

***COVID-19 IMMUNISATION HESITANCY
SURVEY DURING THE FIRST VACCINE ROLL
OUT AT VILA CENTRAL HOSPITAL***

Presentation: Alexandre Pheu, Registered Nurse

RATIONALE

1. WHO declared COVID-19 pandemic
 - On the 11 of march 2020 : 118,000 cases in 110 countries
 - On the 16 september 2021 226,236,577 cases (including 4,645,548 deaths) in 178 countries(<https://covid19.who.int>)
2. COVID-19 vaccination importance
 - Reducing transmission into the community
 - Reducing hospital admission
 - Front line workers exposed to COVID-19 environment.
3. The aim of the vaccine hesitancy survey :
 - Understand VCH workers common concerns about the COVID-19 Vaccine
 - Identify effective means and practice to improve vaccine uptake

METHODS

- 250 questionnaires sent from the 21/06/21- 28/06/21 across 24 departments at the Vila Central Hospital.
- Anonymous survey composed of 6 questions about their first dose vaccination status
- Triggering main 8 reasons for not receiving the vaccine and suggestions for increasing vaccine compliance

- 153 respondents were given back.
- 44 participants reported that they did not take the vaccine.
 - Of the 44 responses we were interested in :
 - Their knowledge and attitudes related to the COVID-19 vaccine (personal believes/ clinical knowledge/ medical condition/ others...)
 - The attitude if the vaccine was offered in the Vila Central hospital
 - Their suggestions on increasing their confidence with the COVID-1 vaccine

SET QUESTION OF “WHY NOT”?

“Have you had your first dose of COVID 19 vaccination?”

“NO”

Tally of question:

- Safety Concern
- Against My Religious Beliefs
- Against My Cultural Beliefs
- Worried About Side Effect
- Not Enough Information On Vaccine
- Not Worried About COVID-19
- Pregnancy or Breastfeeding
- Heard Rumours About Vaccine
- Previous Bad Experience With Vaccine

- Others: _____

SUGGESTION ?

If vaccination was offered at VCH would this make you more likely to have a vaccination?

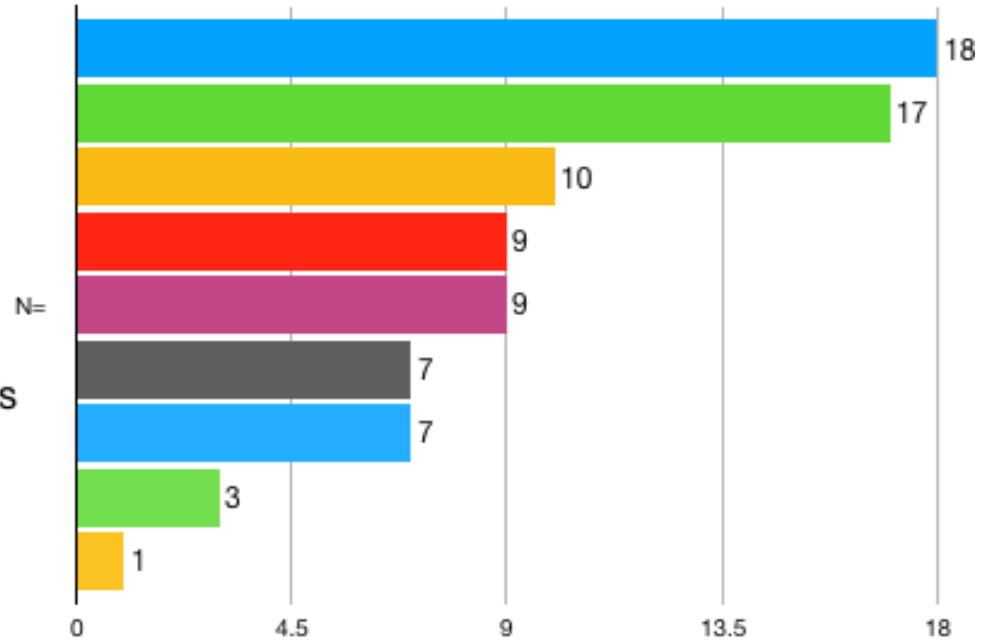
“YES” OR “NO”

Any other suggestion(s) to make you more confident in being immunised?

Open Answers

Summary of responses of 42 people who responded “NO” to the vaccination status.

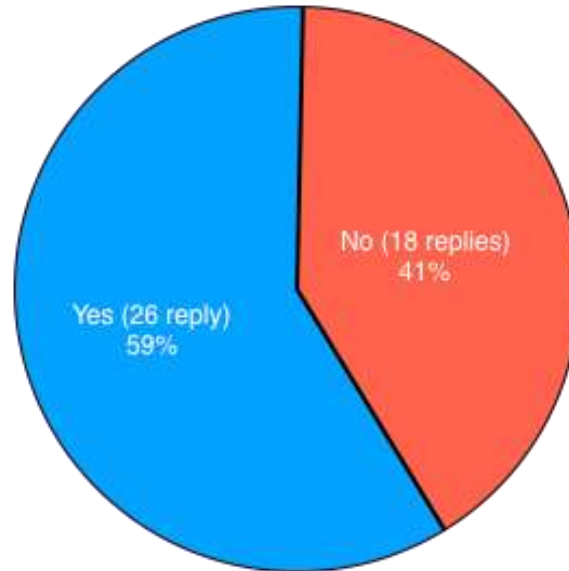
- Worried about Side Effects
- Not enough information on vaccine
- Other health reason
- Safety Concern
- Pregnancy or Breastfeeding
- Heard rumours about Vaccine
- Against My Religious and Cultural beliefs
- Not worried about COVID-19
- Prefer another vaccine (sino pharm)



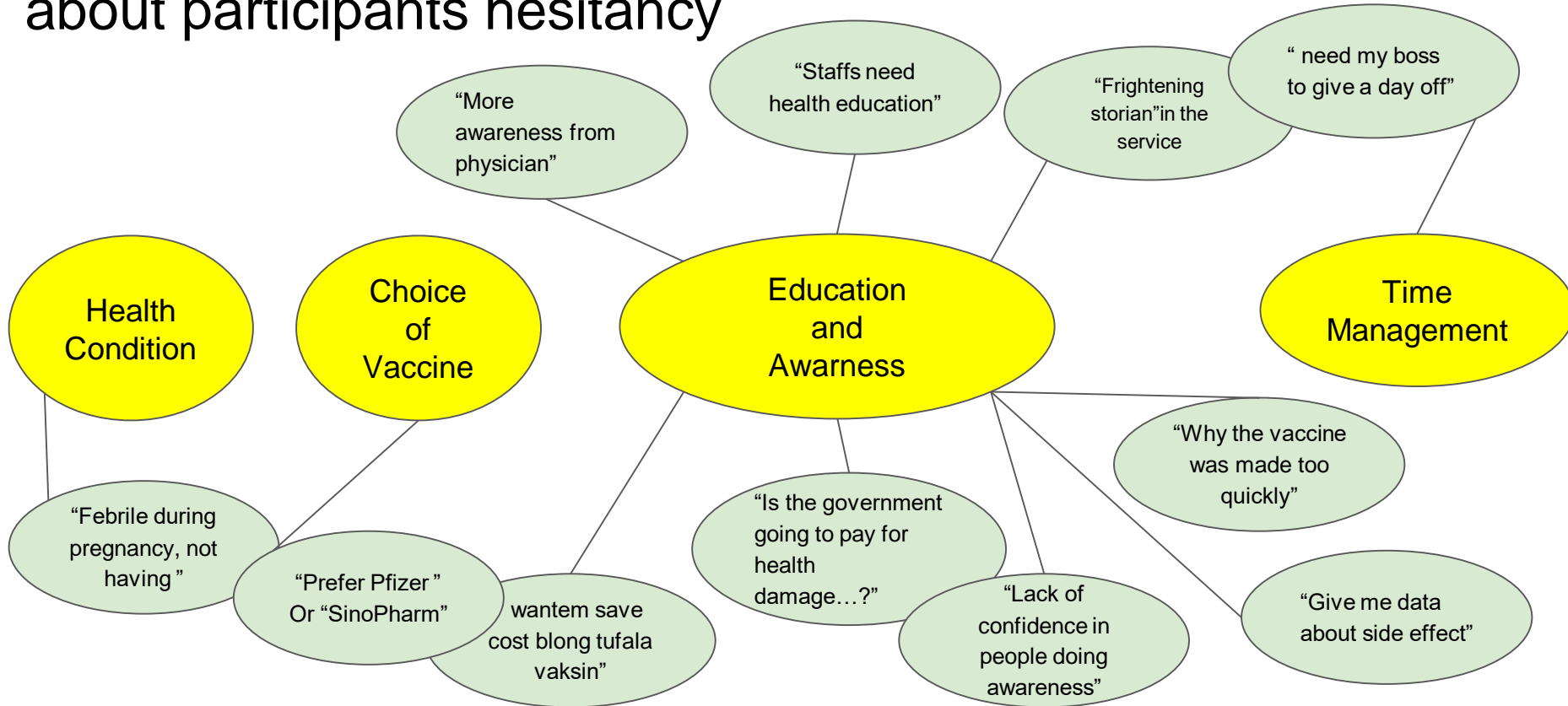
Responses of 44 people if they were offered the vaccine at the Vila Central Hospital.

If vaccination was offered at VCH would this make you more likely to have a vaccination?

● Yes (26 reply) ● No (18 replies)



44 people who said “NO” to the vaccination, 25 response about participants hesitancy



QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK MAIN SUGGESTIONS

- Awareness given by health professionals (i.e Physician) during a public health awareness campaign for HealthCare Worker.
- Confidence and trust about the safety by providing accurate communication (i.e. studies, sources, data).
- Basic Immunisation knowledge up to date review for Health Care Workers.

3 KEY POINTS

1. Main concern about side effects, a lack of information about the vaccine, anecdotal evidence or rumours about the vaccine, concerns about their safety, and for cultural or religious reason.
2. Hesitancy can be alleviate if the vaccine would have been dispensed in the Vila Central Hospital.
3. Confidence in Health Care Worker in vaccination uptake can be improve by pertinent clinical education and access critical source of information.

CONCLUSION

Limitation:

- Time of evaluation:
 - Beginning of the vaccination roll out.
 - 153/250 VCH employees assessed.

Overall message:

- Public health servants' fears are due to limited critical education are key drivers towards vaccine hesitancy.
- Implications for future up to date education about vaccination campaigns roll out.
- Immunisation compliance comes with the confidence of the knowledge that has been communicate by institution.

Reference and Acknowledgement

Reference:

- National Department of health (NDoH) and the Papua New Guinea Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETPNG),(2021), *COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in essential workers and the community in Papua New Guinea: an exploratory mixed methods study 28th April-24th May 2021*. <https://www.fieldepiinaction.com/vaccine-hesitancy>
- United Nation International Children Emergency Funds, (2021), *Vaccine Misinformation Management field guide*,<https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/vaccine-misinformation-management-field-guide>
- World Health Organisation (WHO), (2019), *The role of community health workers in COVID-19 vaccination : implementation support guide*, <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/340986>
- World Health Organisation(WHO), (2021), *WHO SAGE roadmap for prioritizing uses of COVID19 in the context of limited supply*,<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-sage-roadmap-for-prioritizing-uses-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-the-context-of-limited-supply>
- World Health Organisation(WHO),(2020), *WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination*,<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-sage-values-framework-for-the-allocation-and-prioritization-of-covid-19-vaccination>

Acknowledgement

- Dr Sereana NATUMAN
- Dr Vincent ATUA
- Dr Geoffrey CLARKE
- Christopher Brown
- Vanuatu Health Program team