

Plain Language Information Statement

Online survey

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Research project being undertaken by Erica Smith and Morgan Wise, School of Education.

We would like to invite you to participate in a survey for a second research project that is seeking to understand the ways in which people have learned and are learning about COVID-19. This is a follow-up survey to one we administered in 2020, in which you may have taken part. We are carrying out this project with Federation University staff, as we feel they offer a suitable cross-section of the general public in a range of geographical locations.

We are following up questions in the 2020 survey about the people's views of the importance of, and their levels of understanding of, health information, the progress of the pandemic, and restrictions; and have added new questions on vaccination and on international travel restrictions and how people are learning about these. The on-line survey will take you around 15-20 minutes to complete.

We understand that this is a sensitive topic, and people are feeling stressed about the situation. Please do not feel under any obligation to reply if you not wish to. You may also omit any specific questions if you wish to and can discontinue the survey at any point.

We will not be able to link your responses to your 2020 responses, but will ask you in the survey if you completed the 2020 survey (if you can remember). The purpose of this is to establish roughly how much commonality there is between the 2020 and 2021 respondent groups. If you can't remember, or didn't work at Fed Uni in 2020, it doesn't matter at all.

This project has received clearance by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). Your participation in this research is voluntary. Survey participants can discontinue their participation at any time during the survey. If you do not want to be involved either before or during your participation, that is your choice and you do not need to explain this decision in any way. However, if your consent is withdrawn after survey data has been aggregated and processed, it will not be possible to withdraw non-identifiable data, although consent can still be withdrawn. Informed consent is implied through completion and submission of the survey. You will be able to skip any questions that you feel are too identifying, if you wish. Informed consent is implied through completion and submission of the survey.

Any data we obtain from you through the questionnaire will be managed to ensure, as far as possible, your privacy and anonymity. Any information you have provided will be kept in a secure place and will only be accessed by the researchers. We advise that if in the unlikely event that the sample size is small this may have implications for privacy/anonymity. There are legal limitations on privacy, such as Freedom of Information applications.

We hope that the questions asked in the questionnaire will not cause you any distress. However if you do feel distressed you may contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 for further assistance and support.

If you have any questions, or you would like further information regarding the project titled 'Learning to be safer Part 2', please contact the Principal Researcher, Professor Erica Smith of the School of Education: PH: (03) 5327 9665, EMAIL: e.smith@federation.edu.au

Should you (i.e. the participant) have any concerns about the ethical conduct of this research project, please contact the Federation University Ethics Officer, Research Services, Federation University, PO Box 663, Mt Helen VIC 3353. Telephone: (03) 5327 9765, Email: research.ethics@federation.edu.au

If you wish to undertake the survey please press 'Next' below.

By clicking "Next" you are agreeing to the following:

I hereby consent to participate as a subject in the above research study.

The research program in which I am being asked to participate has been explained fully to me.

I understand that: all information I provide (including questionnaires) will be treated with the strictest confidence and data will be stored separately from any listing that includes my name and address.

* Aggregated results will be used for research purposes and may be reported in scientific and academic journals.

* I am free to withdraw my consent at any time during the study in which event my participation in the research study will immediately cease and information/data obtained from it will not be used.

* I understand the exception to this is if I withdraw after information has been aggregated - it is unable to be individually identified - so from this point it is not possible to withdraw my information/data, although I may still withdraw my consent to participate.

* I understand that there are legal limitations on privacy, such as Freedom of Information applications.

About you

1. Are you currently employed at Federation University?

- Yes
- No

2. What is your age group? (Select one option) (*Note: You must be 18 years or older to participate in this survey*)

- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 years or more

3. Are you? (select one option only)

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to identify

4. Would you describe your home location as (select one option only)

- Inner metropolitan?
- Outer metropolitan?
- Regional city?
- Rural or remote?

5. What is your employment status in your main job, if you have one?

- Full time
- Part time
- Casual or sessional
- Not currently working

6. From the following ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) categories of jobs, which describes your main job best? (Note: If you like, you can see more detail in each category at <https://australianjobs.employment.gov.au/jobs-occupation>)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Managers; | <input type="radio"/> Clerical and administrative workers; |
| <input type="radio"/> Professionals; | <input type="radio"/> Sales workers; |
| <input type="radio"/> Technicians and trades workers; | <input type="radio"/> Machinery operators and drivers; |
| <input type="radio"/> Community and personal service workers; | <input type="radio"/> Labourers |

7. Did you complete Year 12 or equivalent at school?

- Yes
 No

8. What is your highest qualification overall? (Select one only)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> No formal qualifications | <input type="radio"/> Grad Cert/Grad Dip |
| <input type="radio"/> Certificate III/Certificate IV | <input type="radio"/> Masters by Coursework or Research |
| <input type="radio"/> Diploma/Advanced Diploma | <input type="radio"/> Doctorate (PhD, EdD etc) |
| <input type="radio"/> Associate Degree/Bachelor's Degree | |

9. Did you complete the 2020 survey 'Learning to be safer' in the middle of 2020? We are asking you this to establish roughly how much commonality there is between the 2020 and 2021 respondent groups. We won't be able to link your own responses.

- Yes
 No
 I can't remember

Learning to be safer in 2021

Your situation in 2021, during the COVID-19 crisis

10. There are significant stressors that have been shown to affect people's concerns about the COVID-19 crisis. If you are willing, could you tick any of the following that **currently** apply to you. Choose all that apply. There is no need to answer this question if you prefer not to.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> You have a caring responsibility for a child or children. | <input type="checkbox"/> 'Home schooling' children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You have a caring responsibility for a parent or parent-in-law. | <input type="checkbox"/> You or an immediate family member have a health issue which creates extra risk during the pandemic. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You have a caring responsibility for another person. | <input type="checkbox"/> A family member is living/traveling overseas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You have experienced a loss of job or a reduction in hours due to the crisis. | <input type="checkbox"/> You are working remotely as a result of the crisis. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An immediate family member has experienced a loss of job or a reduction in hours due to the crisis. | <input type="checkbox"/> You have close family members living in a different State in Australia. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You have additional financial stress as result of the crisis. | |

Other (please state if you wish)

11. How would you describe your life satisfaction on a scale of 1-10, at the current time? (1= Very dissatisfied; 10= Very satisfied). (Based on a question in the Eurofound online survey 'Living, working and COVID-19', 2020).

1 - Very dissatisfied 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - Very satisfied

How would you describe your life satisfaction on a scale of 1-10, at the current time?

12. Please state your response to the statement 'I am optimistic about my future' as of the current time.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree | <input type="radio"/> Disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree | <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither optimistic or pessimistic | |

Questions about obtaining information during COVID-19

The survey now looks at six aspects of the COVID-19 crisis about which people have generally been searching for information. You may remember the first four aspects were covered in the 2020 survey. The six aspects are:

1. Health information (staying safer yourself or helping family or close friend stay safe).
2. Information about restrictions of movement and closure of businesses
3. Information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas.
4. Information about available financial provisions (such as job keeper allowances and mortgage 'holidays').
5. Information about international travel
6. Obtaining information about vaccines and vaccination information.

We'll ask you very brief questions about the first four, and then we'll focus on number 6, Obtaining vaccine and vaccination information.

1. Obtaining health information relating to COVID-19

13. How important is it to you to obtain health information about COVID-19?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Please comment if you wish

14. What is your current level of understanding concerning health information relating to COVID-19?

- High
- Medium
- Low

15. What is your current level of interest in obtaining health information relating to COVID-19?

- High
- Medium
- Low

16. Which **one** of the following **media** sources is the most important to you in accessing health information about COVID-19? (Tick one only)

- Television – Documentaries
- Television – Advertisements
- Television – Government announcements and press conferences.
- Television – Other
- Radio
- Newspapers or their web sites – local
- Newspapers or their web sites – other
- Webpages – Official health agencies e.g. World Health Organisation
- Webpages – Australian Government
- Webpages – State Government
- Webpages – Other
- Books
- Billboards and other public signs
- Personal social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Social media on related topics
- Magazines
- Scholarly articles
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

17. Which **one** of the following **non-media** sources is the most important to you in accessing health information about COVID-19? (Tick one only)

- Friends and family
- Attending meetings
- Workplace awareness information
- Involvement in a community group
- Community information flyer/material
- As part of a formal course of study
- Other educational activities
- Notices in shops
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

2. Information about restrictions of movement and closure of businesses

18. How important is it to you to obtain information about restrictions of movement and closure of businesses during the pandemic?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Please comment if you wish

19. What is your current level of understanding concerning restrictions of movement and closure of businesses during the pandemic?

- High
- Medium
- Low

20. What is your current level of interest in obtaining information about restrictions of movement and closure of businesses during the pandemic?

- High
- Medium
- Low

21. Which **one** of the following **media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about restrictions of movement and closure of businesses during the pandemic? (Tick one only)

- Television – Documentaries
- Television – Advertisements
- Television – Government announcements and press conferences.
- Television – Other
- Radio
- Newspapers or their web sites – local
- Newspapers or their web sites – other
- Webpages – Official health agencies e.g. World Health Organisation
- Webpages – Australian Government
- Webpages – State Government
- Webpages – Other
- Books
- Billboards and other public signs
- Personal social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Social media on related topics
- Magazines
- Scholarly articles
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

22. Which **one** of the following **non-media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about restrictions of movement and closure of businesses during the pandemic? (Tick one only)

- Friends and family
- Attending meetings
- Workplace awareness information
- Involvement in a community group
- Community information flyer/material
- As part of a formal course of study
- Other educational activities
- Notices in shops
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

3. Information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas

23. How important is it to you to obtain information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Please comment if you wish

24. What is your current level of understanding concerning information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas?

- High
- Medium
- Low

25. What is your current level of interest in obtaining information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas?

- High
- Medium
- Low

26. Which **one** of the following **media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas? (Tick one only)

- Television – Documentaries
- Television – Advertisements
- Television – Government announcements and press conferences.
- Television – Other
- Radio
- Newspapers or their web sites – local
- Newspapers or their web sites – other
- Webpages – Official health agencies e.g. World Health Organisation
- Webpages – Australian Government
- Webpages – State Government
- Webpages – Other
- Books
- Billboards and other public signs
- Personal social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Social media on related topics
- Magazines
- Scholarly articles
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

27. Which **one** of the following **non-media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas? (Tick one only)

- Friends and family
- Attending meetings
- Workplace awareness information
- Involvement in a community group
- Community information flyer/material
- As part of a formal course of study
- Other educational activities
- Notices in shops
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

4. Information about available financial provisions.

28. How important is it to you to obtain information about available financial provisions during the pandemic?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Please comment if you wish

29. What is your current level of understanding concerning information about available financial provisions during the pandemic?

- High
- Medium
- Low

30. What is your current level of interest in obtaining information about available financial provisions during the pandemic?

- High
- Medium
- Low

31. Which **one** of the following **media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about available financial provisions during the pandemic? (Tick one only)

- Television – Documentaries
- Television – Advertisements
- Television – Government announcements and press conferences.
- Television – Other
- Radio
- Newspapers or their web sites – local
- Newspapers or their web sites – other
- Webpages – Official health agencies e.g. World Health Organisation
- Webpages – Australian Government
- Webpages – State Government
- Webpages – Other
- Books
- Billboards and other public signs
- Personal social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Social media on related topics
- Magazines
- Scholarly articles
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

32. Which **one** of the following **non-media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about available financial provisions during the pandemic? (Tick one only)

- Friends and family
- Attending meetings
- Workplace awareness information
- Involvement in a community group
- Community information flyer/material
- As part of a formal course of study
- Other educational activities
- Notices in shops
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

5. Information about international travel

33. Is the possibility of being allowed to travel internationally important to your personal or professional life? *(Please select one only).*

- Yes - For personal reasons including seeing friends and family.
- Yes- For employment, professional development (including conferences).
- Yes- For both personal and professional reasons.
- No - International travel was not important to me during the pandemic.

Please comment if you wish

34. How important is it to you to obtain information about international travel during the pandemic?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Please comment if you wish

35. What is your current level of understanding concerning information about international travel during the pandemic?

- High
- Medium
- Low

Please comment if you wish.

36. What is your current level of interest in obtaining information about international travel during the pandemic?

- High
- Medium
- Low

Please comment if you wish.

37. Which **one** of the following **media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about international travel during the pandemic? (Tick one only)

- Television – Documentaries
- Television – Advertisements
- Television – Government announcements and press conferences.
- Television – Other
- Radio
- Newspapers or their web sites – local
- Newspapers or their web sites – other
- Webpages – Official health agencies e.g. World Health Organisation
- Webpages – Australian Government
- Webpages – State Government
- Webpages – Other
- Books
- Billboards and other public signs
- Personal social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Social media on related topics
- Magazines
- Scholarly articles
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

38. Which **one** of the following **non-media** sources is the most important to you in accessing information about international travel during the pandemic? (Tick one only)

- Friends and family
- Attending meetings
- Workplace awareness information
- Involvement in a community group
- Community information flyer/material
- As part of a formal course of study
- Other educational activities
- Notices in shops
- Other please specify

If you chose other, please specify

6. Obtaining vaccine and vaccination information

In this final section we are focusing on how you learned about COVID vaccines and vaccination. The questions in this section are more detailed. In one question we ask you to think back to earlier this year, around February 2021, when vaccines started to be made available in Australia to at-risk groups such as residents and workers in aged care homes. Also, in the section about information sources, we ask you firstly to say which you have used and then to say which was the most important, rather than just asking which was the most important, as in the earlier sections.

39. Have you been vaccinated against COVID-19? (If you have not been vaccinated, please indicate if you intend to be vaccinated). Please tick one option only.

- Yes, I've received two doses of an available COVID-19 vaccine.
- I have received the first dose of an available COVID-19 vaccine.
- I am yet to receive a dose of an available COVID-19 vaccine.
- I do not intend to receive the COVID-19 vaccine

Please comment if you wish

40. During 2021 how important has it been to you to obtain relevant vaccine and vaccination information?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Please comment if you wish

41. What was your level of understanding concerning vaccine and vaccination information in February 2021?

- High
- Medium
- Low

42. What is your current level of understanding concerning vaccine and vaccination information?

- High
- Medium
- Low

Please comment if you wish.

43. What is your current level of interest concerning vaccine and vaccination information during the pandemic?

- High
- Medium
- Low

Please comment if you wish.

44. Have you been infected with COVID-19?

- Yes - with major effects
- Yes - with no symptoms or minor effects
- No - I have not been infected with COVID-19
- Prefer not to answer

45. Sources of information. (a) **Media.** We want to know all of the media sources which have informed you about vaccine and vaccination information during the pandemic. *(Please tick **all** that apply)*

- Television – Documentaries
- Television – Advertisements
- Television – Government announcements and press conferences.
- Television – Other
- Radio
- Newspapers or their web sites – local
- Newspapers or their web sites – other
- Webpages – Official health agencies e.g. World Health Organisation
- Webpages – Australian Government
- Webpages – State Government
- Webpages – Other
- Books
- Billboards and other public signs
- Personal social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Social media on related topics
- Magazines
- Scholarly articles
- Other

If you chose other, please specify

46. Which **one** of these **media** sources is the most important to you in finding out vaccine and vaccination information during the pandemic? *(Please tick **one only**)*

- Television – Documentaries
- Television – Advertisements
- Television – Government announcements and press conferences.
- Television – Other
- Radio
- Newspapers or their web sites – local
- Newspapers or their web sites – other
- Webpages – Official health agencies e.g. World Health Organisation
- Webpages – Australian Government
- Webpages – State Government
- Webpages – Other
- Books
- Billboards and other public signs
- Personal social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Social media on related topics
- Magazines
- Scholarly articles
- Other as specified above

Please say why you chose that one.

47. Sources of information. (b) **non-media**. We want to know all of the media sources which have informed you about vaccine and vaccination information during the pandemic. *(Please tick **all that apply**)*

- Friends and family
- Attending meetings
- Workplace awareness information
- Involvement in a community group
- Community information flyer/material
- As part of a formal course of study
- Other educational activities
- Notices in shops
- Other

If you chose other, please specify

48. Which **one** of these **non-media** sources is the most important to you in finding out vaccine and vaccination information during the pandemic? *(Please tick **one only**)*

- Friends and family
- Attending meetings
- Workplace awareness information
- Involvement in a community group
- Community information flyer/material
- As part of a formal course of study
- Other educational activities
- Notices in shops
- Other as specified above

Please say why you chose that one

49. Please list up to two additional ideas for helping people learn about vaccines and vaccination information. These ideas could assist in any future emergency of a similar nature.

Final questions

50. We've provided you with some ways of learning about six issues during the current crisis. These were:

1. Health information (staying safer yourself or helping family or close friend stay safe).
2. Information about restrictions of movement and closure of businesses
3. Information about the progress of the pandemic within Australia and overseas.
4. Information about available financial provisions (such as job keeper allowances and mortgage 'holidays').
5. Information about international travel
6. Obtaining information about vaccines and vaccination information.

How would you prefer to learn more about any or all of these six issues? Please write below.

51. Are there any other issues related to COVID-19, apart from the six mentioned above, that you have learned about, or would like to have learned about, or would still like to learn about?

52. Do you have any final comments about your learning during this time?

Thank you for participating in the 'Learning to be safer in 2021' survey. Click **'Done'** below to submit.