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## Research Summary

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Category (clinical/public health): Both  
Data focus: SHEFA

**Title** COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy in health care workers at Vila Central Hospital

### Abstract

#### Background:

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine is a major aspect of Vanuatu's preparation to deal with the SARS COV-2 Virus. Anecdotal evidence indicated some hesitancy in health care workers to receive a vaccine. Due to this, we conducted a survey of healthcare workers at Vila Central Hospital (VCH) to assess their attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and their levels of hesitancy.

#### Methods:

We provided approximately 250 surveys to frontline health workers at VCH and received 153 responses. The survey asked respondents about their vaccination status. Of the total responses, we identified 44 participants that had not been vaccinated. Those participants were asked to provide reasons for their hesitancy. They were also asked what factors would be useful in encouraging them to get vaccinated in the future.

#### Results:

The responders indicated several common concerns about receiving a vaccine. These included: concerns about side effects, a lack of information about the vaccine, anecdotal evidence or rumours about the vaccine, concerns about vaccine safety, and cultural or religious reasons. Furthermore, two thirds of respondents indicated that if the vaccine was available at VCH, they would be more likely to receive it.

#### Conclusion:

Based on our results we conclude that respondents who were not vaccinated felt that they needed more information about the efficacy and safety of the vaccines. We VCH immunisation Hesitancy abstract in the Vila Central hospital 30 august 2021 suggest that greater education provided by trustworthy individuals in the health community would be beneficial in increasing vaccine compliance.

#### Key message:

Our results indicate that even amongst health literate individual's fear and a lack of education are key drivers towards vaccine hesitancy. These findings have implications for future education campaigns directed towards the covid-19 vaccine rollout.