

29 October 2021 10.33am

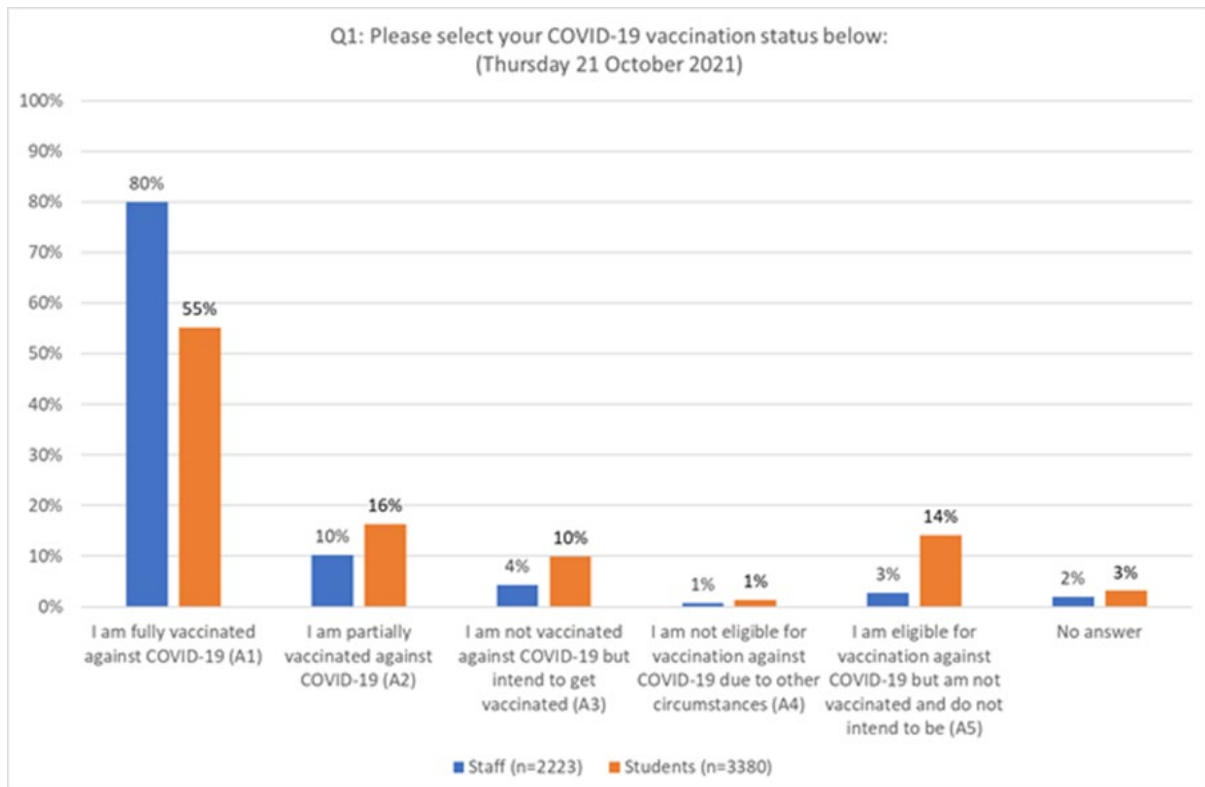
## All staff email from Professor David G. Lloyd, Vice-Chancellor and President

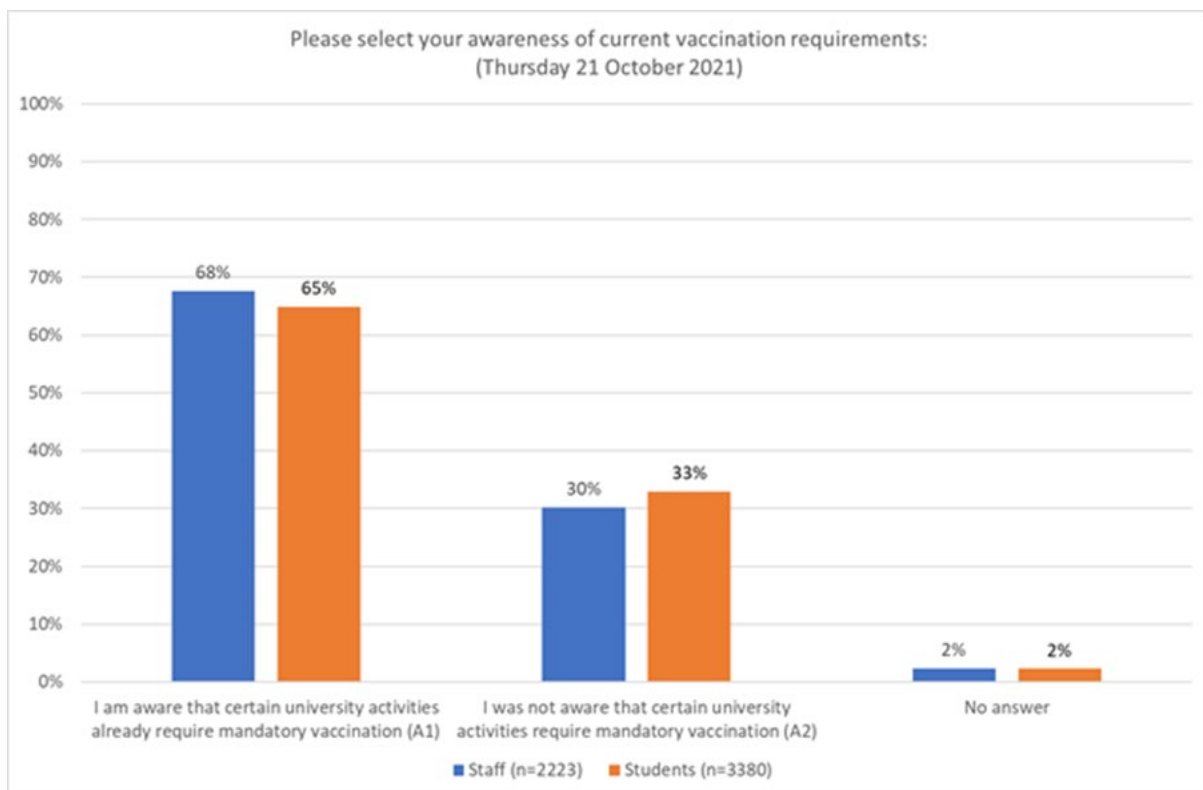
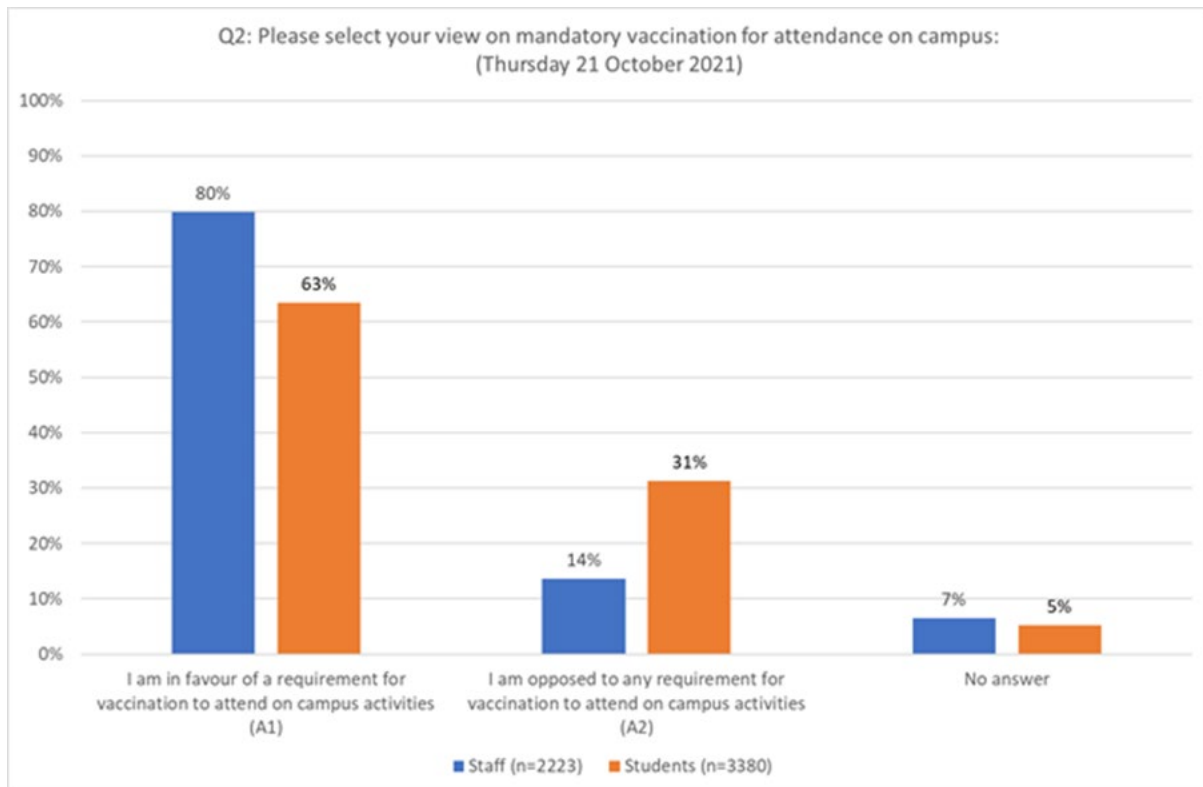
Dear colleagues,

I'd like to extend a big thank you to all of you who took the time to read through my recent very long and unashamedly pro-vaccination email and went on to complete the brief vaccination survey.

My correspondence was interpreted by some as signalling that the university was about to mandate vaccination for attendance on campus. It wasn't. It was simply to assess our levels of vaccination – so that we could share that within our community, to solicit community views regarding the possibility of having to require vaccination in the future, and to measure overall awareness of those requirements for vaccination which already apply to many areas of the university, stemming from the disciplines, study, work and research practices underway in those areas.

So here are the results from over five and a half thousand respondents.





As you can see, very high numbers of respondents are fully, partially or intending to be vaccinated against Covid-19: an aggregate of 94% of staff, and 81% of students. This bodes very well for the protection of our university as borders re-open on 23<sup>rd</sup> November under the State recovery roadmap and we expect to see community transmission. However, if we are collectively to reach the full relaxation of restrictions for everyone in SA before Christmas, which only occurs

at a 90%+ vaccination rate, then this data suggests that our student vaccination rate could fall short of that goal.

When the disclosed rates of vaccination are held alongside the views expressed on mandatory vaccination requirements, it suggests that while a clear majority would not be opposed to such a scenario, we are a clearly a population who have made informed personal choices to protect ourselves through vaccination, but respect the freedom of choice of others.

Nationally and locally, so much has changed in so short a space of time regarding Covid-19 management it is important that we are aware of this data and its implications. As interstate border restrictions are eased, the freedoms of movement and restrictions on activities will come under increased scrutiny – as our population seeks to do the right thing, as so many have throughout this extended pandemic, while yearning for a return to ‘normal’. The correlation between vaccination rates and that return to normal is clear – and has been published and set out for us all to see. Personally, I view it as a countdown to a time when I will be able to see my children and my own parents again, having not done so for nearly two years now. Regrettably, I am not a sample of one in this regard – the impact of this disease goes far beyond health to the heart of societal well-being.

I commend those among you who have rolled up their sleeves to date – your actions take us closer to that 90% number and to a future where we will be living with Covid, but without fear or restriction.

With best regards,