

Taking the Pulse of the Nation

A majority of employees would support compulsory vaccination and regular COVID-19 testing in the workplace.

Melbourne Institute's Taking the Pulse of the Nation Survey

2021 Survey Results*: Wave 39 (16-20 August)**

Strong support from employees for compulsory vaccination and regular testing in the workplace

The conversation about managing the COVID-19 pandemic is shifting towards how to achieve the 70-80 percent vaccination coverage deemed essential to avoid intermittent lockdowns and strict restrictions. Should employers be more pro-active and how will their employees react? In wave 39, we asked specifically whether employees would support their employers mandating compulsory vaccination (Figure 1) and regular testing (Figure 2).

- The responses indicated strong support with, on average for Australia, 73% support for compulsory vaccination and 68% for regular testing.
- Across the mainland states, support was higher in NSW and VIC compared to SA and WA, possibly reflecting current lockdowns in NSW and VIC.
- Support was across employment types (casual, fixed-term, permanent contracts) with workers employed on an on-going basis, possibly less keen on regular testing (albeit support for regular testing is still a high 65%).
- Mandatory vaccination and regular testing of employees was also supported by younger and older workers, with support seemingly increasing with age.



* The survey contains responses from 1200 persons, aged 18 years and over. The sample is stratified by gender, age and location to be representative of the Australian population.

** This Report is written by Professor Guay Lim.

Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research

The Melbourne Institute applies cutting-edge statistical and econometric methodologies to develop primary and secondary user-ready data sets, and conducts research to inform government, education, business and community organisations. For more information, see: melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au.

About the survey

These results have been drawn from **Taking the Pulse of the Nation** - Melbourne Institute's survey of the impact of COVID-19. The aim of the weekly survey is to track changes in the economic and social wellbeing of Australians living through the effects of the coronavirus pandemic whilst adapting to various changes in Federal and State government policies.

The survey contains responses from 1200 persons, aged 18 years and over each week. The sample is stratified by gender, age and location to be representative of the Australian population.

Disclaimer

The University of Melbourne and the Melbourne Institute give no representation, make no warranty, nor take any responsibility as to the accuracy or completeness of any information contained herein and will not be liable in contract tort, for negligence or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on any such information.

©The University of Melbourne, Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research.

This report is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced without written permission. Taking the Pulse of the Nation: Melbourne Institute Survey of the impact of COVID-19 presents the professional analysis and views of the Melbourne Institute.