing significantly.



D4. Which of the following are you currently doing in your day-to-day life... / D4b. Which specific types of transport are you continuing to wear a face covering on? Unweighted base: 1015 (All respondents), Where respondents are wearing a face covering on public transport and use that transport mode: 487-639

While the most common of the reasons for not wearing face coverings on public transport or in crowded indoor spaces is that they are no longer a requirement (38%), there has been a significant increase in those who think they don't work (22% cf. 14%).







Significant increase/ decrease compared with Survey 9 (Sep)

# Certain parts of the population are significantly less likely to wear face coverings all or most of the time:

IN CROWDED INDOOR SPACES, 71% of respondents say they wear face coverings all or most of the time.

The proportion is significantly lower among:

#### **Characteristics**

- Aged 18-24 (54%) or 25-34 (64%)
- Muslim (54%)
- Not in work due to health or disability (55%)
- With children of primary school age (61%)
- Living in Salford (61%) or Rochdale (62%)
- Attending their workplace all of the time (not homeworking) (66%)
- Non-degree education level (67%)

#### Attitudes / behaviours

- Unlikely to receive vaccine (38%) / haven't received vaccine (46%)
- View Covid restrictions as too restrictive (46%)
- Not very/ not at all worried about coronavirus (52%)
- Did not fully comply when required to self-isolate (58%)
- With secondary age children who aren't taking rapid tests (59%)
- Have recently visited a local town centre (67%)

ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, 71% of respondents say they wear face coverings all or most of the time.

The proportion is significantly lower among:

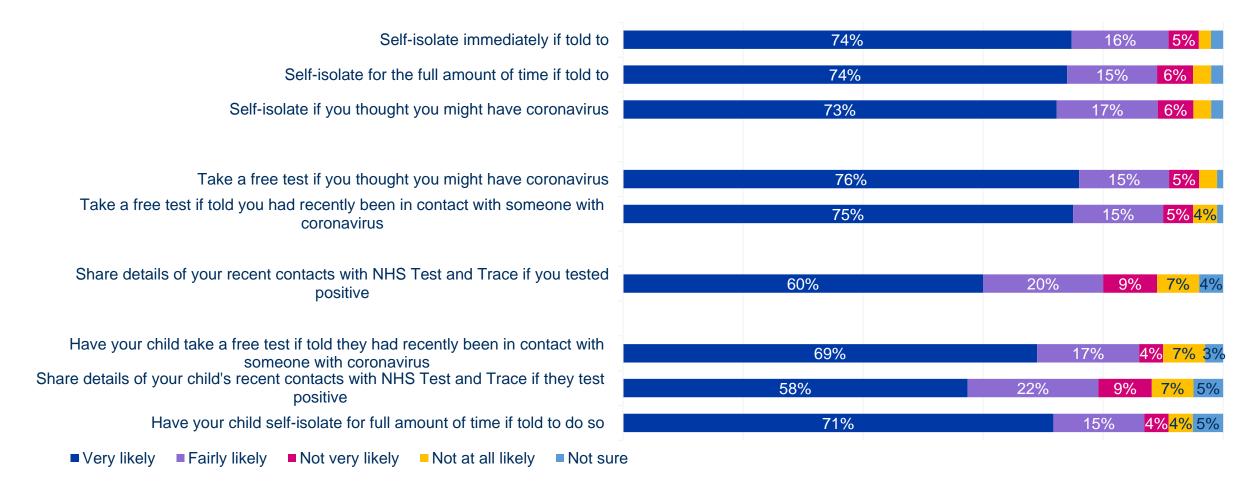
#### **Characteristics**

- Have 4 or more members of their household (52%)
- Aged 18-24 (58%)
- Living in Rochdale (58%) or Salford (62%)
- Have low levels of anxiety (0-1) (64%)
- Attending their workplace all of the time (not homeworking) (65%)

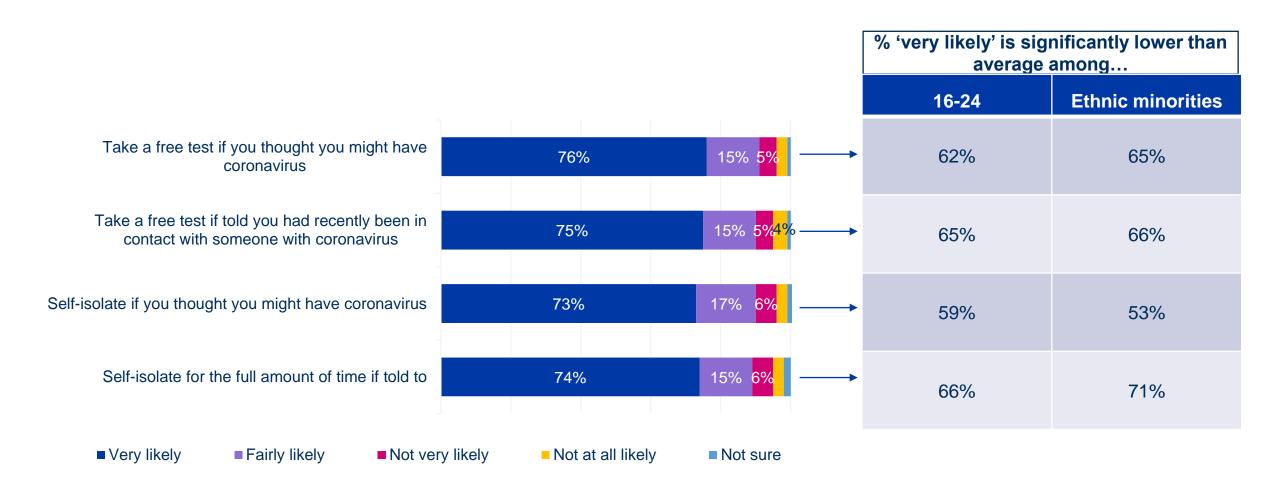
#### Attitudes / behaviours

- Unlikely to receive vaccine (40%) / haven't received vaccine (49%)
- Did not fully comply when required to self-isolate (48%)
- Not very/ not at all worried about coronavirus (54%)
- View Covid restrictions as too restrictive (54%)
- Not taking rapid tests (60%)

There has been little change since September in the proportion of respondents that say they are likely to follow each of the main NHS Test and Trace requirements now in place, with around two thirds or more 'very likely' to do each. An increasing number are likely to have their child take a free COVID-19 test if they had to, compared to September (69% cf. 63%)



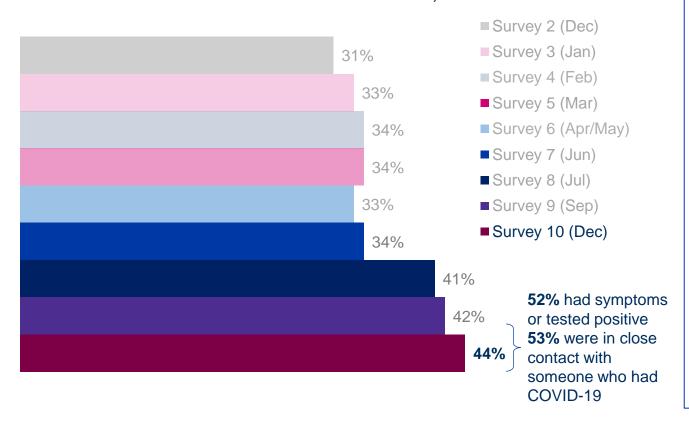
Around three quarters of respondents say that they are very likely to self-isolate, or take a free Covid test if they thought they might have coronavirus or had recently been in contact with someone infected. But those aged 16-24 and from ethnic minority backgrounds are significantly less likely to say so.



Over 2 in 5 (44%) of respondents have needed to self-isolate at some point of the pandemic; this represents the third survey in a row that this metric has remained relatively stable. But the proportions are much higher among students (78%), 16-24 year olds (66%) and other parts of the population.



(due to symptoms, a positive test, or being a close contact of someone with COVID-19)

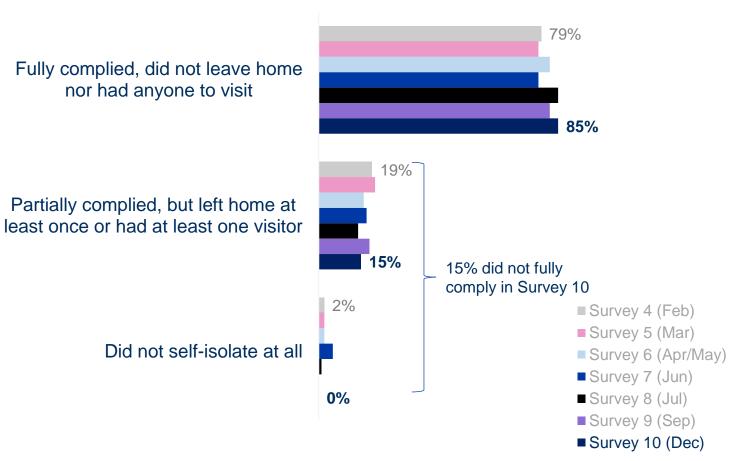


### The proportion that have needed to self-isolate - significantly higher among (cf. 44% GM average):

- Students (78%) and those that work full time (52%)
- 16-24 (66%) and 25-44yr olds (55%)
- Have mental ill health (61%)
- Those who work in health and social work (60%), public services (59%)\*\*, education (59%) or have served in armed forces (77%)
- Muslim respondents (62%)
- Someone else is household is at high risk of COVID (62%)
- Have children under 5 years (70%), at primary school (52%), or University (57%).
- Ethnic minorities (60%) and in particular Asian (57%)
- Where English is not their first language (59%)\*\*
- Carers (57%)
- Not heterosexual (64%)
- Qualified to degree level and above (49%)
- Live in the most deprived communities (53%)

Nearly all respondents who have needed to self-isolation say they attempted to do so. But around 1 in 7 (15%) did not manage to fully comply with self-isolation rules. Needing essentials and mental health implications remain the most frequently mentioned reasons for not fully complying.



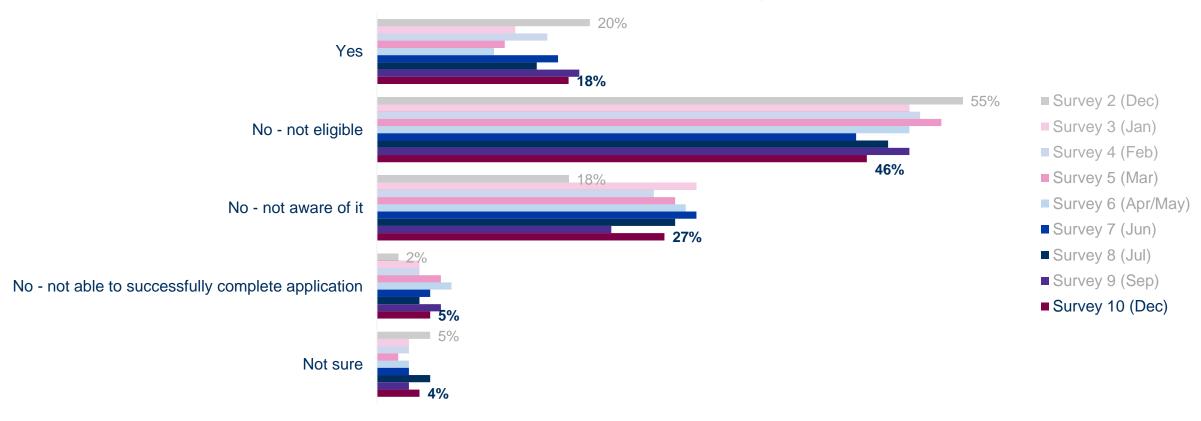


### Most common reasons for non-compliance

- Needed to get food, or other essential goods (30%)
- For my mental health (28%)
- Feeling bored/lonely/isolated (19%)
- Needed to continue with other (non-work) responsibilities e.g. caring responsibilities (16%)
- For physical health (15%)
- For physical health (15%)
- Wanted to carry on with my life (12%)
- Didn't know what to do (6%)

Around 1 in 5 (18%) respondents who have had to self-isolate have successfully claimed financial support which has remained consistent with September. Just under half (46%) have not applied because they say they are not eligible for support.

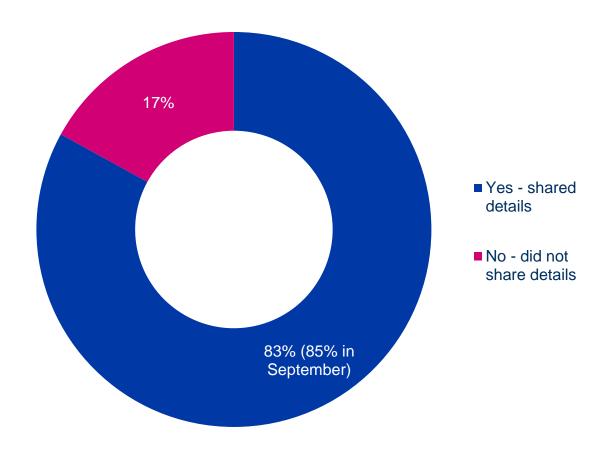
### Did you claim any financial support available during self-isolation?



Sub-groups significantly more likely than average (18%) to have clamed include: males (26% cf. 12% of females), those aged 25-44 years old (24%), those with a disability (28%), carers (52%), those qualified to degree and above (23%), those who have served in armed forces (55%) and respondents in the most deprived communities (26%)

Similar to September, just over 4 in 5 (83%) of the respondents who have tested positive for COVID-19 say they have shared details of all their recent contacts and places with NHS Test and Trace

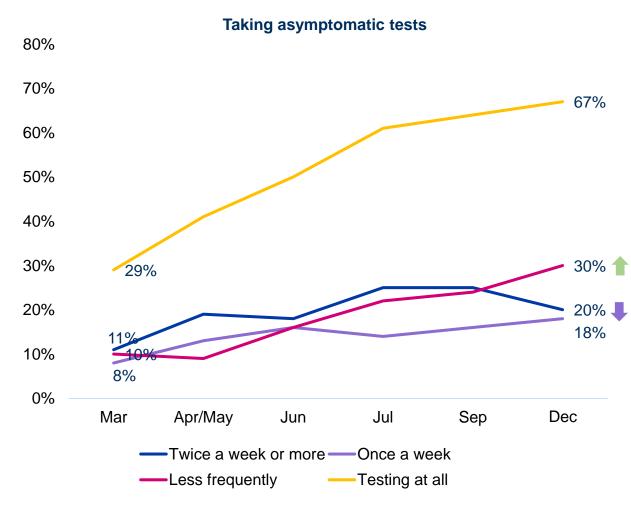
Sharing details of all recent close contacts and places they had recently been with NHS Test and Trace after testing positive...



# Certain demographic groups are more likely to share their details with NHS Test and Trace (cf. 83% GM average):

- Respondents aged 64 or younger are much more likely to share their details than those aged over 65\*\* (85% cf. 56%)
- Those from an Ethnic Minority\*\* are more likely to than those who are White British (92% cf. 80%)
- Those without a disability are more likely to than those with\*\* (85% cf. 75%)

Over two thirds (67%) of respondents are taking rapid Covid tests – the highest rate seen in the surveys so far. But only 1 in 5 (20%) are taking the tests at the recommended twice a week frequency or more – a significant decrease since September.



### ♣ Significant increase compared with Survey 9 (Sep)

D20a. Are you taking these tests?
Unweighted base: 1015 (All respondents) \*\* Base below 50

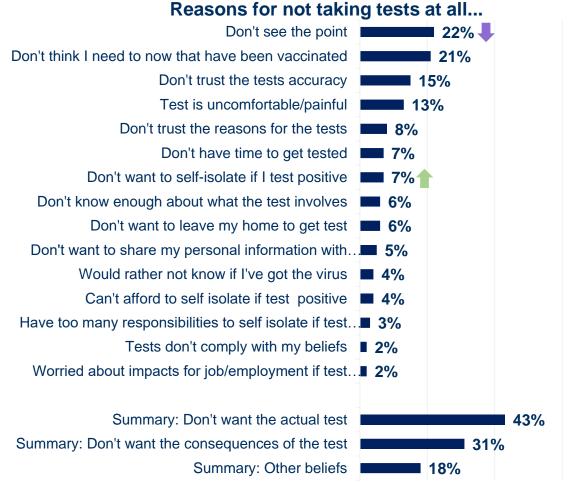
### Parts of the population significantly more likely to be 'testing at all' compared to average (67%) include:

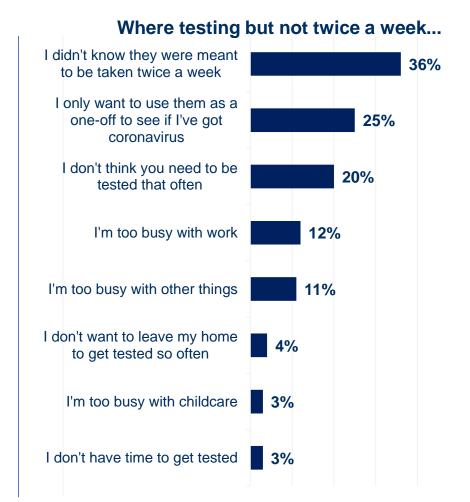
- Respondents who have served in armed forces (89%)
- Students (87%)
- Previously had caring responsibilities (87%)
- Have children in early years (86%)
- Working in health and social care (85%)
- 16-24 (81%) and 25-44 year olds (72%)
- Had coronavirus either confirmed by test (77%) or not (82%)
- Those extremely/very worried about coronavirus (76%)
- In a household where someone is at high risk of COVID (74%)
- Work full time (73%)
- Non-religious respondents (72%)

### Parts of the population significantly less likely to be 'testing at all' compared to average (67%) include:

- Respondents from the least deprived communities (64%)
- Residents of Oldham (58%)
- Retired (53%) and looking after the home (53%)\*\*
- Aged 65+ (53%)
- No qualifications (46%)
- Those not likely or not sure about receiving the vaccine (44%)

The most common reason for respondents not rapid testing at all is not seeing the point – although mention of this has reduced since September (down to 22% cf. 29%). Just over 1 in 5 (21%) believe they don't need to because they have been vaccinated. Lack of awareness remains top reason for not testing twice a week.

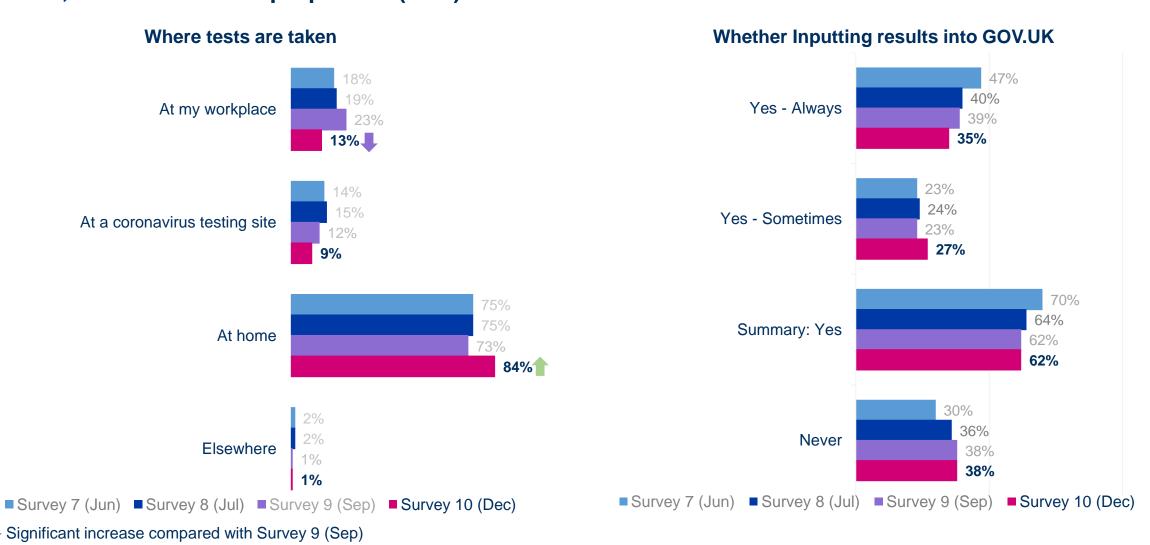




↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 9 (Sep)

D21a. Why have you not taken the tests?

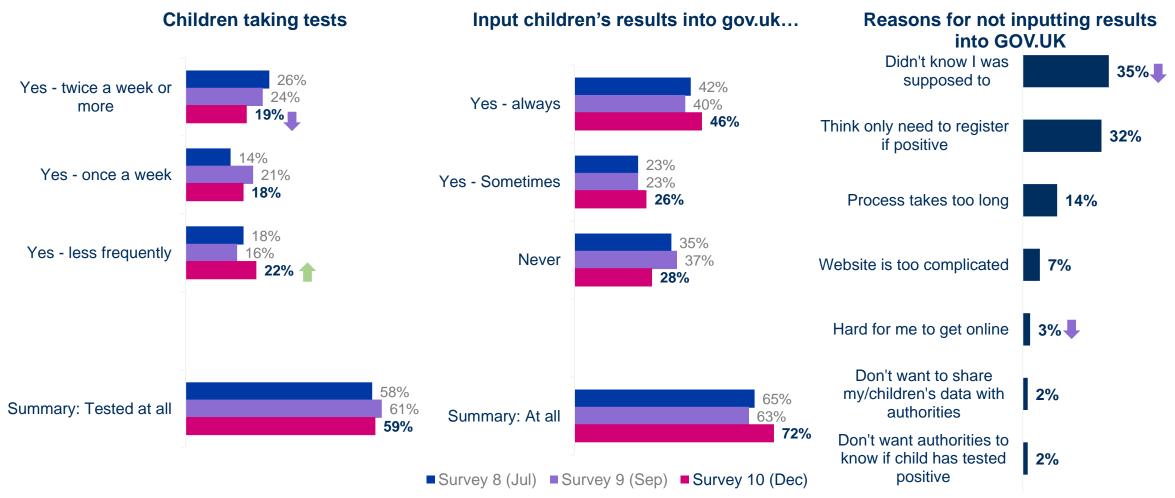
The majority of tests continue to be done at home (84%), with a notable decrease in the number of tests being done at work (13%). Just over a third (35%) of those testing at home always input results into GOV.UK, almost the same proportion (38%) never do so.



D20b. Where are you taking these tests?

D20d. After taking these tests, do you input your results into gov.uk?
Unweighted base: 1015 (All respondents); 665 (Where taking tests); 574 (Where taking tests at home)

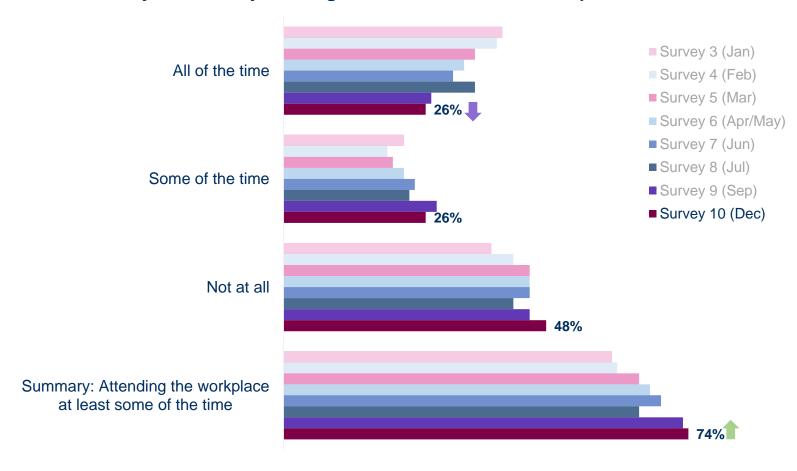
There has been a significant decrease in the proportion of children testing twice a week or more since the start of term in September. Fewer than half (46%) of those testing always input their results into gov.uk – although this proportion has increased since September.



↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 9 (Sep)

Prior to the reintroduction of 'work from home if you can' instructions, the proportion of working respondents attending their workplace at least some of the time had reached its highest level since the surveys began, and those working from home all of the time its lowest.

### Are you currently working from home because of the pandemic?



### ↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 3 (Jan) ↓ Significant decrease compared with Survey 3 (Jan)

# The proportion attending the workplace at least some of the time - significantly higher among (cf. 74% GM average):

- Those working in Education (92%)
- Those in Oldham (89%)
- Those in households with more than 3 people in (87%)
- Those working in Health & social work (87%)
- Those aged between 18-24 (85%)
- Those employed part time (82%)
- Those who aren't sure if they have had coronavirus (82%)
- Those without a high risk COVID individual in household (81%)
- Those educated to A level or equivalent (81%)
- Those not very/ not at all worried about coronavirus (80%)
- Those who don't have children (79%)
- Those who have received both doses of the coronavirus vaccine (79%)
- Those very likely to receive a booster dose if offered (79%)

While the proportions of respondents doing many recommended behaviours to stop the spread of coronavirus have remained consistent since September, significantly fewer are now likely to consider the risk of their actions to those not fully vaccinated (32% cf. 36% in September) or open doors/

% currently % currently doing 'all the doing 'all the **Currently doing...** time' time' Covering your nose and mouth when you sneeze / cough 78% 16% 76% 78% Regularly washing or sanitising your hands throughout the day 54% 34% 8%3% 57% 54% Staying at home if you feel unwell 52% 9%5% 29% 56% 52% Considering risks of actions to those w/ serious health conditions 47% 34% 9% 7% 47% 49% Considering risks of your actions to other people 41% 40% 10%6% 41% 41% Considering risks of your actions to those not fully vaccinated 13% 7% 32% 33% 15% 32% 36% 32% 14% 9% Keeping distance from others outside household/ social-distancing 44% 32% 35% 27% Opening doors/ windows if indoors with people you don't live with 27% 34% 20% 15% 38% Meeting other people outdoors/ well-ventilated areas if possible 27% 41% 19% 9% 28% 27%

windows if indoors with people they don't live with (27% cf. 38%).

Survey 9 (Sep)

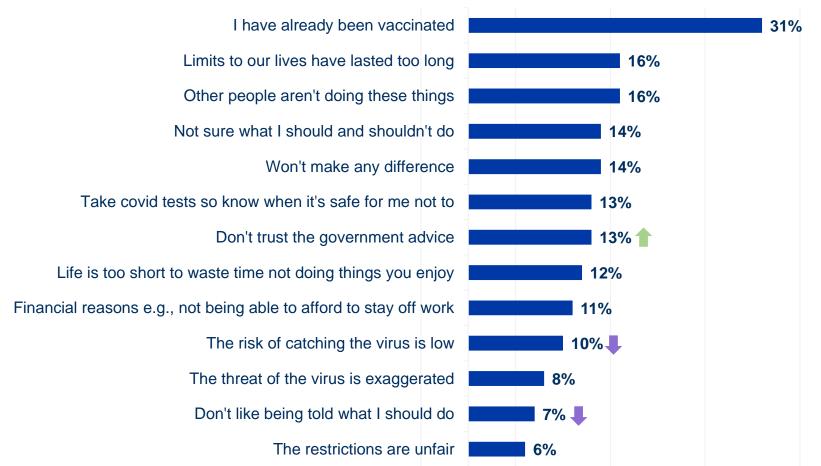
Survey 10 (Dec)

<sup>■</sup> All of the time ■ Most of the time ■ Not very often ■ Not at all ■ Not sure

Significant decrease compared with Survey 9 (Sep)

There has been a significant increase in those citing lack of trust in Government advice (13% cf. 10%) as their reason for not continuing safe behaviour. But there have been significant decreases in those citing low risk of catching the virus (10% cf. 15%) or objecting to being told what to do (7%, was 10%).



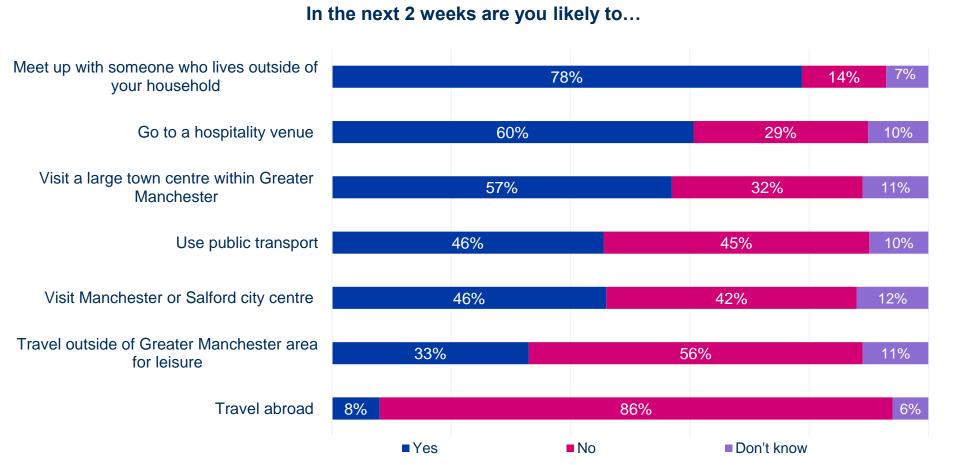


Survey 9 (Sep)	
29%	'Don't trust the
14%	government advice' is significantly more
14%	likely to be mentioned by 25-34 (20%) and
13%	those with a high
12%	COVID risk individual in household (18%)
12%	Men are significantly
10%	more likely to think the actions won't
12%	make any difference
10%	(14%), while women are significantly more
15%	likely to say the limits
6%	to our lives have lasted too long
10%	(21%)
-	



D6. Why have you decided not do these things all or most of the time?
Unweighted base: 686 (Those not doing at least one of these safety behaviours all or most of the time)

Intention to travel short distances, such as to a large town centre within Greater Manchester (57%) or Manchester or Salford City centre (46%) has increased significantly. Intention to travel longer distances, including for outside the GM area for leisure (33%) and abroad (8%) have fallen significantly



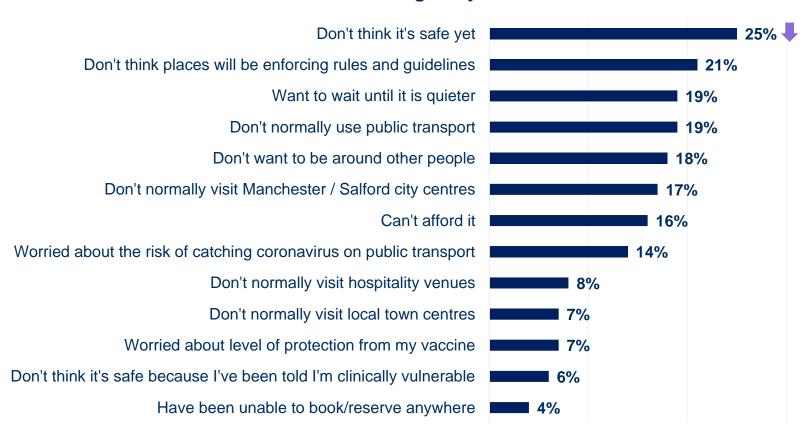




D13. In the next two weeks, are you likely to... Unweighted base: 1015 (All respondents)

Safety is still the most frequently mentioned reason for being unlikely to visit places/travel in the next 2 weeks, although the proportion giving this as a reason has declined significantly compared with September (25% cf. 30%). This is especially true for those aged 65+

### Reasons for not being likely in the next 2 weeks



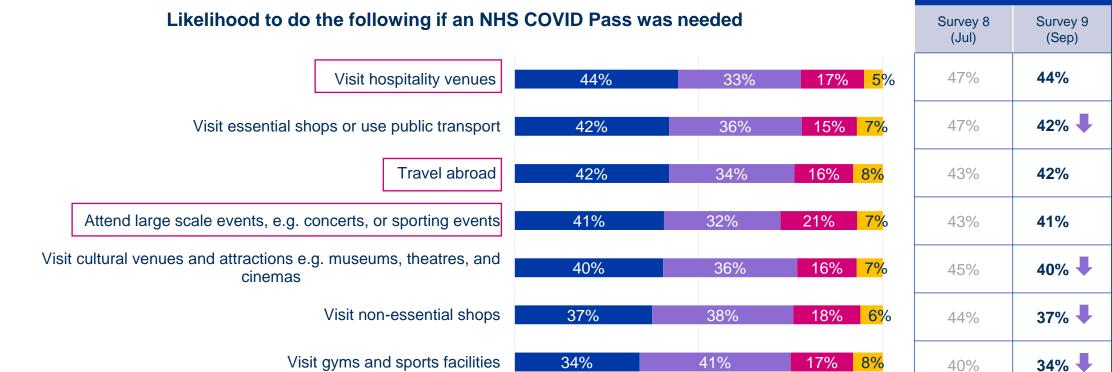
Survey 9 (Se	o)
30%	
18%	
20%	
20%	
20%	
20%	
18%	
14%	
7%	
7%	
-	
6%	
6%	

'Can't afford it' is significantly more likely to be given as a reason among 18-24 (24%) and 25-34 (25% cf. 16%).

65+ are significantly more likely to say they don't think it's safe yet (34% cf. 25%) and they don't think places will be enforcing rules and guidelines (31% cf. 21%)

♣ Significant decrease compared with Survey 9 (Sep)

When asked in September, respondents were more likely, than less likely, to do a range of activities if an NHS Covid Pass was needed to do so. While support had significantly fallen for the use of Covid passes in a number venues/activities compared with July, it had not done so for those types of activities for which NHS Covid Passes have now been introduced.



■ Less likely

Not sure

Types of activities for which NHS Covid Pass is now required

■ More likely

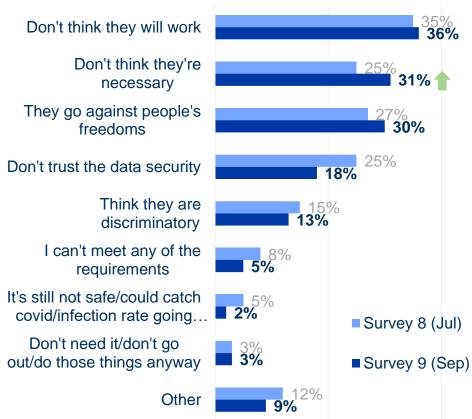
■ Neither more nor less likely

% more likely

Significant decrease compared with Survey 8 (Jul)

Overall, around 1 in 3 of those opposed to NHS Covid Passes don't think they will work (36%), think they are unnecessary (31%), or feel they go against people's freedoms (30%). Ethnic minorities, students, aged 16-44 and those unlikely to get vaccinated were among those particularly less likely to attend large scale events if an NHS Covid Pass was needed.





Significant increase compared with Survey 8 (Jul)

21% of all respondents are 'less likely' to attend large scale events if an NHS Covid Pass is required; this is significantly higher among:

#### **Characteristics**

- Where English is not their first language (46%)
- Muslim respondents (45%)
- Ethnic minorities (37%)
- Students (37%)
- Have served in armed forces (37%)
- Respondents in Rochdale (31%)
- Carers (30%) and where someone in household is at high risk of COVID (27%)
- Have children under 5 years (30%)
- 16-24 (28%) and 25-44 yr olds (26%)
- Residents in most deprived communities (27%)
- Qualified to degree level or above (26%)

#### **Attitudes / behaviours**

- Those unlikely to have vaccine (42%)
- Those who have had coronavirus, whether confirmed by test (26%) or not (29%)

D25. Would you be any more or less likely to do the following if it were a condition that everyone doing so needed to show an NHS COVID pass? / D22b. Why would you not do these things if an NHS COVID pass was required? Unweighted base: All respondents: 1021; Where less likely do any of the following: 348.



## Feelings and concerns

**Anxiety** page 37

Life satisfaction page 38

pages 39-41 Coronavirus worries

Coronavirus risks <u>page 42</u>

pages 43-47 **Specific concerns** 

Parents' concerns page 48-49

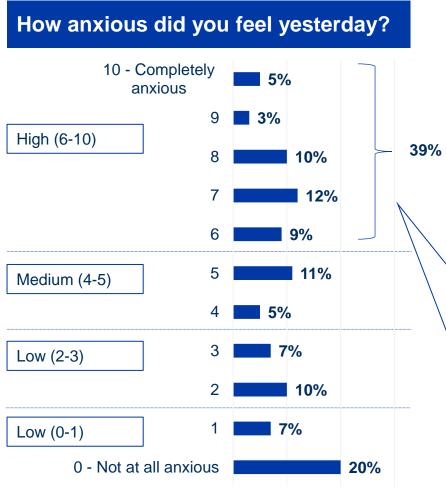
**Workplace concerns** 

pages 50-52





The proportion of respondents with high anxiety levels has remained consistent for the fourth wave in a row, and is also consistent with levels in survey 1. Respondents who have had their working lives disrupted due to the pandemic are particularly likely to be highly anxious.

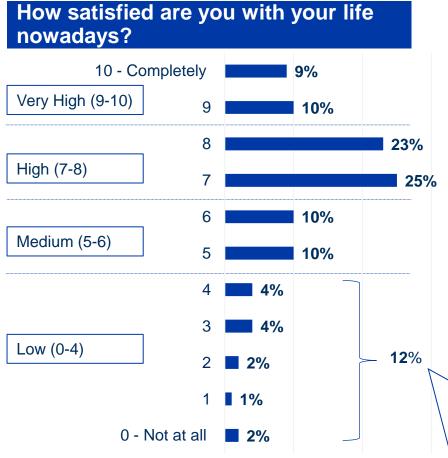


	Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)	Survey 6 (Apr/M ay)	Survey 7 (Jun)	Survey 8 (Jul)	Survey 9 (Sep)	Survey 10 (Dec)
% 'high' levels of anxiety (6-10)	39%	39%	41%	42%	37%	33%	38%	38%	39%	39%
Mean score	5.63	5.50	5.46	5.50	5.80	6.08	5.77	5.76	5.68	5.75

### % with 'high' anxiety higher among:

- Those who have had their working experience disrupted by the pandemic (71%), in particular those on reduced payments (73%)\*\*, or hours (69%)
- Those with mental ill health (71%), or with a learning disability (65%)\*\*
- Those households that use a foodbank (69%)
- Parents with children in below 4yrs (not in early years) (64%)\*\*
- Those not in work due to their health or a disability (63%)
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (63%)
- Previously a carer (62%)\*\*
- Those who currently or have previously served in the armed forces (62%)
- Those who have received their first dose of the vaccine only (60%)

The proportion of respondents with low levels of life satisfaction has declined to its lowest level since tracking began, and the mean score across all respondents is the highest yet recorded. But those who are disabled, especially if not in work, remain more likely to say they have low satisfaction.

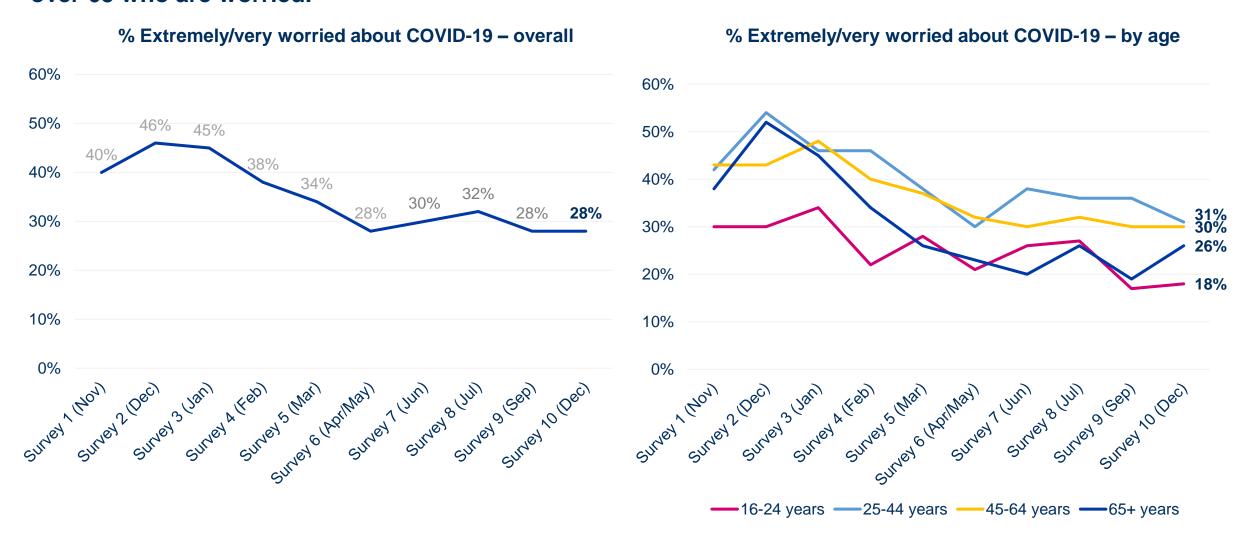


		Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)	Survey 6 (Apr/M ay)	Survey 7 (Jun)	Survey 8 (Jul)	Survey 9 (Sep)	Survey 10 (Dec)
	% 'low' levels of life satisfaction (0-4)	16%	19%	22%	24%	19%	15%	14%	15%	15%	12%
•	Mean score	6.56	6.21	6.11	5.97	6.31	6.70	6.73	6.68	6.70	6.84

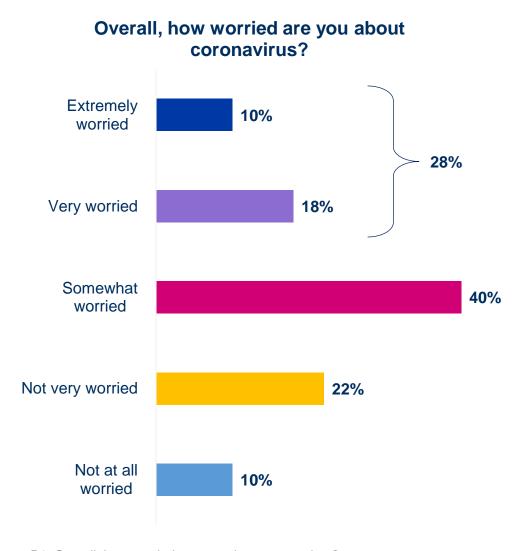
#### % 'low' life satisfaction is significantly higher among:

- Those with a disability (27%), in particular those with mental ill health (33%), or with mobility impairment (22%)
- White non-British (38%)\*\*
- Those not in work due to ill health or a disability (36%)
- Previously a carer (29%)\*\*
- Those who are currently out of work (27%)\*\*
- Those unlikely to receive a booster vaccine (22%)\*\*
- LGBTQ+ (21%)
- Students (21%)\*\*

There has been no change in the proportion of respondents who say they are extremely/very worried about COVID-19 since September. However there has been a small increase in the proportion of those over 65 who are worried.



Overall, a quarter of respondents are very or extremely worried about coronavirus. Residents in financially precarious situations – those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate, had their working experiences impacted by the pandemic, or used a foodbank - are particularly likely to feel worried.



# Respondents more likely to be extremely/very worried about COVID-19 (cf. 28% GM average):

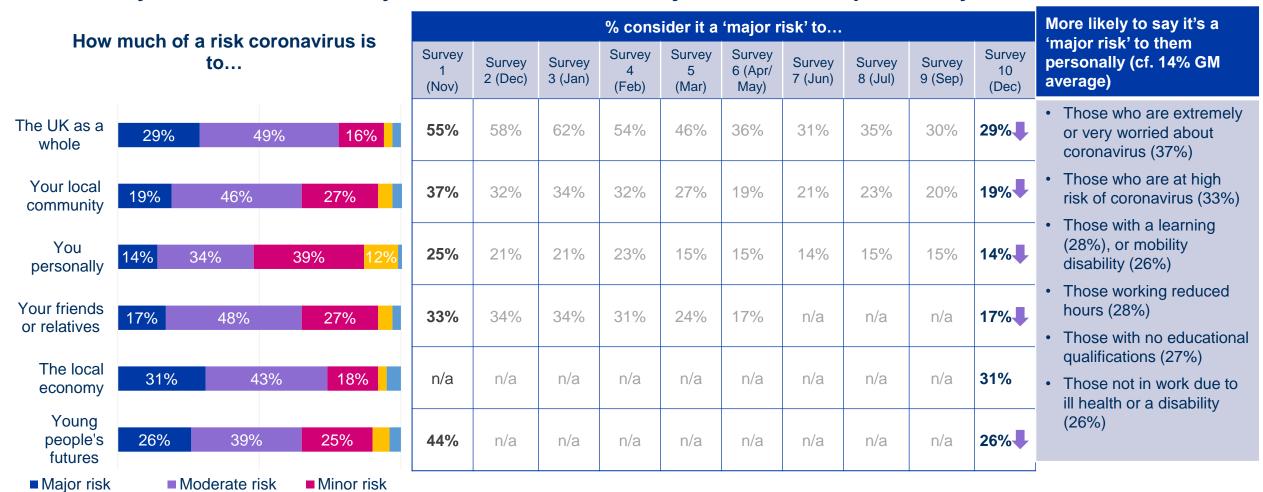
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (64%)
- Those who have had their working experience impacted by the pandemic (54%), in particular those who are on reduced working hours (58%), or on reduced payments (45%)\*\*
- Those households that use a foodbank (58%)
- Those at high risk of coronavirus (50%)
- Those not in work due to ill health or a disability (50%)
- Parents who have children aged 12-17 who have not had the vaccine but are likely to (46%)\*\*
- Parents with children at college (44%)\*\*
- Those who have served, or currently serve in the armed forces (44%)
- Those working from home all of the time (44%)
- Those who have not met up with anyone outside of their household or bubble (43%)
- Those with a disability (42%), in particular those in mental ill health (49%), or with a learning difficulty (47%)\*\*
- Parents with children aged 12-17 who have had the vaccine (42%)
- Carers (41%)

# A third of respondents are very or extremely worried about catching coronavirus and the flu this winter, while a quarter are worried about catching just coronavirus





The proportion of the public who see COVID-19 as a risk to any aspect of society has significantly declined since tracking began in November 2020. Residents at higher risk or with a learning or mobility disability are much more likely to see the virus as a major risk to them personally.



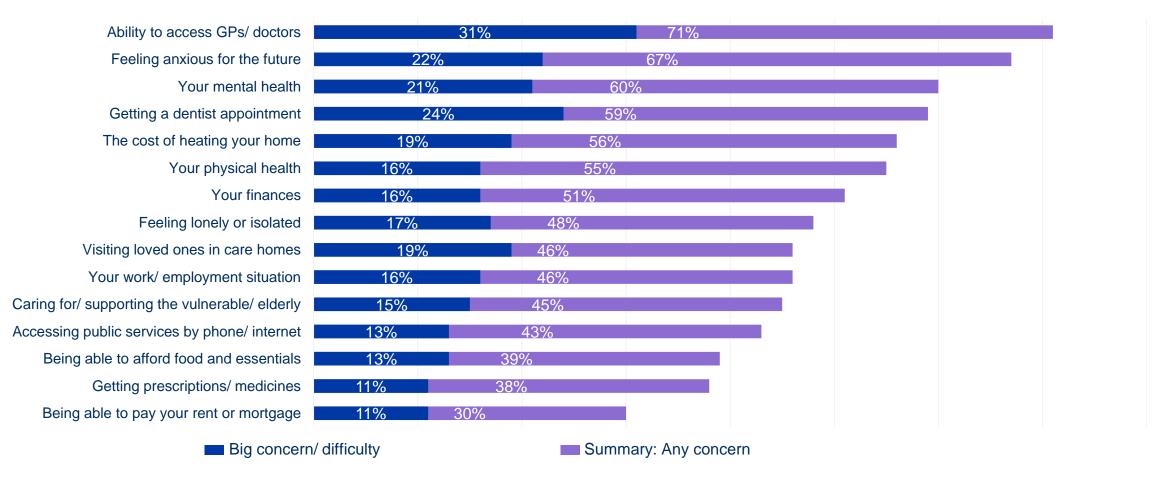
<sup>♣</sup> Significant decrease compared with Survey 1 (Nov)

No risk at all

Don't know

Accessing GPs and doctors is the most common concern stated by respondents, along with feeling anxious for the future, and their mental health. They are less likely to be concerned about being able to pay their mortgage or rent, and getting prescriptions or medicines.

### Have become a concern/ difficulty as a result of the pandemic...

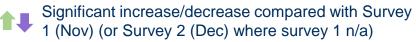


B4. To what extent, if at all have each of the following become a concern or difficulty for you, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic? Unweighted base: 1015 (All respondents)

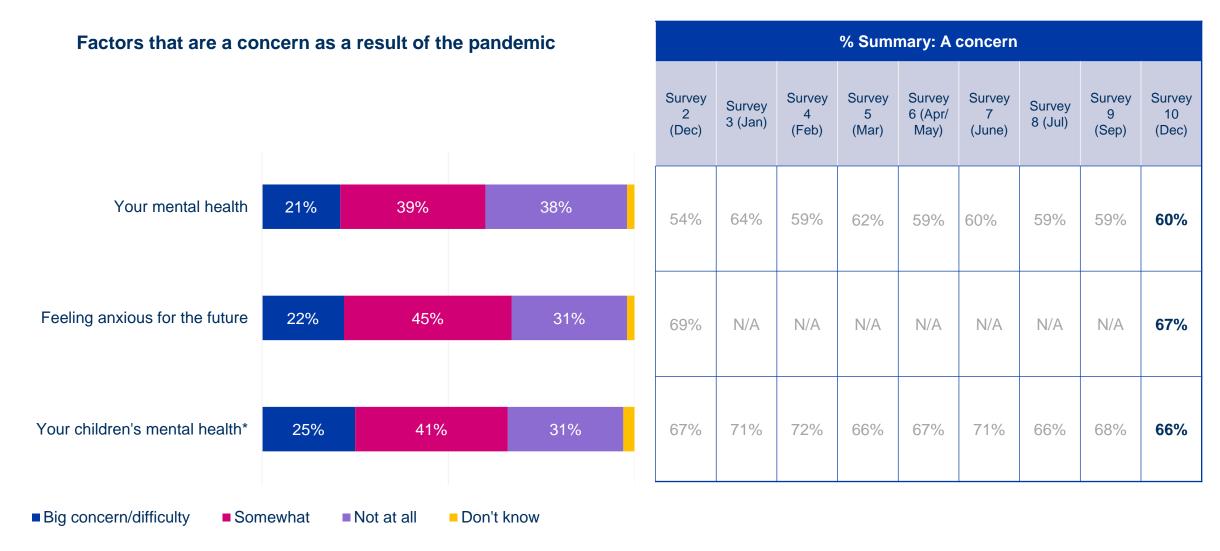
Accessing GPs or doctors, mental health, finances, the cost of heating homes, and accessing public services by phone or internet are all significantly greater concerns than they were when tracking started this time last year.

	% Concerned at all									
	Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)	Survey 6 (Apr/ May)	Survey 7 (Jun)	Survey 8 (Jul)	Survey 9 (Sep)	Survey 10 (Dec)
Access to GPs/doctors	N/A	66%	58%	60%	57%	62%	68%	70%	73%	71%
Your mental health	54%	64%	59%	62%	59%	60%	59%	59%	60%	60%
Your physical health	57%	60%	58%	60%	53%	56%	54%	58%	56%	55%
Your finances	42%	52%	54%	52%	45%	49%	51%	49%	52%	51%
Your work/ employment situation	N/A	53%	58%	57%	51%	50%	50%	53%	52%	46%
Caring for/ supporting The vulnerable/ elderly	N/A	50%	48%	50%	45%	47%	52%	53%	52%	45%

	% Conce	
	Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 10 (Dec)
Feeling anxious for the future	69%	67%
Getting a dentist appointment	55%	59%
The cost of heating your home	46%	56%
Feeling lonely or isolated	54%	48%
Visiting loved ones in care homes or similar setting	46%	46%
Accessing public services by phone or internet	37%	43%
Being able to afford food and other essentials	44%	39%
Getting prescriptions/medicines	40%	38%
Being able to pay your rent or mortgage	39%	30%



Two thirds of respondents say they are generally anxious for the future, and three fifths are concerned about their own mental health. Parents also remain concern for children's mental health.



# Some groups are significantly more likely to say each of the following has become a specific concern (compared with the GM average)

#### **Physical health**

#### **Greater Manchester Average: 55%**

- Those who are extremely or very worried about coronavirus (82%)
- Previously a carer (79%)\*\*
- Those with a disability (78%), in particular those who have a learning difficulty (96%)\*\*, those with mental ill health (81%), or those with a mobility difficulty (77%)
- Those who are at high risk of coronavirus (78%)
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (78%)
- Those households that use a foodbank (77%)
- Those who have had their working experience impacted by the pandemic (75%), in particular those working reduced hours (76%), or on reduced payments (72%)\*\*
- Those with high anxiety (72%)
- Those with an individual at high risk of coronavirus in their household (71%)
- Those who have only receive one dose of the vaccine (71%)
- Those who are testing themselves twice a week (70%)
- Those who have had a confirmed case of coronavirus (69%)
- Parents with children aged 12-17 who have had the vaccine (69%)
- Carers (68%)
- Those not in work due to ill health or a disability (68%)

#### **Mental health**

#### **Greater Manchester Average: 60%**

- Those who have mental ill health (86%), or with a learning disability (80%)\*\*
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (83%)
- Those households that use a foodbank (83%
- Previous a carer (81%)\*\*
- Those not in work due to ill health or disability (81%)
- Those whose working experience has been impacted by coronavirus (81%), including those who are working reduced hours (79%), or on reduced payments (77%)\*\*
- Parents with children aged 16-17 (80%), or those with children attending college (78%)\*\*
- Those with low life satisfaction (80%)
- Those extremely or very worried about coronavirus (78%)
- Those with a high level of anxiety (77%)
- Those aged 16-24 (73%), or 25-34 (75%)
- Those who are at high risk of coronavirus (75%)
- Students (75%)\*\*

# Some groups are significantly more likely to say each of the following has become a specific concern (compared with the average for the population as a whole) (cont.)

#### **Work/employment**

#### **Greater Manchester Average: 46%**

- Those whose working experience has been impacted by coronavirus (78%), in particular those on reduced payments (85%)\*\*, or working reduced hours (78%)
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (74%)
- Those households that use a foodbank (71%)
- Those who have not shared details with test and trace after testing positive for coronavirus (69%)\*\*
- Those who have a learning disability (66%)\*\*
- Where someone in household has lost their job due to COVID-19 (66%)
- Those who identify as bisexual (65%)\*\*
- Parents with children aged 0-4 (in early years) (65%)
- Those aged 16-24 (64%)
- Parents with children at college (62%)\*\*, or with children aged 16-17 (59%)
- Those extremely or very worried about coronavirus (61%)
- Those who have only received their first does of the vaccine (61%)
- Those with a higher education qualification (60%)
- Those who are at high risk of coronavirus (59%)
- Those living in households of 4 or more people (58%)
- Students (58%)\*\*
- LGBTQ+ (57%)

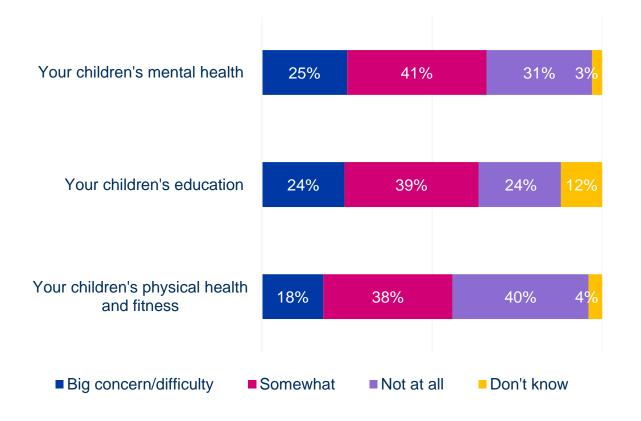
#### **Finances**

#### **Greater Manchester Average: 51%**

- Those whose working experience has been impacted by coronavirus (84%), in particular those on reduced payments (89%)\*\*, or working reduced hours (84%)
- Previously a carer (83%)\*\*
- Those who have only received their first does of the vaccine (80%)
- Those households that use a foodbank (78%)
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (75%)
- Where someone in household has lost their job due to COVID-19 (72%)
- Parents with children aged 16-17 (72%)
- Those with low life satisfaction (72%)
- White non-British (71%)
- Those with a disability (70%), in particular those with a learning difficulty (76%)\*\*, with mental ill health (76%)
- Those extremely or very worried about coronavirus (70%)
- Those aged 16-24 (69%)
- Students (69%)\*\*
- Those whose first language is not English (68%)\*\*

While the majority do remain concerned, there has been a significant decline since tacking began this time last year in the proportion of parents who are concerned about their children's education. However they remain just as concerned by their children's mental health

Factors that are a concern as a result of the pandemic (amongst those who have children)...

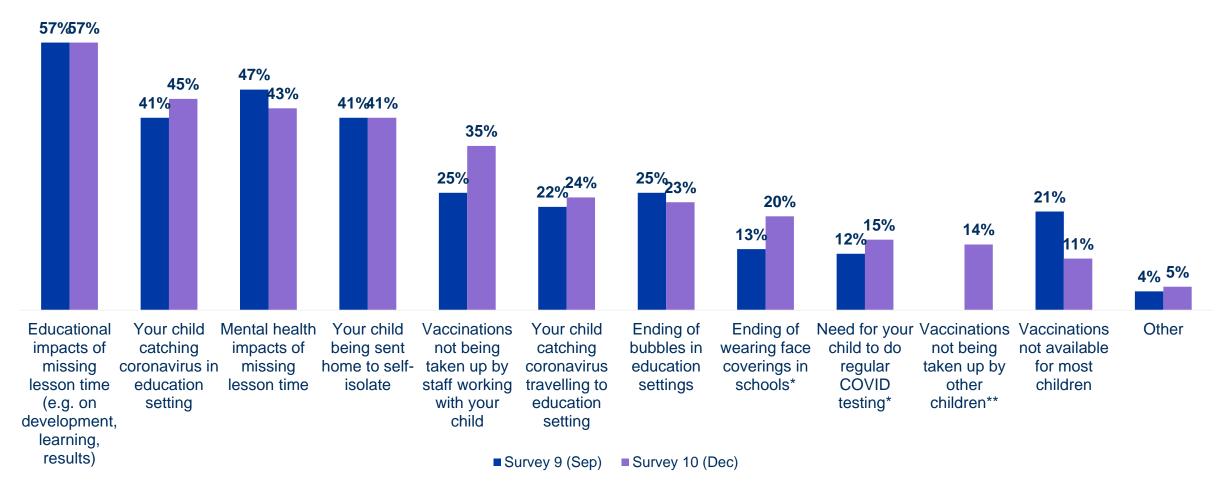


% Summary: A concern								
Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)	Survey 6 (Apr/ May)	Survey 7 (June)	Survey 8 (Jul)	Survey 9 (Sep)	Survey 10 (Dec)
67%	71%	72%	66%	67%	71%	66%	69%	66%
80%	85%	83%	79%	75%	82%	82%	67%	63%
N/A	62%	65%	60%	55%	65%	61%	60%	56%

Significant decrease compared with Survey 1 (Nov)

Almost three fifths of parents who are concerned about their child's education as a result of the pandemic remain worried about the educational impacts of missing lesson time. There has been a significant increase since September in the proportion who are worried about staff not getting vaccinated

## Elements which concern parents about their children's education...



B4a\_w9. What specific elements are currently a concern to you regarding your children's education? Unweighted base: 312 (Those who are concerned about their children's education)

<sup>\*</sup> Only asked of parents with children at secondary school, \*\* Only asked of parents with children at secondary school, and only asked in survey 10

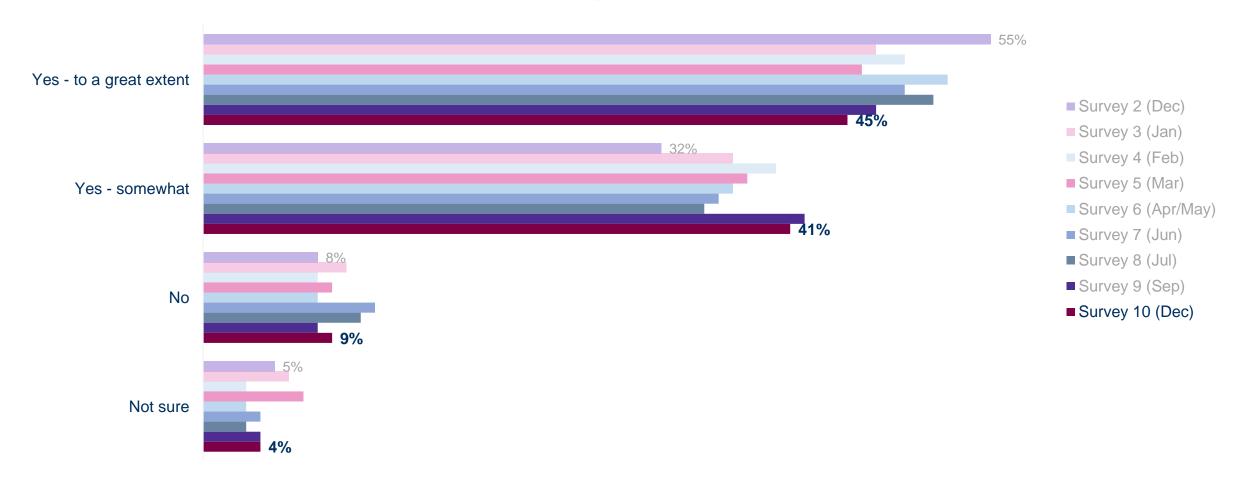
Concerns about returning to the workplace among those working from home at least some of the time because of coronavirus have stayed stable since September. There has been a significant fall in those saying they will return to their workplace in the next three months, and the next month in particular. This can partially be explained by those saying they have already returned for as much time as they expect to.



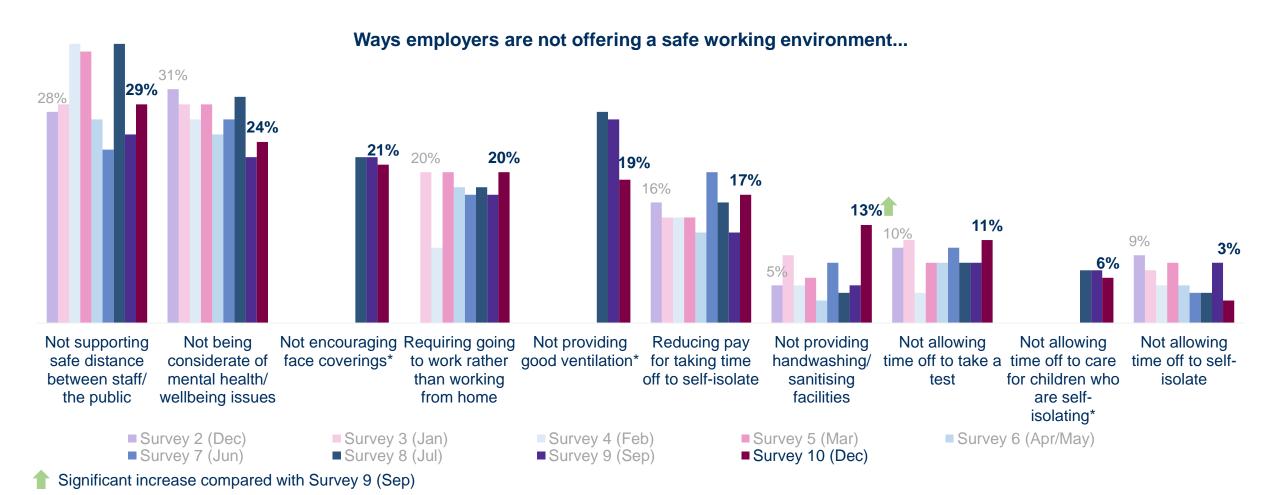
B38. You mentioned you are currently working from home at least some of the time because of the pandemic. When do you expect to return to your usual place of work for all / most of your working hours i.e. your employer's premises? B39. Do you have any concerns or anxieties about returning to your usual place of work, or going there more often than you do now? Unweighted base: 310 (where working from home due to the pandemic) \* Statements adapted for Survey 8, tracking not possible. \*\* New statements for Survey 8 \*\*\*Statement added for survey 10

Among those who have returned to their workplace, fewer than half (45%) feel they have a greatly safe working environment while around 1 in 10 (9%) feel it is unsafe. These levels are no significant change since September.





Among those who don't feel greatly safe at work, there has been a significantly increased proportion saying their employer is not providing handwashing/ sanitising facilities (13% cf. 5% in September). Not supporting safe distance between staff/ the public is now the main safety issue reported, while not providing good ventilation has fallen (not significantly) since September.



B32. In what ways has your employer not been offering a safe working environment?

Unweighted base: Between 157 – 220 for surveys 2-10 (Those whose employer is not offering a safe working environment to a great extent)

\* New statements for Survey 8



# **Coronavirus impacts**

**COVID-19 infections** pages 54-55

Financial and employment impacts pages 56-58

**Indirect health impacts** pages 59-60

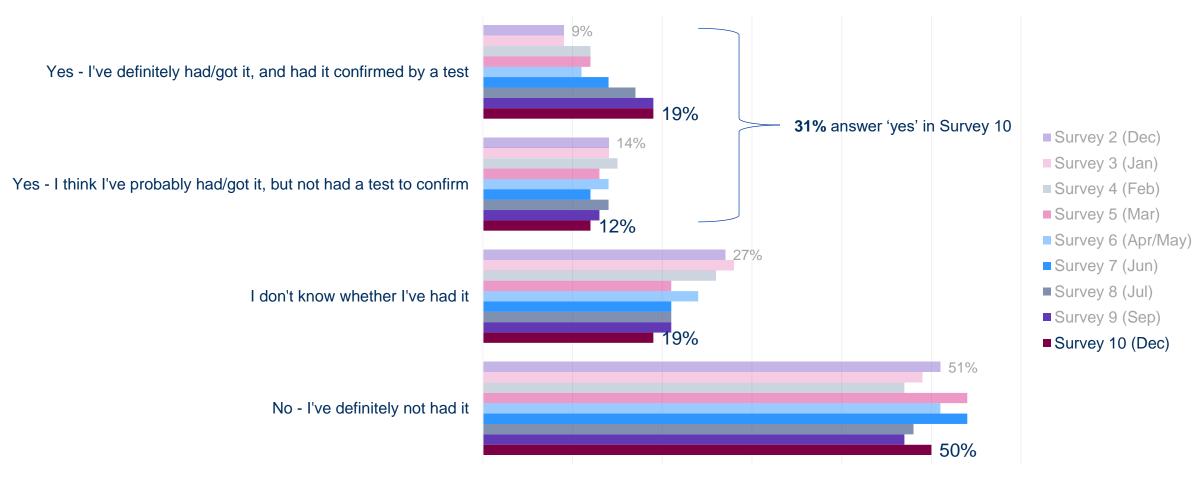
**Education impacts** pages 61





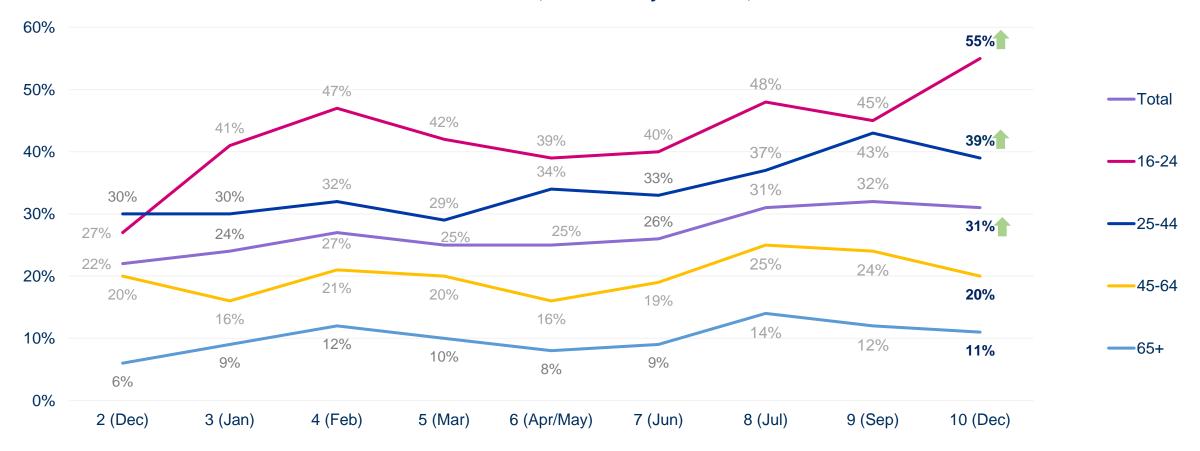
At around 1 in 3 (31%), the proportion of respondents who say they have had COVID-19 has not increased significantly since September; the number who have had coronavirus confirmed by a positive test has remained consistent (19%) – although has over doubled since last December (9%)

## Do you know or think you have had coronavirus?



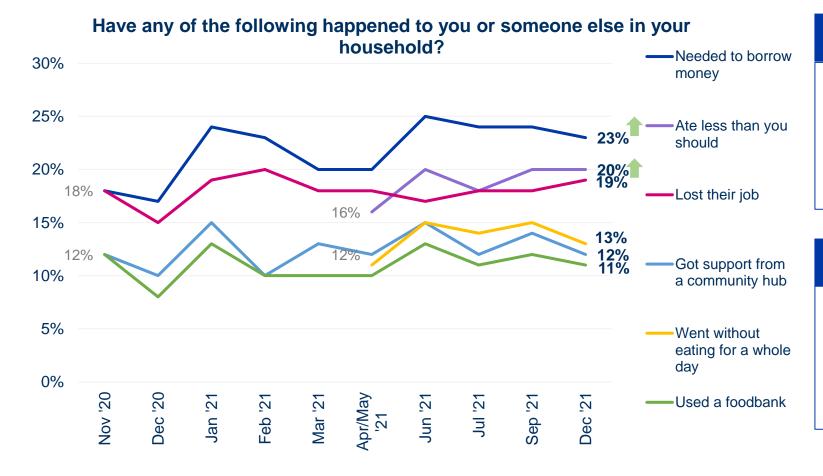
The overall increase in coronavirus infections since last December has been driven by younger ages, among whom the rates are highest (increased from 27% to 55% of 16-24s, and from 30% to 39% in 25-44s). Infection rates among 45-64s appear unchanged.

### Those who know, or think they have had, COVID-19



# ↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 2 (Dec)

General financial and employment impacts have seen no significant changes since September, although there has been a slight increase in households where someone has lost work. Individuals aged 16-24 remain significantly more likely to say their household has been affected in this way.



# Ethnic minorities are significantly more likely to have...

- Needed to borrow money (30%)
- They or someone in their household has lost their job/been made redundant (28%)
- Went the whole day without eating (22%)
- Got support from a community hub (20%)
- Used a foodbank (16%)

# Younger respondents (16-24) are much more likely to have...

- Needed to borrow money (43%)
- They or someone in their household has lost their job/been made redundant (37%)
- Eaten less than they should (34%)
- Went the whole day without eating (25%)
- Used a foodbank (17%)

↑ Significant increase compared with first survey included - Survey 1 (November) / Survey 6 (Apr/May)

Some parts of the population are particularly more likely to have someone in their household having lost their job/ been made redundant; this is particularly the case among those whose household has needed to use a foodbank, those who serve in the armed forces currently or previously, and those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate.

Someone in household has lost their job/been made redundant (compared to 19% Greater Manchester average)

#### **Characteristics**

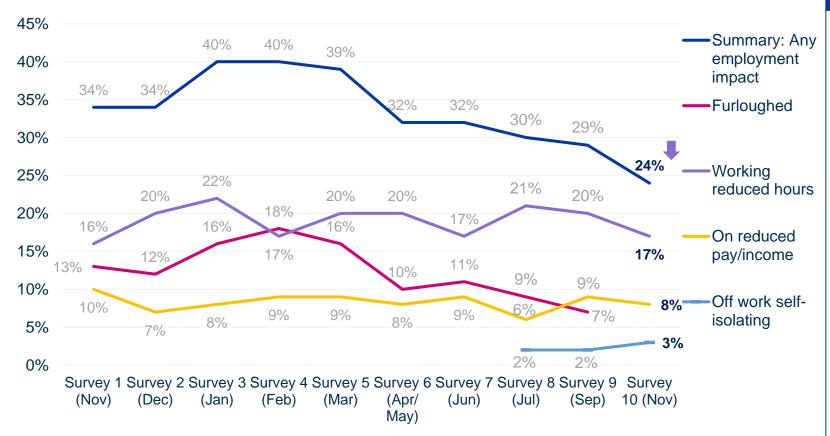
- Where a household member has needed to use a foodbank (72%)
- Served in the armed forces currently or previously (68%)
- Those who were previously a carer (61%)\*\*
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (61%)
- Those working on reduced payments (58%)\*\*
- Those with a learning disability (57%)\*\*
- Those who have experienced working reduced hours (55%)
- Those who are bisexual (46%)\*\*
- Those who are currently a carer (42%)
- Those in Rochdale (39%)
- Those who have a child aged 0-4 (38%)
- Those aged between 16-24 (37%)
- Those with more than 3 members in a household (36%)
- Those working in wholesale/retail/distribution/personal services (36%)

#### **Attitudes / Behaviours**

- Those who have only received one dose of the vaccine (53%)
- Those not likely to receive a booster dose if offered (46%)\*\* or not sure whether they would receive a booster dose if offered (37%)
- Those who view COVID restrictions as too restrictive (37%)

There has been a significant reduction in those currently experiencing employment impacts – to around a quarter (24%, 10 percentage points lower than this time last year). This is mainly driven by the ending of furlough. Smaller proportions are also working reduced hours or receiving reduced pay compared to September.

## Impact on employment

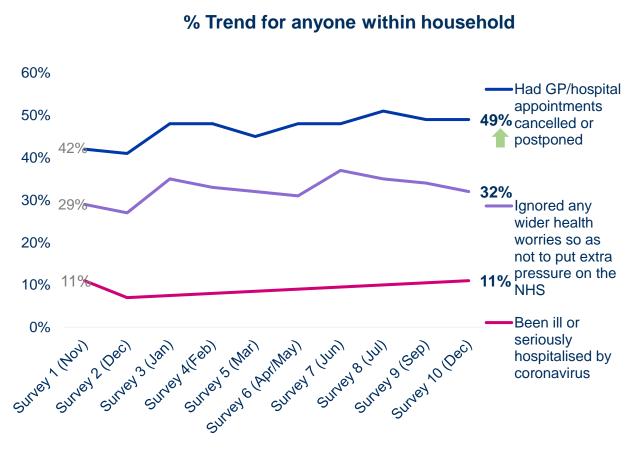


# Significant decrease compared with Survey 1 (Nov)

The proportion that have had their work impacted by the pandemic - significantly higher among (cf. 24% GM average):

- Where someone in the household has needed to use a foodbank (90%)
- Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (74%)
- Those who currently or previously served in the armed forces (64%)
- Those who have only received one dose of the coronavirus vaccine (64%)\*\*
- Those who view the COVID restrictions as too restrictive (58%)
- Those who are currently carers (56%)
- Where have had someone in their household lose their job due to COVID (56%)
- Those who have children aged 0-4 years old (51%), including those with children aged 0-4 not in early years (61%)\*\*
- Asian respondents (47%)\*\*
- Those whose first language is not English (44%)\*\*
- Those who are Muslim (41%)\*\*

Those aged 16-24 and ethnic minority residents are both significantly more likely to have experienced indirect health impacts. Overall, half of households have now had GP or hospital appointments cancelled or postponed, while those ignoring wider health worries have steadily declined since June.



Health impacts	Self	Someone else	Househol d	Among ethnic minoritie s	Among ages 16- 24
Had GP/ hospital cancelled or postponed	28%	28%	49%	63%	67%
Ignored wider health worries	23%	13%	32%	41%	44%
Seriously ill from COVID*	6%	6%	11%	17%	20%

<sup>↑</sup> Significant increase compared with when first asked – Survey 1 (Nov) / Survey 2 (Dec)

B4. To what extent, if at all have each of the following become a concern or difficulty for you, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic? / B8. Have any of the following happened to you, or someone else in your household as a result of the coronavirus pandemic?

Compared with the average for the GM population, certain groups are significantly more likely to say these wider health impacts have been experienced by them or someone in their household. These include carers, those who have needed to use foodbanks, and those with a learning disability

Had GP/ hospital appointments cancelled or postponed	Ignored any wider health worries so as not to put extra pressure on the NHS	Been seriously ill/ hospitalised from Coronavirus
<ul> <li>Greater Manchester Average: 49%</li> <li>Those who were previously a carer (96%)** or are currently a carer (72%)</li> <li>Those whose household has needed to use a foodbank (86%)</li> <li>Those who have a learning disability (84%)**</li> <li>Those who have claimed financial support to self-isolate (84%)</li> <li>Those who have had their work experience adjusted in any way due to COVID (80%), including those who have experienced working on reduced payments (82%)**, those who have worked reduced hours (80%)</li> <li>Those who currently/ have previously served in the armed forces (79%)</li> <li>Those who have only received their first dose of the vaccine (79%)</li> <li>Those whose household has lost a job due to COVID (77%)</li> <li>Those who have someone at high risk of COVID in their household (72%)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Greater Manchester Average: 32%</li> <li>Those whose household has needed to use a foodbank (76%)</li> <li>Those who have previously worked as a carer (70%)**</li> <li>Those who have a learning disability (68%)**</li> <li>Those who have had their work experience adjusted in any way due to COVID (68%), including those who have been working on reduced payments (71%)**, and those who have worked reduced hours (67%)</li> <li>Those whose household has lost a job due to COVID (63%)</li> <li>Those who have claimed financial support to selfisolate (63%)</li> <li>Those who have only received the first dose of the vaccine (59%)</li> <li>Those who have mental ill health (57%)</li> <li>Those who currently or have previously served in the armed forces (57%)</li> <li>Those not likely to receive booster (56%)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Greater Manchester Average: 11%</li> <li>Household has needed to use foodbank (69%)</li> <li>Has claimed financial support to self-isolate (66%)</li> <li>Currently/ has previously served in the armed forces (55%)</li> <li>Was previously a carer (53%)** or currently a carer (35%)</li> <li>Has a learning disability (52%)**</li> <li>Has had their work experience adjusted in any way due to COVID (49%), including working reduced hours (52%)** or having reduced payments (44%)**</li> <li>Those who have only received one dose of the vaccine (43%)</li> <li>Those whose household has lost a job due to COVID (39%)</li> <li>Those who have shared their details with NHS Test and Trace after testing positive (36%)</li> <li>Those who have children aged between 0-4 years old (35%), including those who have children aged between 0-4 not in early years (38%)**</li> </ul>

B8. Have any of the following happened to you, or someone else in your household as a result of the coronavirus pandemic? Unweighted base: 1015 (All respondents)

\*\*Base below 50

In a strong contrast to the start of the year when education was widely disrupted, almost all children were attending their education setting immediately prior to the arrival of the Omicron variant. 96% of those were in primary school, 96% in secondary school and 94% in nursery/preschool or a childminder.

