



## ISSUE BRIEF

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# COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE SURVEY DETROITERS' SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 VACCINE REQUIREMENTS

OVERVIEW

This report is part of a series of reports highlighting findings from the most recent survey of the Detroit Metro Area Communities Study (DMACS). The survey was fielded between June 2nd and July 9th, 2021 and captures the views of a representative sample of 1,898 Detroiters. [The first report in this series](#) presented results on COVID-19 vaccination rates, reasons for avoiding vaccination, trust in sources of information, and intentions to vaccinate among the unvaccinated, as well as differences by age and ethnoracial identity on these outcomes. This report focuses on residents’ support for or opposition to policies requiring that people be vaccinated to participate in certain activities, including differences in perspective between vaccinated and unvaccinated residents. Results have been weighted to reflect the population of the City of Detroit.

[See full results from DMACS surveys here.](#)



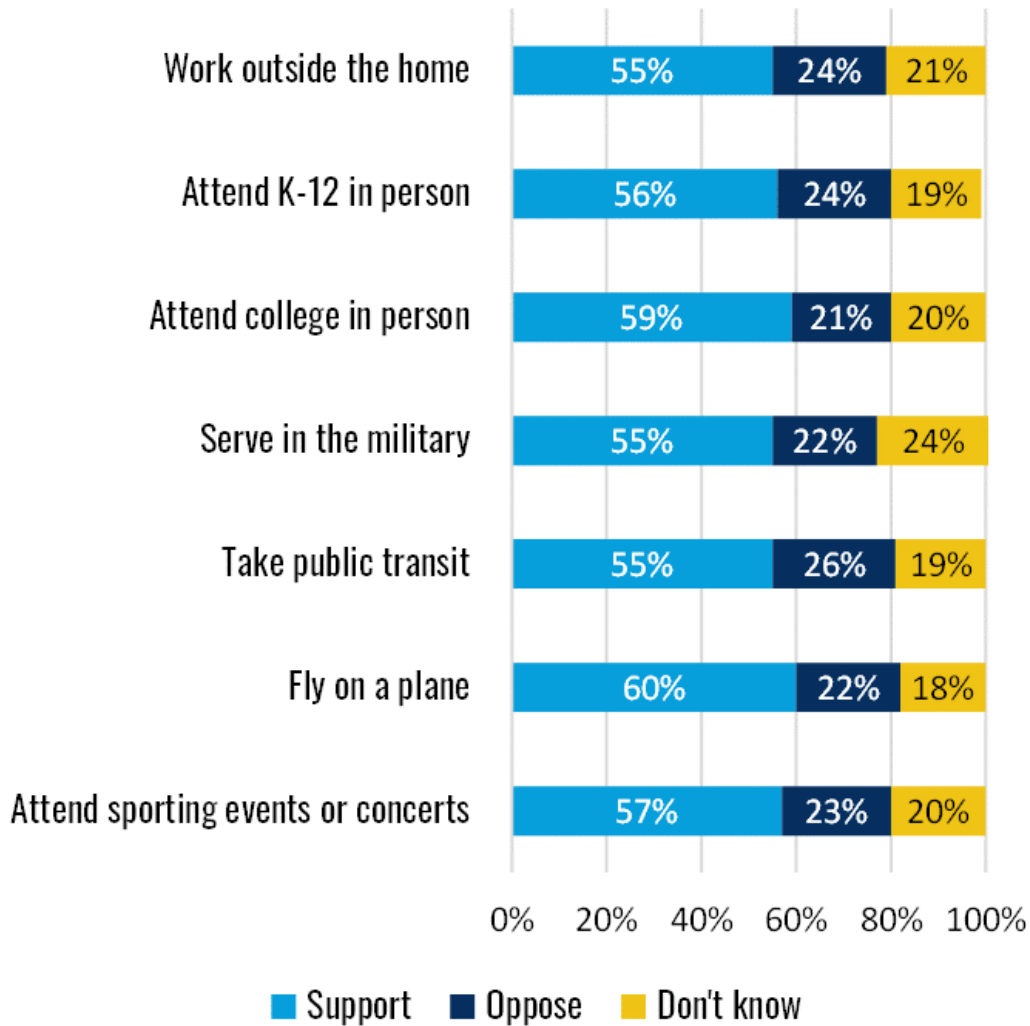
BACKGROUND

President Biden, along with the governors of California and New York, recently announced new requirements for government employees to get vaccinated or to submit to frequent testing for COVID-19. They joined a growing number of **businesses, professional sports teams, hospitals, and colleges and universities** in instituting vaccine requirements in an effort to aid public health efforts and avoid a “pandemic of the unvaccinated.” In Detroit, **where more than half of adults are not yet fully vaccinated against COVID-19**, many residents remain at risk of contracting and getting seriously ill from the coronavirus, especially the highly contagious Delta variant. This report examines Detroiters’ feelings about vaccine requirements, revealing general support for requirements related to a variety of public activities.

DETROITERS ARE OPEN TO THE IDEA OF VACCINE REQUIREMENTS

FIGURE 1

A MAJORITY OF DETROITERS SUPPORT VACCINE REQUIREMENTS



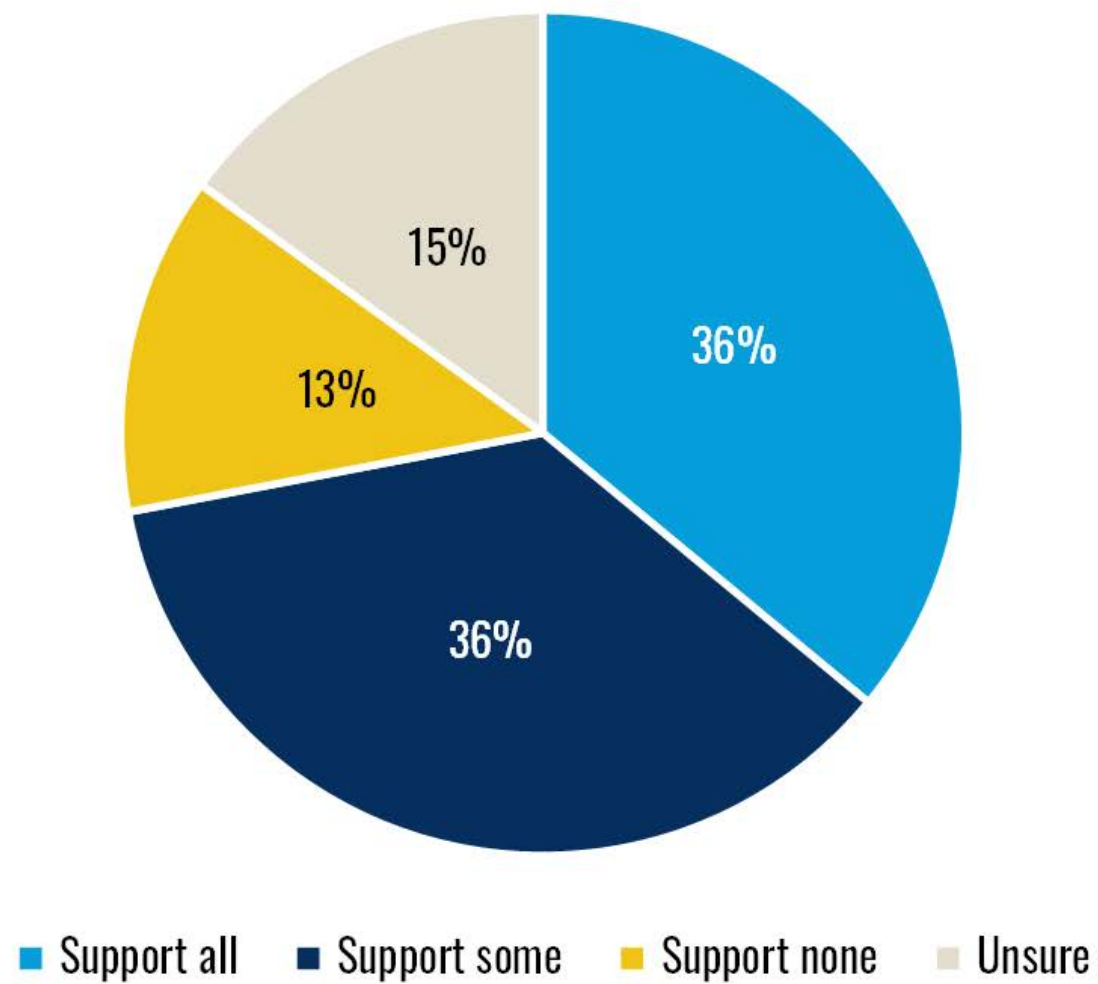
- A majority of Detroit residents support requiring people be vaccinated against COVID-19 before engaging in a variety of public activities, including attending large events, flying on an airplane, using public transit, attending school (college or K-12) in person, and working outside the home.
- Requiring vaccines to fly on a plane or attend college in person garnered slightly more support, though support for vaccine requirements across various realms of public life was fairly consistent.



- Nearly three-quarters (72%) of residents say they support instituting vaccine requirements in at least one public setting, with half of those (36%) saying they support requiring vaccines in every area of life highlighted in the survey.
- Just 13% of Detroiters oppose creating any vaccine requirements. The remaining 15% are unsure generally about vaccine requirements.

**FIGURE 2**

**MOST RESIDENTS SUPPORT INSTITUTING ONE OR MORE VACCINE REQUIREMENT**

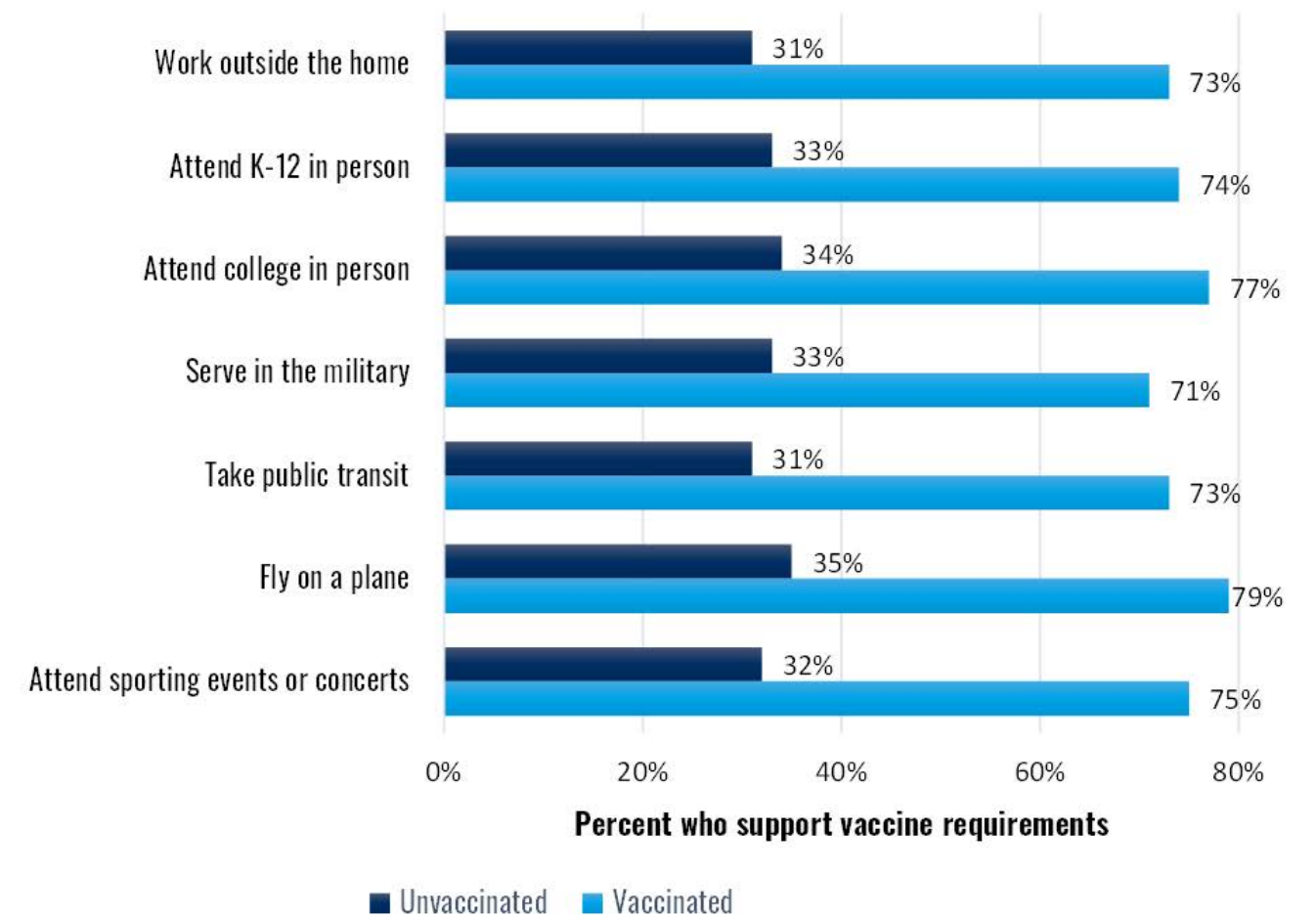


## SUPPORT FOR VACCINE REQUIREMENTS VARY BY VACCINATION STATUS, AGE, AND IF RESIDENT HAS CHILDREN

- Detroiters who have gotten at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine are twice as likely to be in favor of vaccine mandates as unvaccinated residents.
- For example, while 75% of vaccinated Detroiters support requiring proof of vaccination to attend sporting events or concerts, just 32% of unvaccinated residents similarly support such a requirement.

**FIGURE 3**

**UNVACCINATED RESIDENTS EXPRESS LESS SUPPORT FOR VACCINE REQUIREMENTS**



- However, unvaccinated Detroiters are not totally opposed to requiring vaccines to participate in some parts of public life: half (50%) of those who had yet to be vaccinated say they are in favor of some type of vaccine requirement. 89% of vaccinated residents say they are in favor of implementing one or more vaccine requirement.
- Younger residents and residents living in households with children are significantly less likely to be in favor of vaccine requirements than older residents.
  - Seventeen percent of residents under 40 say they are completely opposed to vaccine requirements, compared to just 5% of those over the age of 65.
  - Similarly, 17% of residents living with children say they are completely opposed to vaccine requirements, compared to just 10% of those living without children.
- Residents with a college degree, Democrats, and those who have had a close friend or family member die from COVID are significantly more likely to support vaccine requirements.

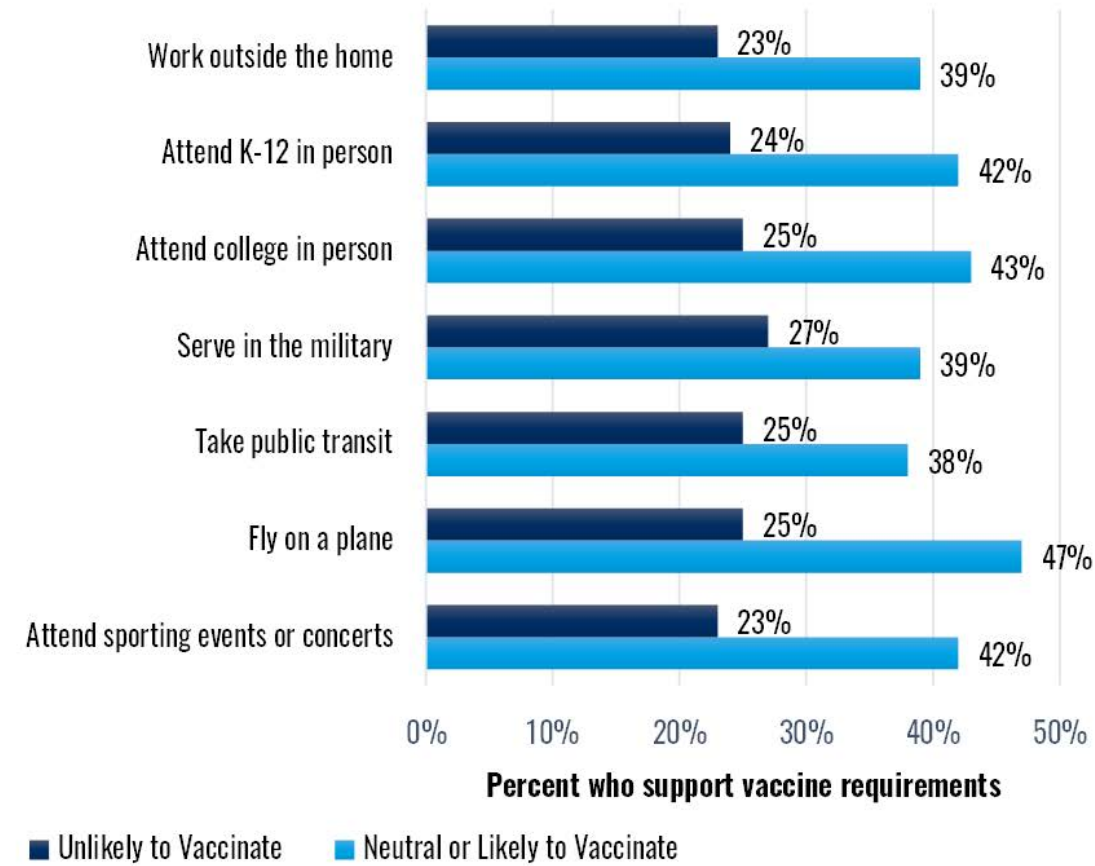
## METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

DMACS’ estimates of COVID-19 vaccine coverage rates for adults in Detroit are higher than those published on the [Michigan COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#), which draws data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). For Detroit adults ages 20 and over, DMACS estimated that the vaccine initiation rate (the percentage of adults receiving at least one dose of any vaccine) was 59% compared to 42% in the MCIR dashboard data (as of July 13th). DMACS estimated the completion rate (the percentage of adults who received the full vaccine course, two doses of a Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one dose of a J&J vaccine) was 52% compared to 35% in the MCIR dashboard data. There are several possible reasons for these discrepancies. First, the Michigan dashboard notes that it “slightly undercounts the true number of doses administered to MI residents.” This undercount could be due in part to lags in processing time, potential gaps in covering residents vaccinated outside the state or in other localities, and other sources of error in administrative data. Additionally, the denominators for the coverage rates reported in the Michigan dashboard come from [2019 Census data](#), which do not reflect changes to the population that may have occurred since the onset of the pandemic. There are also several reasons to expect that DMACS estimates of vaccine coverage may be biased toward higher rates. For one, residents who have not been vaccinated may be less likely to respond to surveys. Although we cannot rule this out, supplemental analyses examined if respondents who reported greater levels of vaccine hesitancy on a previous DMACS survey (Wave 12 - Spring 2021) were less likely to respond to the current survey and found no significant relationship between vaccine hesitancy and survey response. Also, because DMACS is based on an address-based sample it could under-represent people who experience high levels of residential instability or who spend time in institutional settings (e.g., nursing homes and correctional facilities), although it is not clear how this would affect estimates of vaccine coverage. Finally, estimates may be inflated if people feel uncomfortable reporting in a survey that they have not been vaccinated, a phenomenon referred to as “social desirability bias.” We would expect such bias to be more prevalent when the survey is administered over the phone (by a DMACS staff member) than when a respondent self-administers the survey online, but there were no significant differences across survey modes in our estimates of vaccine receipt.

## VACCINE REQUIREMENTS MIGHT INCENTIVIZE SOME UNVACCINATED TO GET THE VACCINE

- Sixty percent of residents who are not yet vaccinated but say they may vaccinate in the future support some type of vaccine requirement.
- In general, unvaccinated Detroiters who are likely or neutral to get vaccinated are more supportive of vaccine requirements than those who say they are unlikely to vaccinate in the future.

**FIGURE 4**  
**VACCINE FENCE-SITTERS ARE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF VACCINE REQUIREMENTS THAN THOSE UNLIKELY TO VACCINATE**



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Learn more at [www.detroitsurvey.umich.edu](http://www.detroitsurvey.umich.edu)**