The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky commissioned the **Insights on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccines in Kentucky Poll**, in June and July 2022. At the time of the poll, the COVID-19 pandemic had been underway for more than two years and the BA.5 Omicron subvariant was becoming the dominant strain the Commonwealth. As of June 18, 2022, the COVID-19 vaccine was available to everyone 6 months and older. But many of the cases at the time were among vaccinated and boosted Kentuckians. Still, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised being “up to date” on the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters – meaning an individual has received all primary doses and boosters available to them – was the best way to avoid serious illness, hospitalization and death.

At the time of publication, the Kentucky Department for Public Health reported 58% of the population as being fully vaccinated and 27% being boosted.

**Possibility of getting the vaccine in the future**
Of those who had not received the COVID-19 vaccine at the time of the poll... a little more than one-third signaled they would be open to getting the vaccine. A small amount, 2.1% of unvaccinated respondents, said they would get the vaccine as soon as possible. As of June and July of 2022, 18.7% of Kentucky adults said they were waiting to see how the vaccine worked for other people. And 15.6% said they would only get it if the vaccine was required for school, work, or other activities.

These responses indicated there is still room to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Kentucky.

While there are unvaccinated people open to receiving the vaccine at some point, the percentage of those who said they would “definitely not” get the vaccine has risen. In 2022, 63.5% responded this way, compared to 46.6% in August 2021 and 19% in 2021.
A Shift in Perception

The 2022 poll shows a shift in whether Kentuckians believe getting vaccinated is a personal choice, is part of everyone’s responsibility to protect the health of others, or both equally. In February 2021,

Kentuckians were split nearly equally on the issue. In June – July 2022, nearly two-thirds of people believed it was a personal choice. This shift is also reflected in age breakdown and geography.
Generally speaking, which of the following statements comes closer to your view about getting a COVID-19 vaccine...

- Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- Both equally

Kentucky (Feb. 2021)
- 48%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 49%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 3%: Both equally

Urban (Feb. 2021)
- 40%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 58%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 2%: Both equally

Suburban (Feb. 2021)
- 43%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 47%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 5%: Both equally

Rural (Feb. 2021)
- 55%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 43%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 3%: Both equally

18-29 (Feb. 2021)
- 47%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 52%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 2%: Both equally

30-45 (Feb. 2021)
- 54%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 42%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 3%: Both equally

46-64 (Feb. 2021)
- 51%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 46%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 3%: Both equally

65 and over (Feb. 2021)
- 37%: Getting vaccinated is a personal choice
- 58%: Getting vaccinated is a part of everyone's responsibility to protect the health of others
- 4%: Both equally

Source: "Vaccines in Kentucky: Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Poll" Margin of error +/- 3.5%, (February 11- March 12, 2021)