

Topline Summary

Global Survey Reveals Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on People with Lupus

The World Lupus Federation conducted a global survey concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living with lupus. The 20-question survey was implemented from March 18-31, 2021 and completed by 6,100 people living with lupus from more than 85 countries. The survey results highlight the recent experiences and broad impacts that COVID-19 has had on people living with lupus, including reduced access to medical care for lupus, lupus-related health complications during the pandemic, concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccines, and restricted access to lupus medications. [Click here to view detailed global survey results.](#)

Half of the survey participants (50%) reported **decreased access** to at least one aspect of lupus healthcare in the last three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



36%

Reported decreased access to their lupus **doctor/rheumatologist**
(n=5,873)



29%

Reported decreased access to **medical tests for lupus**
(n=5,413)



24%

Reported decreased access to **infusions for lupus**
(n=2,311)



17%

Reported decreased access to **lupus medications**
(n=5,705)

2 in 3 reported lupus-related **medical complications** in the past 3 months.

Among the nearly two-thirds who reported lupus-related medical complications in the past three months, complications included a lupus flare (36%), multiple lupus flares (23%), or lupus-related hospitalizations (4%). Just over one-third (37%) of survey participants reported having no health complications.

Did **not** report reduced access to lupus health care in last 3 months

19%



Multiple lupus flares in last 3 months

Reported **reduced access** to lupus health care in last 3 months

28%



3%



Lupus-related hospitalizations in last 3 months

4%



Those participants who reported reduced access to at least one lupus treatment over the last three months were significantly more likely to have reported lupus-related health complications, including more lupus flares and more lupus-related hospitalizations (n=6,003).



10% of survey participants living with lupus have been infected with COVID-19.

Those living in the United States were statistically more likely to report having been infected with COVID-19 (11%) than those living outside the U.S. (7%).

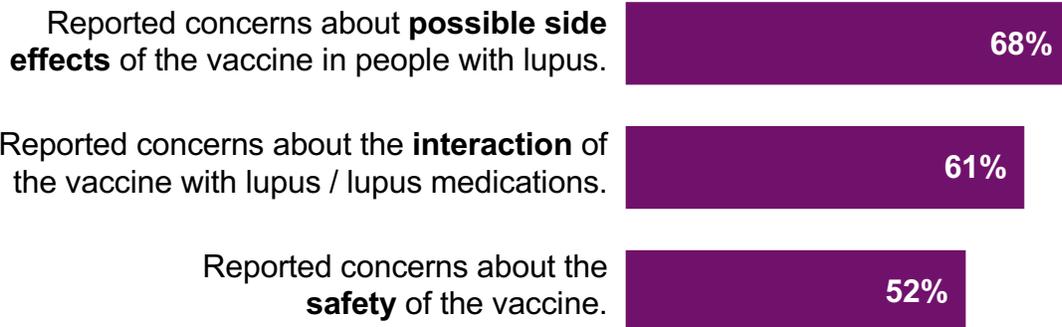


1 in 3 were not able to receive the vaccine ahead of general population.

More than a third (35%) of participants reported that people with lupus in their local area were not able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the general population. Another 35% did not know whether those with lupus could receive the vaccine earlier than the general population.

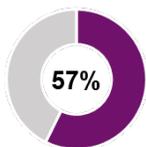
75% of the participants reported vaccine-related concerns.

Among those with vaccine-related concerns, the highest number reported being concerned about the possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in people with lupus, the interaction of the COVID-19 vaccine with lupus and/or lupus medications, and the safety of the vaccine.

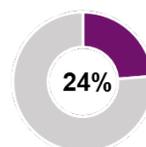


45% of the participants had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Those living in the United States were significantly more likely to report having received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine than those living outside the United States.



57% of participants **living in the U.S.** received at least one vaccine dose



24% of participants **living outside the U.S.** received at least one vaccine dose