



PULSE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS: COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Survey Period: April 19–23, 2021

ACHA conducted a pulse survey between April 19 and April 23, 2021, to ascertain information related to COVID-19 vaccination policies for academic year 2021-2022. Schools were asked about the decision-making process and whether guidance from ACHA might be helpful in that process, as well as issues of concern regarding vaccination requirements.

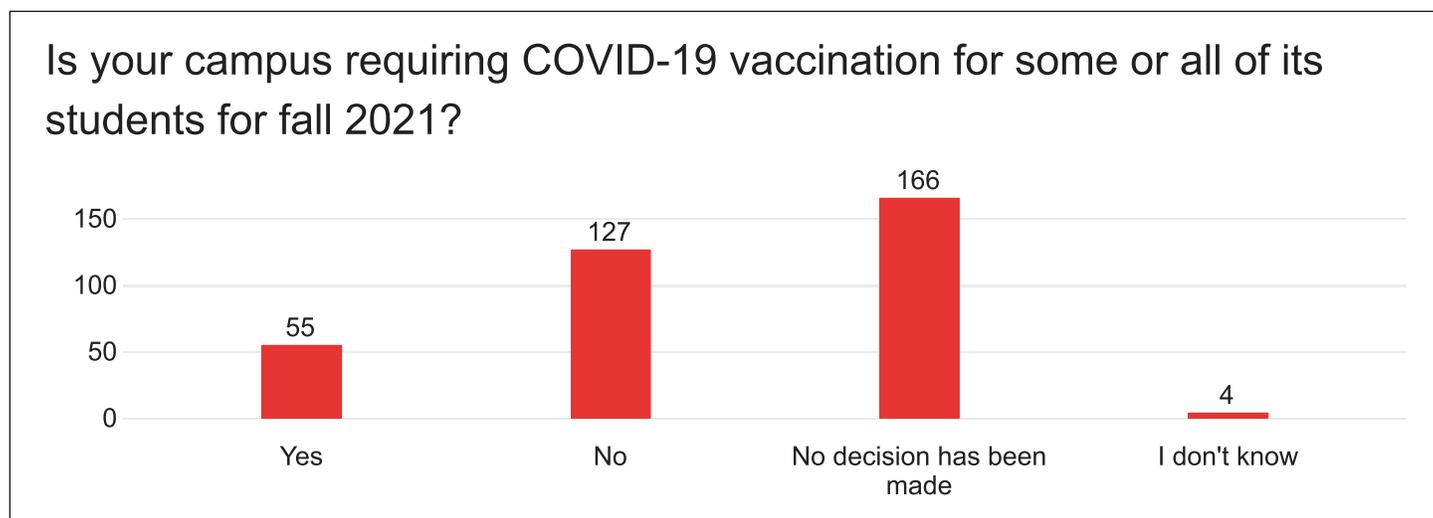
Responses were solicited from one ACHA member at each of 849 institutions of higher education (IHE). The institutions were comprised of all ACHA Institutional Members, as well as Individual ACHA Members at colleges and universities that did not hold ACHA institutional memberships. Three hundred fifty-three IHEs responded for a response rate of 41.6%.

The demographics of the participating 353 institutions were consistent with the other five ACHA COVID-19 member surveys. The sample was predominantly comprised of four-year institutions. The breakdown of public/private schools was almost equally distributed with a slight edge to private schools at 53% vs 47%. Total student enrollment was also fairly equally distributed, with a range from small- to large-sized colleges. All regions of the U.S. were represented, with over half located in urban areas. The specifics of each campus characteristic are provided in the table below.

Institutional Characteristic	n	Valid Percent
Public	166	47.0%
Private	187	53.0%
2-year	23	6.5%
4-year	329	93.5%
Local Urban	190	53.8%
Local Suburban	81	22.9%
Local Town	69	19.5%
Local Rural	13	3.7%
Region Northeast	89	25.2%
Region Midwest	92	26.1%
Region South	112	31.7%
Region West	59	16.7%
Region US Territory	1	0.3%
Enrollment Less than 2,500	77	21.8%
Enrollment 2,500–4,999	69	19.5%
Enrollment 5,000– 9,999	60	17.0%
Enrollment 10,000 – 19,999	72	20.4%
Enrollment 20,000 or more	75	21.2%

Highlights

Of the 353 survey respondents, 15.6% (n=55) reported that their campuses had decided to require COVID-19 vaccination for some or all of its students come fall 2021, while 36% (n=166) reported that they had decided not to require vaccination. As of the survey close date, approximately 47% of respondents had not made a decision.

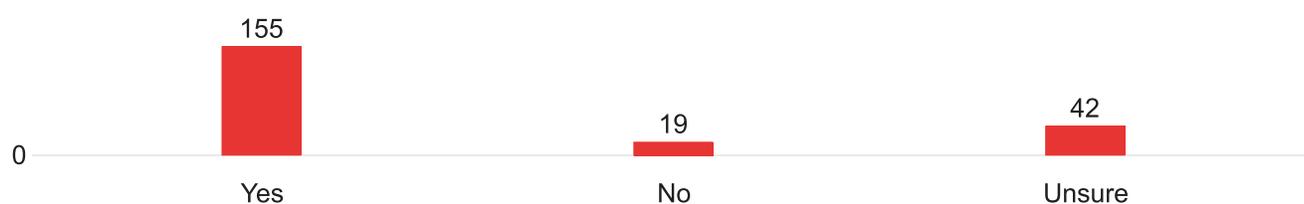


For campuses that had not yet made a vaccine requirement decision, we inquired whether a statement of support or encouragement from ACHA would be useful to their respective institutions in the decision-making process. Almost 70% (n=115) responded that it would be helpful to have a statement. Another 22% (n=37) reported being unsure whether a statement of support would be helpful. The remainder 8.4% (14) did not think an ACHA statement of support for a vaccination requirement would be helpful.



COVID-19 vaccination requirements are controversial, even among public health professionals. We wanted to better understand whether our members were supportive of COVID-19 vaccine requirements for their students. Almost 72% (n=155) responded that they were supportive of requirements. Almost 20% (n=42) were unsure whether they were supportive or not, and fewer than 9% (n=19) were not supportive of a COVID-19 vaccine requirement.

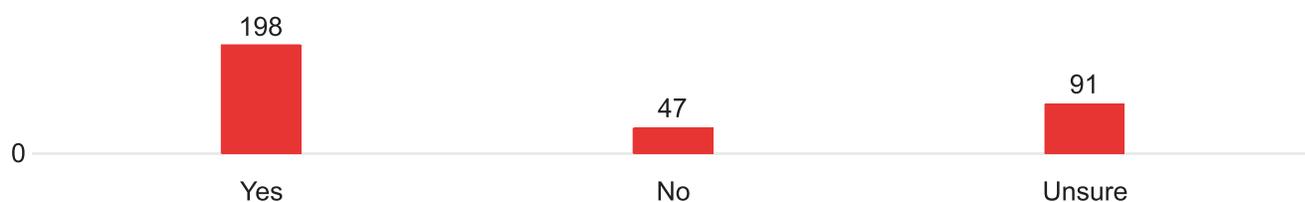
Are you supportive of a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for students at your campus?



Regardless of whether campuses are requiring or recommending COVID-19 vaccination, health and well-being professionals will likely play a role in working with those who are vaccine hesitant. We asked whether respondents felt equipped to address these concerns with students and parents. Almost 60% (n=198) responded that they did feel equipped. Over 27% (n=91) were unsure about whether they were able to handle the concerns raised by students and parents. Only 14% (n=47) reported that they did not feel equipped.

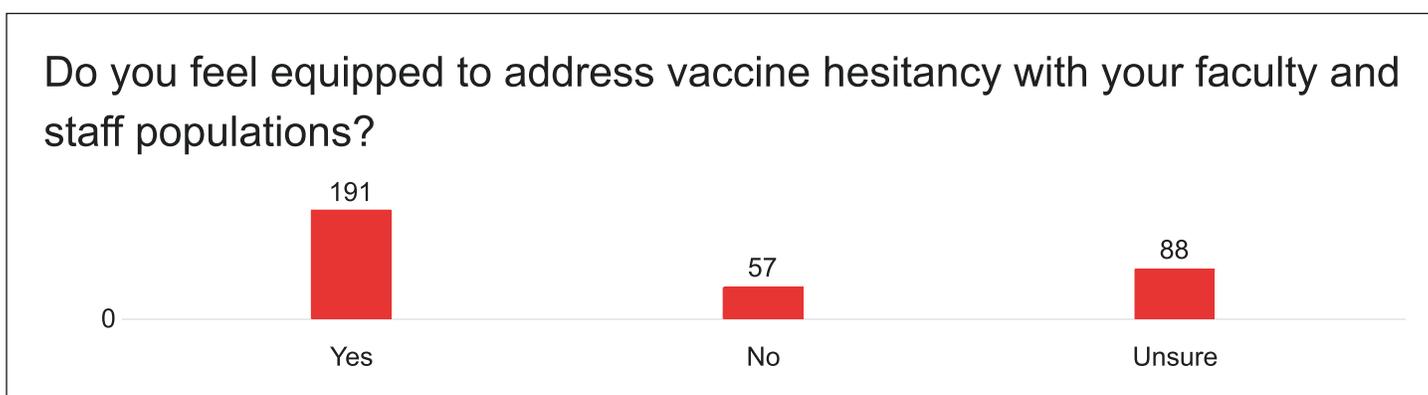
Health and well-being professionals often serve as the voice of public health on campus, which means they are also handling vaccine hesitancy in faculty and staff. We asked whether respondents felt equipped to address concerns in this population. Results were very similar to the responses regarding addressing vaccine hesitancy among parents and students.

Do you feel equipped to address vaccine hesitancy with your student and parent populations?



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The above results represent information from one point in time in a highly evolving situation from data collected from April 19–23, 2021. Many more campuses have made decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccination for their students, faculty, and staff since then. On April 29, ACHA released a statement recommending COVID-19 vaccination where state law and resources allow. In the next few weeks, detailed guidelines will be released to help assist IHEs as they fully reopen their campuses. Additionally, thanks to funding from CDC, ACHA will be releasing toolkits and other assets aimed at reducing transmission through behavioral risk mitigation and vaccination of the campus community. ACHA's mission is to support healthy and thriving campus communities through effective, equitable, and inclusive COVID-19 prevention strategies.



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