

Sunday, 17 January 2021

Australians support masks and border closures and are willing to be vaccinated for COVID-19

A special Roy Morgan survey into Australian attitudes towards COVID-19 shows nearly three-quarters of Australians (72%) say mask wearing should be compulsory and over two-thirds, 68%, don't want State borders to be completely open.

In addition over three-quarters of Australians (77%) say they would be willing to be vaccinated if a new Coronavirus vaccine became publicly available according to the survey conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,243 Australians aged 18+ on Thursday January 14 – Friday January 15, 2021.

Women, Australians aged 65+ and people in NSW & Victoria most likely to support wearing masks

Support for the compulsory wearing masks is highest amongst women (77%), people aged 65+ (78%) and in a geographic sense it is highest in New South Wales (80%) and Victoria (77%). In contrast only 53% of people in South Australia say mask wearing should be compulsory.

Analysis by Federal voting intention shows Greens supporters (82%) are the most likely to support the compulsory wearing of masks ahead of ALP supporters (74%) and L-NP supporters (71%).

In Victoria mask wearing was wanted by 65% in November, now 77% - so up – although lower than when Roy Morgan measured in Victoria in August (89%) and September (87%) during that State's second COVID-19 wave.

People in WA most likely to not want State borders completely open

A large majority of 85% of people in Western Australia don't want State borders to be completely open today – a higher rate than any other State and in line with the tough border policies of the State enforced by Premier Mark McGowan.

There is also strong consensus to not completely open State borders amongst people in Tasmania (79%), South Australia (75%), Queensland (73%) and Victoria (70%).

In only one State, NSW, are opinions almost evenly split on the question with 55% of people in NSW not wanting State borders completely open, but a sizable minority of 45% does want borders completely open.

Nearly three-quarters of women (72%) don't want State borders to be completely open compared to 65% of men. Perhaps surprisingly, it is younger people aged under 35 who are most opposed to State borders being completely open with 73% against the proposal.

Clear majorities of Greens supporters (80%), ALP supporters (72%) and L-NP supporters (63%) do not want State borders to be completely open today.

Vast majority of Australians say they'll be vaccinated when a Coronavirus vaccine is available – unchanged on December 2020, but down on earlier in the pandemic

Over three-quarters of Australians (77%) say they will be vaccinated when a Coronavirus vaccine becomes available and this sentiment is high across a broad range of demographics including men (81%), women (73%), across all age groups and in all six States.

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Interestingly, supporters of the three main political parties are in agreement on this question with 78% of L-NP supporters, 77% of ALP supporters and 81% of Greens supporters saying they would be willing to be vaccinated when a Coronavirus vaccine becomes available.

Support for being vaccinated is unchanged on November 2020 when [77% of respondents to a special Roy Morgan survey conducted in conjunction with Gallup International](#) agreed they would be vaccinated when a vaccine became available including 41% who strongly agreed and 36% who agreed.

Earlier in the pandemic, back in March/April 2020 when the first lockdown was enforced around Australia, support for being vaccinated for COVID-19 was significantly higher with 87% of Australians in early April agreeing they would be vaccinated including 56% who strongly agreed and 31% who agreed.

Michele Levine CEO Roy Morgan, says Australians have delivered resounding responses to the questions of compulsory mask wearing (in favour), opening all state borders (against) and being willing to be vaccinated when a new coronavirus vaccine becomes publicly available (in favour):

“A clear majority of 72% of Australians support compulsory mask wearing with support highest in the two States with the highest number of COVID-19 cases – NSW (80%) and Victoria (77%). Unsurprisingly support for compulsory wearing of masks is much lower in all other States with only 53% of South Australians, 63% of West Australians and 64% of Queenslanders in support of the measure.

“There is also not such a great partisan divide on the issue as has been seen in other countries such as the United States. Large majorities of L-NP supporters (71%), ALP supporters (74%) and Greens supporters (82%) are all in favour of the compulsory wearing of masks.

“When it comes to the opening of State borders the views of Australians tend to align with their respective State Governments. NSW has had the most open border policy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and only closed its borders’ once – when daily local cases of COVID-19 ballooned through 100 in early July. In NSW a slim majority of 55% of respondents are against all State borders being completely open today – clearly the lowest against opening the borders of any State.

“At the other end of the spectrum people in the two States with the most restrictive border policies are most in favour of keeping State borders closed. A large majority of 85% of West Australians and 79% of Tasmanians don’t want State borders completely open today. These results indicate voters tend to align their views with the policies of their respective State Governments when these policies are demonstrated to be an effective response to the threat posed by COVID-19.

“The COVID-19 vaccine is set to be rolled out across Australia starting from next month and the good news is a clear majority of 77% of Australians say they will be vaccinated when the vaccine becomes publicly available – and this support is strong across all sections of the community including both genders, people of all ages, supporters of different political parties and in every State and Territory.”

Australians surveyed were each asked the following questions to determine their attitudes towards wearing masks, the opening/closure of State borders and whether they would take a COVID-19 vaccine:

- **Question 1:** “Should wearing masks be compulsory or not?” Yes 72% cf. No 28%.
- **Question 2:** “Do you believe State borders within Australia should be completely open today?” Yes 32% cf. No 68%.
- **Question 3:** “If a new Coronavirus vaccine became publicly available, would you be willing to be vaccinated?” Yes 77% cf. No 23%.

This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,243 Australians aged 18+ on Thursday January 14 – Friday January 15, 2021.

For further comment or more information contact:

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Question 1:

Should wearing masks be compulsory or not?

By Gender & Age

	Australians 18+	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	72	67	77	72	67	70	78
No	28	33	23	28	33	30	22
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Should wearing masks be compulsory or not?

By States & City/Country

	Australians 18+	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	72	77	62	80	77	64	63	53	64
No	28	23	38	20	23	36	37	47	36
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 50 respondents should be treated with caution.

Should wearing masks be compulsory or not?

By Party Vote (Federal)

	Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	72	71	74	82	62	67
No	28	29	26	18	38	33
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Should wearing masks be compulsory or not? – asked of Victorians during Victoria's second lockdown (August 2020 & September 2020) and just after the lockdown ended (November 2020).

	Victorians 18+		
	Aug 25-26, 2020	Sep 1-2, 2020	Nov 9-10, 2020
	%	%	%
Yes	89	87	65
No	11	13	35
TOTAL	100	100	100



Question 2:

Do you believe State borders within Australia should be completely open today?

By Gender & Age

	Australians <u>18+</u>	Gender		Age			
		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Under 35</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	32	35	28	27	34	32	36
No	68	65	72	73	66	68	64
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Do you believe State borders within Australia should be completely open today?

By States & City/Country

	Australians <u>18+</u>	Areas		States					
		<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Regions</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>VIC</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>TAS#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	32	31	32	45	30	27	15	25	21
No	68	69	68	55	70	73	85	75	79
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 50 respondents should be treated with caution.

Do you believe State borders within Australia should be completely open today?

By Party Vote (Federal)

	<u>Electors</u>	Party Vote				
		<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Ind/Others</u>	<u>Can't say</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	32	37	28	20	40	33
No	68	63	72	80	60	67
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 3:

If a new Coronavirus vaccine became publicly available, would you be willing to be vaccinated?

By Gender & Age

	Australians 18+	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	77	81	73	77	72	79	80
No	23	19	27	23	28	21	19
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

If a new Coronavirus vaccine became publicly available, would you be willing to be vaccinated?

By States & City/Country

	Australians 18+	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	77	79	72	79	80	72	74	71	76
No	23	21	28	21	20	28	26	29	24
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 50 respondents should be treated with caution.

If a new Coronavirus vaccine became publicly available, would you be willing to be vaccinated?

By Party Vote (Federal)

	Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	77	78	77	81	73	68
No	23	22	23	19	27	32
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100



This question was previously asked as part of an international survey in conjunction with Gallup International using a five point scale in March 2020, April 2020 and again in November 2020: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't know.

Question 5: If a new Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine became publicly available, I would be willing to be vaccinated

	Australians 18+		
	Mar 28-29, 2020	Apr 4-5, 2020	Nov 12-17, 2020
	%	%	%
TOTAL Agree	86	87	77
Strongly agree	56	56	41
Agree	30	31	36
Disagree	4	3	6
Strongly disagree	3	4	6
TOTAL Disagree	7	7	12
Don't know	7	6	11
TOTAL	100	100	100

For more details on this survey please view the release here:

<https://www.roymorgan.com/findings/8604-gallup-international-survey-covid-19-opinion-questions-november-2020-202012211153>

About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is Australia's largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state, as well as in the U.S. and U.K. A full-service research organisation, Roy Morgan has over 78 years' experience collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.3

