

Delta variant convinced many to get vaccinated: Poll

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(HealthDay)—The highly contagious Delta variant is the reason more

people have decided to get vaccinated against COVID-19, a new poll shows.

But the [survey](#) by the Kaiser Family Foundation also found that among unvaccinated Americans, nearly 75% say they believe that the need for booster shots proves the vaccines don't work. Given the diverging viewpoints, it may prove harder for public health officials to convince [unvaccinated people](#) to get vaccinated.

Although incentives to get more people vaccinated (like cash, doughnuts, racetrack privileges) worked, it was the increase in COVID-19 cases that convinced nearly 40% of newly vaccinated people to finally get their shot. And more than one-third were alarmed by overcrowding hospitals and increasing deaths, according to the survey.

"When a theoretical threat becomes a clear and present danger, people are more likely to act to protect themselves and their loved ones," Drew Altman, the Kaiser Family Foundation's chief executive, told *The New York Times*.

The survey included more than 1,500 people and was conducted from Sept. 13 to 22.

Other key findings include:

- One-third said that they got the shot to travel or attend events where vaccinations were required.
- 20% cited employer mandates as their reason to get vaccinated.
- 15% cited full U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the Pfizer vaccine.
- 72% were at least partly vaccinated, up from 67% in late July.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 77%

of adults have had at least one shot, the *Times* noted. The sharpest jump this month was in vaccination rates for Hispanics, with a jump of 12 percentage points since late July, to 73 percent, the poll showed.

But the political divide remains wide, with 90% of Democrats having gotten at least one dose, compared with 58% of Republicans.

Also, about 80% of adults believed COVID is now a permanent fixture in the United States. Only 14% believe "it will be largely eliminated in the U.S., like polio," the poll found.

More information: Visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more on [COVID vaccines](#).

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