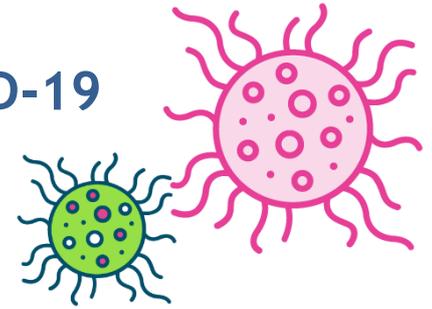
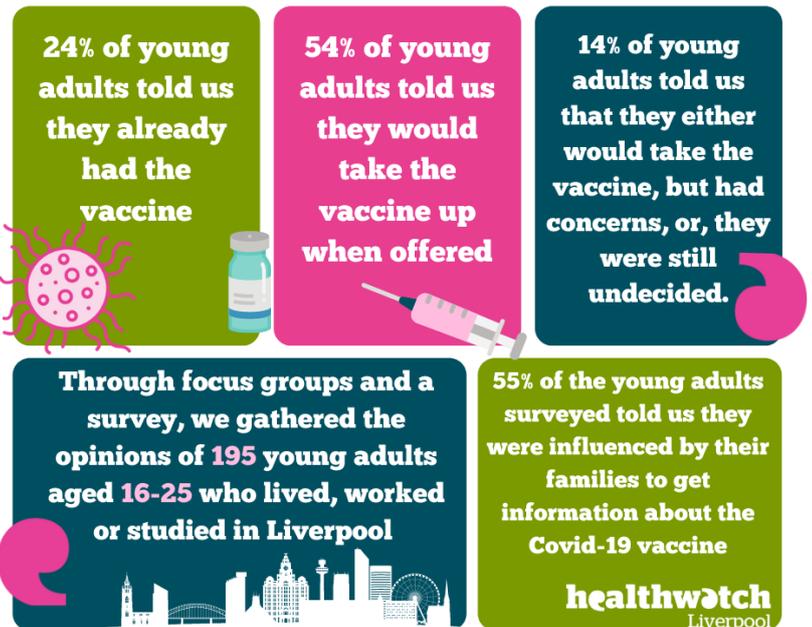


Young Adults' Attitudes to the COVID-19 Vaccine in Liverpool 2021



Key Findings

- We engaged with **195 young adults ages 16-25** through online surveys and focus groups throughout June to September.
- Many young adults who participated were very positive about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- There were some concerns about getting the vaccine regarding its side-effects and long-term effects on fertility.
- The young adults who would take up the vaccine, mainly wanted to so that they could return to normal life and be able to meet family and friends whilst keeping them protected.
- Most people said that the distance needed to travel would not affect their decision to take the vaccine, however some expressed concern about not having access to transport or not wanting to use public transport due to concerns about catching Covid



- When asked ‘would the brand of vaccine affect your choice’, 49% said ‘no’, however, 29% said ‘yes’ and 23% said that they were ‘not sure’.
- Many concerns around vaccine preference specifically related to the Astra Zeneca vaccine, now restricted to use on over 30s due to risks of rare blood clots.
- Those that were undecided about the vaccine indicated concerns about affect it would have on their fertility and concerns around the speed of its development
- The majority said that their views of the vaccine were influenced by their families, with health and social care staff being the second most popular influence.
- Those over 22 years old in our sample were more likely to say that they wouldn’t take up the vaccine than younger age groups, who were more likely to say yes, or that they had concerns or were undecided.
- Young adults said that, if given the option, they would prefer to have their vaccination done within a healthcare or education setting

Young adults would prefer to have their vaccination done within a healthcare or education setting

Some had concerns about access to or using public transport, due to concerns about catching Covid, but were generally not put off by the distance needed to travel

Those with pre-existing medical conditions had concerns about how certain brands may affect their conditions or increase their risk to certain side-effects

'if it was further than walking distance/being able to get train or bus...a parent would have to take me...which is an inconvenience to them'

healthwatch
Liverpool

Concerns

Some of the most common concerns about the Covid-19 vaccine were: Fertility, Blood Clots, Long-term affects and adverse and unknown side-effects.



Recommendations

1. Myth busting information should be developed to directly address issues surrounding future fertility.
2. Vaccine promotional materials should include elements of 'getting back to a normal life' as part of their key messages.
3. Information should be targeted at both young adults and their parents/carers.
4. Designated, coproduced literature, marketing materials and social stories for young people with learning disabilities that can be cascaded to all Primary Care Networks and education settings
5. Vaccination teams to support children and young people with additional needs and their families to feel reassured and able to make an informed decision about the COVID-19 vaccination.
6. Advertise /ensure that young adults should feel safe at vaccination centres



Ultimately this may influence opinions of younger people who may take up the vaccine

in the next few years, or, if the vaccine becomes available to younger adults, it may help contribute towards targeting areas of concern regarding hesitancy towards and delivery of the vaccine.