

WORCESTER U3A  
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY  
JULY 2020

COVID-19: HOW AND WHEN TO RE-START ACTIVITIES

## Introduction and summary

*I do like zoom, I don't mind distancing, don't mind masks, wouldn't go cos of risk*

Given the ongoing situation with Covid-19 and limitations to U3A activities, the intention of the member-wide survey was to gauge the opinion of Worcester U3A members as to how and when we re-start our activities, September or later.

1,065 members were asked to contribute to the survey (1,015 online and 50 by post); over 70% of members returned completed questionnaires.

**Start:** More than half of members say starting before the end of the year is too soon, and suggested we start in the new year or should wait to see how the situation develops.

**September:** Only a quarter of members say they would go to meetings in September but suggested that outdoor groups might start now. Members are less comfortable about attending large gatherings, such as Main Meetings, or where social distancing may be an issue.

There is a recognition that whenever activities start again some groups may be able to begin sooner than others but places could be limited; members suggested we consider splitting groups and offer hybrid meetings with both in-person and online participation to allow more members to benefit.

**Vaccine:** One-third of members are likely to wait for a vaccine and are unlikely to go to meetings until one becomes available.

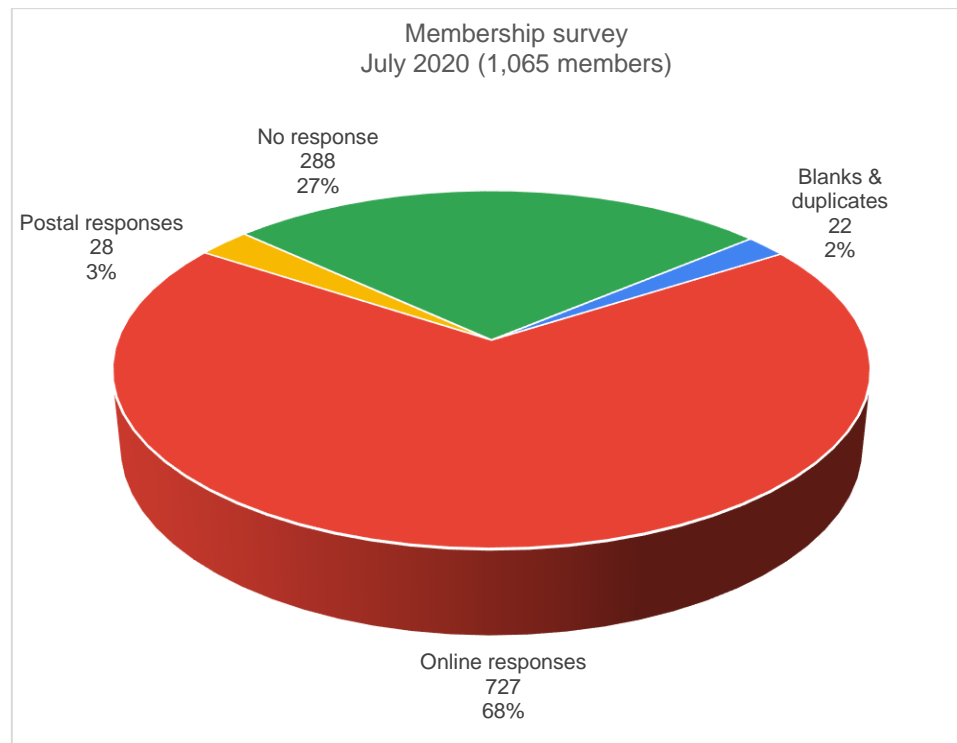
Members indicated they are cautious about the risks of attending U3A activities in person and made suggestions as to ways to make meetings safe, commenting on social distancing, face-coverings, the size of rooms, and the need for cleaning.

**Online:** One-third of members said they would participate online and requested help in getting started. Members are disappointed that they may not be able to go to meetings in person but see participating online as an opportunity until the situation improves.

Across the membership, around 1 in 6 members are unlikely to participate online or go to meetings until a vaccine is available; these members may not be able to benefit from U3A activities until the Covid-19 crisis is under control and no longer presents a risk.

## Survey results

### How many responses?



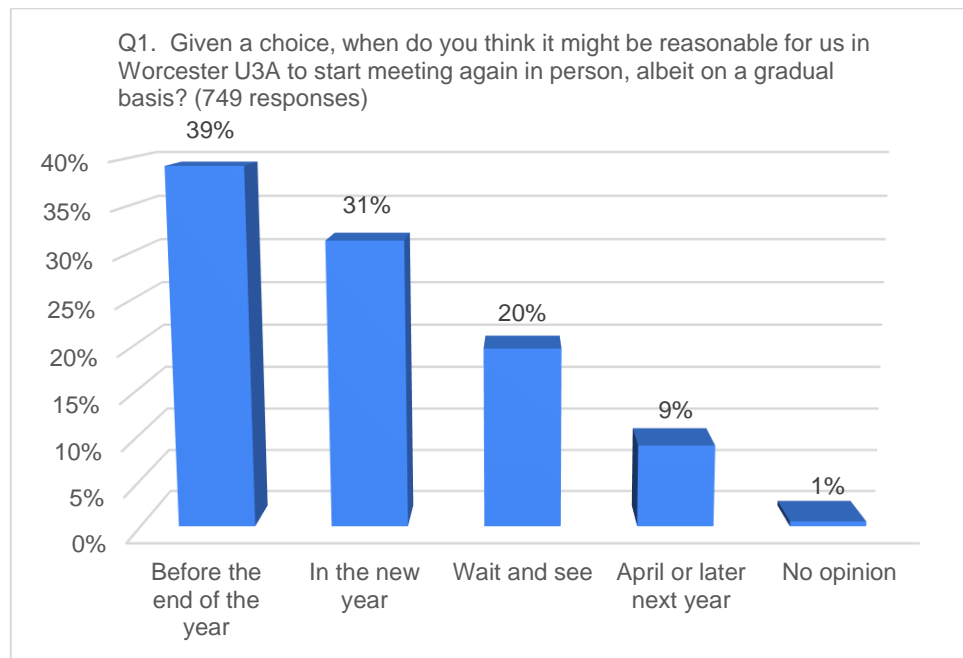
	ONLINE	POSTAL	TOTAL
QUESTIONNAIRES ISSUED	1,015	50	1,065
<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>777</b>
BLANKS & DUPLICATES <sup>1</sup>	(22)	-	(22)
<b>COMPLETED</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>755</b>
RESPONSE RATE	72%	56%	71%

<sup>1</sup> 15 duplicates & 7 blanks have been removed from the analysis

**Comment:** With over 70% of members responding, the survey is a good representation of current attitudes.

## Q1. When should we start again?

**Purpose:** This was a general scene-setting question about what members thought we, as Worcester U3A, should do.



	ONLINE	POSTAL	TOTAL
BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR	39%	37%	39%
IN THE NEW YEAR	32%	22%	31%
WAIT AND SEE	20%	19%	20%
APRIL OR LATER NEXT YEAR	9%	22%	9%
NO OPINION	1%	-	1%
RESPONSES	722	27	749

*Responses to other questions suggest that 'Wait and see' can be placed between 'In the new year' and 'April or later next year' (see Annex A)*

**Comment:** Over half of members are not in favour of us starting meetings before the new year.

However, those members who suggested we could reasonably start before the end of the year were enthusiastic about getting back together:

*I can't wait to get back to interacting with my U3A friends in person.*

*Life is too short at our age to sit at home for ever!*

*Let's get back to normal life.*

*Please start again before the end of the year*

Others thought that the outcome of the next few months was uncertain and we should think about starting in the new year, especially as we face the prospect of winter:

*All these answers are contingent upon there being no reintroduction of more stringent lockdown measures.*

*Could some groups meet in local churches or larger halls where there is space to sit well apart and ventilated. Also there will inevitably be the usual winter coughs and colds which will complicate things further.*

*I think the possibility of resuming meetings will depend on any winter outbreaks.*

*I think that we should wait and see what happens in the last quarter of this year with the virus and make a decision in January depending on the numbers infected and if there is a second wave*

Members who suggest waiting or not starting until April or later are more cautious:

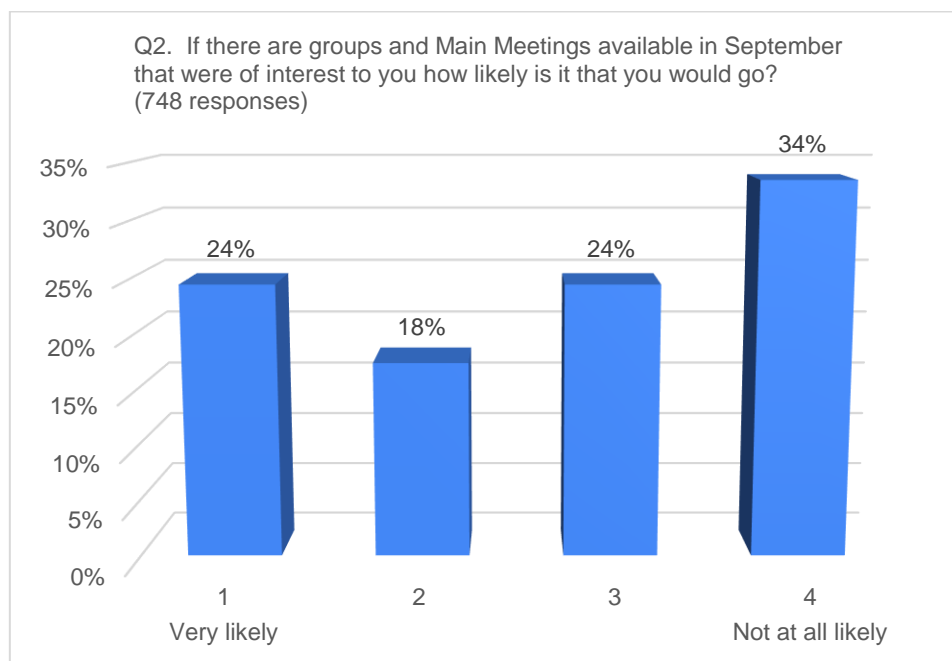
*Very difficult to make any decisions at present. We miss the companionship but must be so careful.*

*Several of the answers to these questions depend, of course, on the size of the meeting place, the environment in which the meetings take place. I want to be out and about but we have a very vulnerable [family member] so am cautious.*

*[...] Personally, I feel that U3A Worcester should effectively write this year off and hope that all will be well next year.*

## Q2. Would you go to meetings in September?

**Purpose:** This question asked the member to think about their own attitude towards going to meetings.



		ONLINE	POSTAL	TOTAL
VERY LIKELY	1	24%	35%	24%
	2	18%	8%	18%
	3	25%	19%	24%
NOT AT ALL LIKELY	4	33%	38%	34%
	RESPONSES	722	26	748

**Comment:** Over half of members said they are unlikely to go to meetings in September if they were available.

Members who are less likely to attend meetings in September, are concerned about mixing with large numbers of people and say we must be cautious about going ahead:

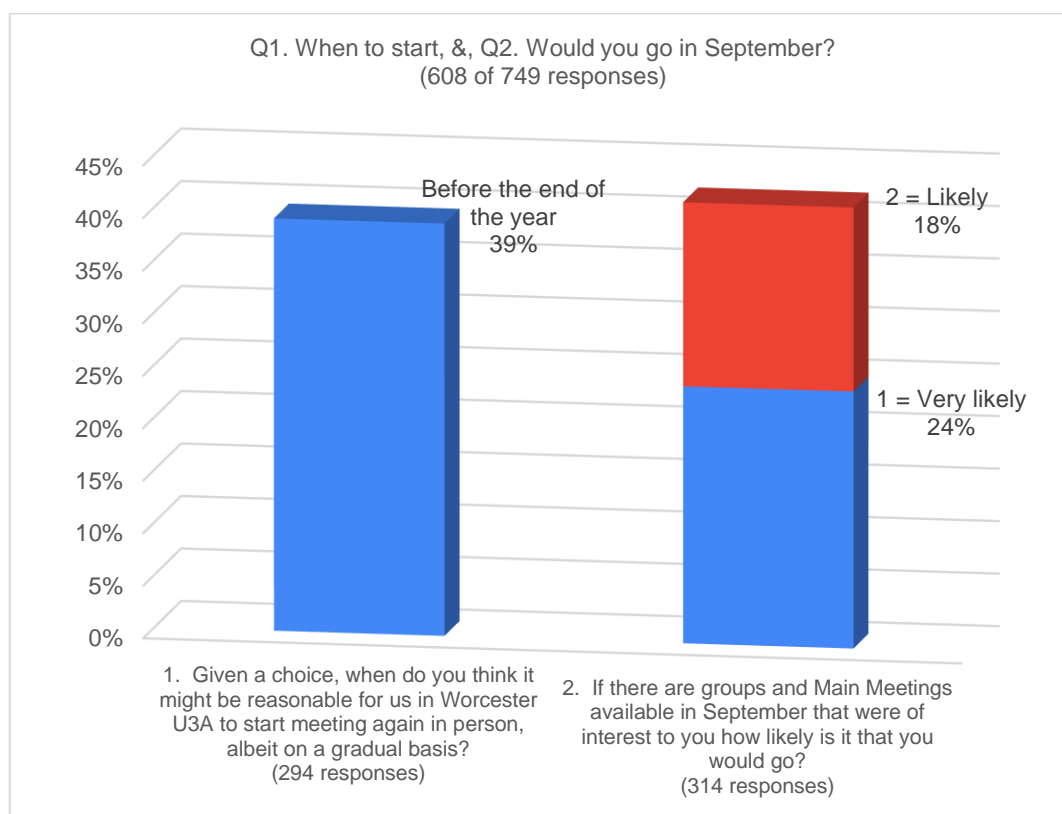
*I am afraid like many of my age I just am not happy with the idea of mixing with numbers of people indoors*

*I would be interested in outdoor group meetings (e.g. walking). I am not comfortable about committing to indoor/larger group meetings.*

*Due to our age, we need to go beyond government precautions*

However, a third of members who answered the postal survey are very likely to go to meetings in September if they are available – a higher proportion than members responding online (24%). These members answering by post also say they are unlikely to participate online.

Responses show there is a similar attitude as to when to start (Q1), and the likelihood of going to meetings in September (Q2):



**Comment:** The number of members who are likely to go to meetings in September (Q2 42%) are broadly in-line as those who suggest we could start before the end of the year (Q1 39%).

Whilst only one-quarter of members are very likely to go to meetings in September, there are another one in five who may go if they feel it is safe. However, this depends both on the nature of the group and the precautions that are taken.

Comments highlight the issues that are important to members and offers some insight as to how we might re-start our activities.

There was recognition that outdoor groups can go ahead:

*I see no problems with outdoor activities.*

*I think that activities that take place outside, e.g. Walking, cycling, etc could start quite soon as it is easier to keep to social distancing.*

*Some groups such as the cycling and walking groups could be running now with social distancing. [...]*

*[...] Outdoor [groups] under the current regulations would appear acceptable to me.*

But some groups may be less attractive:

*Answers really depend on the group, walking and cycling easier than in a small room*

*Going back to groups depends a lot on the activity.*

*I think some Groups, e.g. walking, could start at any time but I play Bridge &, for me, it will probably be many months before play can be resumed.*

Members acknowledged the difficulty of knowing when to start as there are differing concerns depending on the activity and suggested that the risk be assessed for each group:

*The level of risk is very dependent on the particular activity involved [...]*

*Huge variation among groups in potential risk and ability to maintain social distancing.*

*Decisions MUST be based on group-specific risk assessments.*

*I think that designated members should inspect each group to ensure that it complies with the safest measures, before and during the term. [...]*

And there are concerns that there may not be enough places for all the members who want to go to groups:

*I think it is unrealistic to restart on a piecemeal basis. [...] How would group leaders decide who could join their groups if there were 1000 members trying to fit into a small number of groups?*

*I normally go to a meeting once a fortnight, but maybe that could be split into two groups, and once every four weeks for both groups. This would help with the social distancing.*

*If the groups concerned had a large response it is unlikely that social distancing could be maintained. [...] Maybe certain groups could be split and depending on the leaders could meet alternate weeks.*

*[...] I think that there may be a way of having "hybrid" groups where meetings are a combination of in person and some online. "Booking" ourselves onto in person meetings will become the norm to ensure group sizes are safe.*

At least one member wondered if there would be room for them should they decide to stay away:

*If I belong to a well-subscribed group (i.e. with a waiting list) which decided to return in September, but I did not want to go back until January, would I lose my place?*

Because of the need for social distancing, members also suggest thinking about other activities, even if that means not being able to attend in person:

*In view of the uncertainty over when we can safely and comfortably meet for real, we need to develop activities which CAN happen online e.g. crossword/ sudoku groups, discussions etc. [...]*

And there was recognition of the situation faced by those members who actively contribute to the success of U3A:

*Assuming that some of the pro-active members will need to stay away, I think that the remaining pro-active members may have to give an unreasonable extra effort to keep things going. (I speak as a non pro-active member who appreciates all that they do.)*

Members are less keen to go to Main Meetings too soon:

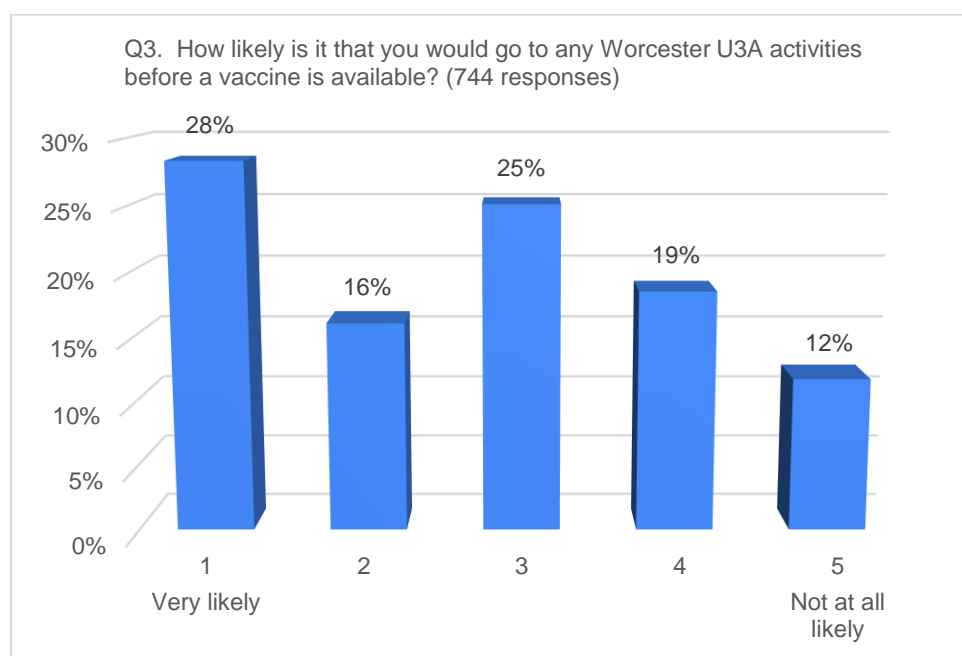
*I would be happy to go to main meetings at [our largest venue] if numbers were limited and we could all be socially distanced and no drinks. [...]*

*I am keen to start meeting in person, where safe and sensible systems are in place. I would not want to go to big Main Meetings. [...]*

*I would be very likely to go to small groups but would avoid main meetings [...]*

### Q3. Waiting for a vaccine?

**Purpose:** The question was directed at identifying the members who are unlikely to participate in in-person meetings for the longer term.

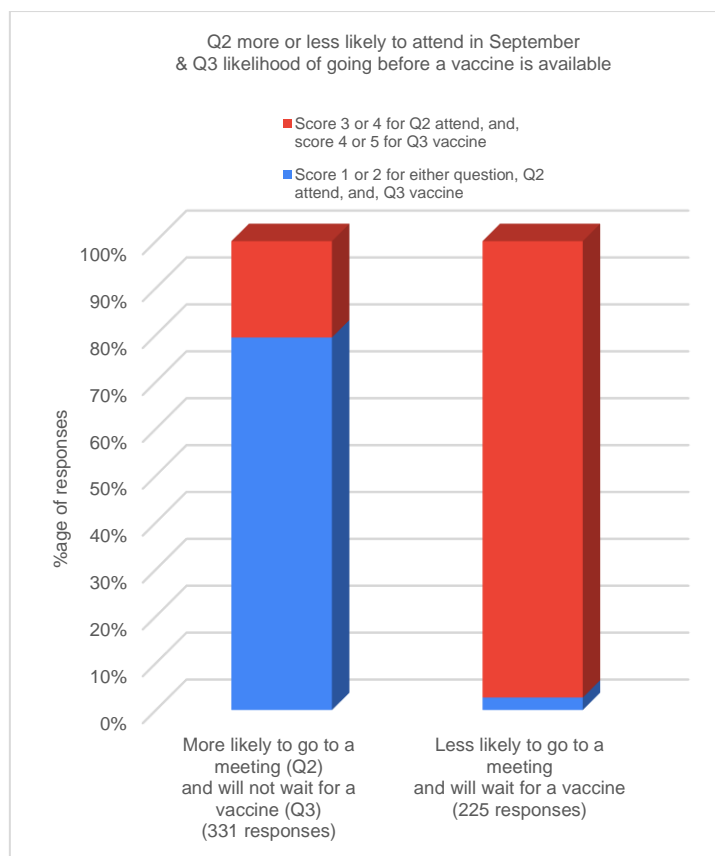


		ONLINE	POSTAL	TOTAL
VERY LIKELY	1	28%	28%	28%
	2	16%	12%	16%
	3	25%	16%	25%
	4	18%	20%	19%
NOT AT ALL LIKELY	5	11%	24%	12%
	RESPONSES	719	25	744

**Comment:** More than 1 in 10 members are not at all likely to go to meetings and will wait for a vaccine and this increases to almost one-third of members for whom the availability of a vaccine is an important consideration (score 4 or 5).

However, there is a substantial difference between members who will wait and those who will not wait for a vaccine. Members who are not waiting for a vaccine are much more likely to say they would go to meetings in September if they were available (79%, n = 331). In stark contrast, almost every member who will wait for a vaccine also say they are unlikely to go to meetings in September (97%, n = 225):





Members who are waiting for a vaccine are also more likely to suggest a later start to our activities and suggests that for around one-third of the membership, the availability of a vaccine is significant factor in deciding when to return:

*The rooms and venues I have used have been small and quite cosy and given the age group of members and potentially high proportion of those with health conditions these are not safe spaces until a vaccine is available hopefully next year (or there are no cases - which is unlikely). [...] online Zoom groups would for me be a welcome temporary solution until a vaccine is available and we can all resume our normal lives.*

*I would be very reluctant to take any chances before a vaccine is available.*

*I will not be attending any U3A activities until a vaccine is available.*

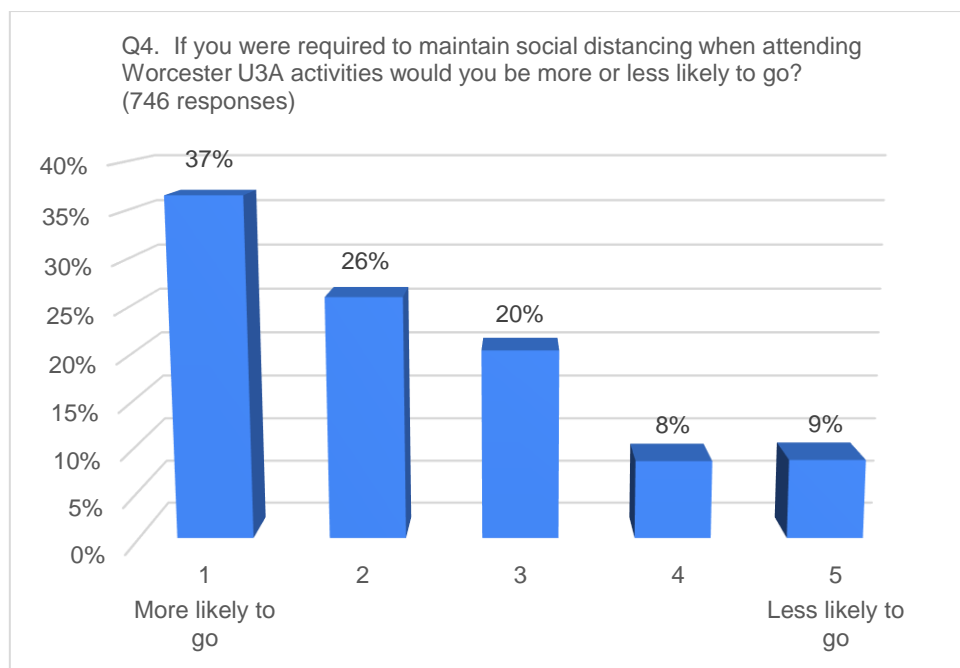
Members who are not waiting for a vaccine are considerate of the concerns of other members but also have commented on the uncertainty of when a vaccine may become available:

*[My] responses are based on the fact that I have no underlying health conditions. If I did have a condition my answers would be based on no meeting until a vaccine is available.*

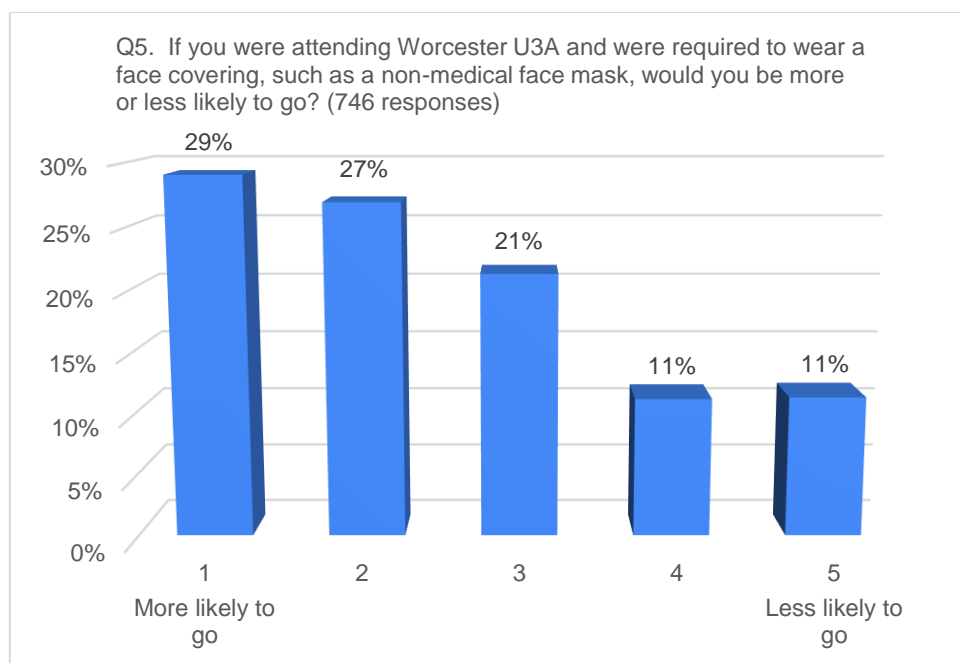
*I think this virus is going to be around for a long time, and a successful vaccine might be quite a long way off as well, so getting back to normal with safety precautions is a priority for me.*

### Are social distancing (Q4), and face-coverings (Q5) an incentive?

**Purpose:** As a minimum, we must meet government guidelines when re-starting activities. However, given the profile of our membership, members may have a more cautious view of what is necessary. The two questions, Q4 and Q5, were aimed at establishing the attitude of members to social distancing and face-coverings – how much of an incentive are they?



		ONLINE	POSTAL	TOTAL
MORE LIKELY TO GO	1	37%	35%	37%
	2	26%	15%	26%
	3	20%	23%	20%
	4	8%	8%	8%
LESS LIKELY TO GO	5	8%	19%	9%
RESPONSES		720	26	746



		ONLINE	POSTAL	TOTAL
MORE LIKELY TO GO	1	28%	46%	29%
	2	27%	15%	27%
	3	22%	8%	21%
	4	11%	15%	11%
LESS LIKELY TO GO	5	11%	15%	11%
RESPONSES		720	26	746

**Comment:** Members who say they are more likely to go to meetings if social distancing and face-coverings are required are also more likely to go to meetings in September suggesting that they are precautions that are expected to be in place.

However, members who are less likely to go to meetings have a less positive view of both social distancing and wearing a face-covering, and may not see social distancing or face-coverings as being relevant to their decision as to when to return to meetings again.

### **What do members say about going to groups?**

Members had many useful suggestions about how to make going to meetings as safe as possible despite the current circumstances.

Members recognise the need to follow guidelines:

*Life has to continue and provided we adhere strictly to government guidelines then I think there should be a move towards meeting. [...].*

*I think we need to abide by what rules the venues make.*

*I think as long as sensible guidelines are followed, I would be happy to attend meetings.*

And mentioned social distancing and face-coverings together as being a necessary precaution:

*I am happy to restart group meeting providing safe distance can be maintained or masks used.*

*I am prepared to distance and wear a face mask in order to get out and join in U3A activities!*

*I think it would be important, if we do meet indoors, that face coverings and social distancing would be maintained for some time and be compulsory*

Members saw some issues with wearing face-coverings:

*Face coverings in a language class would be very awkward! [...]*

*Face masks - at the moment, I'm happy to wear one for a shortish time, but it might not be very comfortable wearing one for the whole of a group meeting, especially if it was an active one.*

*I don't think social distancing will ever be possible i.e. in the bridge group. With regard to face mask I already have some hearing difficulty also your glasses steam up.*

This last remark also points to potential problems for those members who have issues with hearing – face-coverings make understanding what others are saying more difficult.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Human brains are designed to use visual cues, like watching one another's lips move, to help understand speech. Wearing a mask eliminates this vital visual information.

Acoustically, face masks muffle speech. Donning a mask over a hearing aid or cochlear implant can be problematic or uncomfortable – causing some to remove their hearing devices.

The need to stay at least six feet apart for social distancing can also make hearing and understanding speech more difficult. As distance increases, sound levels decrease. Research shows that moving farther away makes it more challenging for people with hearing loss to focus their attention on understanding speech.

**The Conversation**

<https://theconversation.com/masks-and-distancing-make-it-tough-for-the-hard-of-hearing-but-heres-how-to-help-136104>  
(accessed 30.07.2020)

There were also comments on the rooms where meetings take place:

*The meeting venue has a major bearing on my decision i.e. uncrowded, airy, cleaning regime etc*

*Social distancing may be difficult given that a number of the rooms used are far too small to accommodate even a small group safely.*

*Provided we use large enough rooms, maintain social distancing and use our common sense, I cannot see why some of the groups cannot meet. [...]*

*I think many of our activities could be carried out by using larger halls/rooms, if available, than we use now. This would enable us to keep social distancing. However I do realise this may not be practicable or economically viable.*

And point to the importance of cleaning rooms and equipment:

*[...] Also seating arrangements and issues such as ventilating and sanitising rooms and furniture and access to toilets need to be standardised and regulated. In normal times U3A starts up in late September and as winter approaches in heated rooms this is when people start "going down" with winter bugs. This year nobody has any idea how the spread of the virus will develop. After all the careful precautions everyone has taken, particularly those of us in the more vulnerable age brackets in U3A it would be awful if all the good was undone.*

*Short mat bowls would be very difficult to maintain good sanitation as so many people use the equipment.*

Members also asked that we do not forget that getting to a group introduces other issues:

*Because of mobility problems, reliant on taxis for transport. NOT HAPPY TO USE BECAUSE OF INFECTION RISK.*

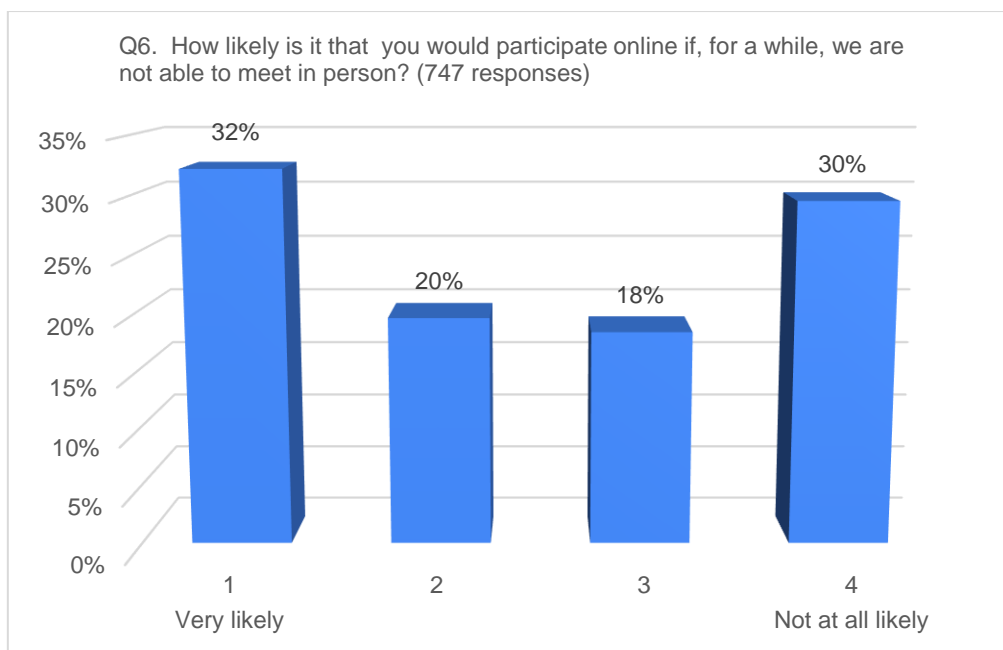
*Most choices seem to have suggested still fairly early days maybe we still need to wait until more people, transport facilities, activity organisations, etc are fully in 'action' nationwide as is normally the case. I know I miss the company & variety of friendly activities we share together & look forward to returning once an All-clear is confidently sanctioned [...]*

## **Q6. Would you participate online?**

**Purpose:** The question was directed at establishing member's attitudes to participating online. The national U3A membership survey conducted at the end of 2019 also has useful information on access to and use of technology.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/b/bailgate/docs/membershipsurvey2019v1.pdf> (accessed 28.07.2020)



		ONLINE	POSTAL	TOTAL
VERY LIKELY	1	33%	4%	32%
	2	20%	4%	20%
	3	19%	-	18%
NOT AT ALL LIKELY	4	27%	92%	30%
	RESPONSES	721	26	747

**Comment:** One-third of members said they are 'Very likely' to participate online. This was the case whether members intend to go to meetings soon or are going to wait for a vaccine suggesting that the likelihood of participating online is unrelated to their personal circumstance or attitude towards risk.

However, responses to the postal survey show a very different picture with almost all members saying they are unlikely to participate online. This points to a larger group of members who are not likely to attend meetings in September (Q2), are waiting for a vaccine (Q3), and are unlikely to participate online (Q6). These members, who contributed 16% of all responses, are distanced from our activities unless steps are taken to include them:

*Many of us would find it difficult to have things online and we'll feel excluded from many things*

*I'm registered as very vulnerable and will remain locked down there as long as I feel it's necessary. I have no access to the internet but welcome contact by post and telephone.*

*With regard to [question] number 6, I do not have a computer and I'm not online*

Some groups have already been running online using video, such as Zoom, specialised websites such as for bridge, and online forums.

Members who have participated successfully are positive about the experience:

*Zoom meeting has been excellent*

*Zoom meetings have gone well and have been beneficial. It is difficult to commit to face to face meetings at the moment as things are very uncertain and the U3A age group is vulnerable.*

*Zoom is great for our 5 or 6 member meetings; I would go to main meetings if they were on Zoom (I have not been to one yet). [...] We might attract members by offering online meetings - not everyone finds it convenient to attend in person*

*[...] I'd welcome Zoom for things like main meetings as it would save me having to travel by bus and mix in a large group when attending them.*

*Like the idea of being able to join meetings online or by video etc. - seems the safest way to proceed at the moment.*

Unfortunately, some members have had problems with online groups:

*I have been able to participate in some of the [group's] Zooms. I have found the variations in quality of sound have made it difficult to hear everyone and fully participate. It has been good to see other members of the group though.*

*[...] I tried the zoom for dancing but unfortunately our internet connection wasn't very good and I lost all sound. [...]*

Others miss the social aspect of being in a group in person:

*I enjoy going out to the groups that I attend, which is why I do not favour Zoom. I am keen that we start groups again with social distancing. I am sure that members will behave responsibly. I am not keen on masks for use over long periods, hence my reluctance to adopt them. [...]*

And see online meetings as a stopgap until we can meet again in person:

*Personally, I am happy with Zoom based meetups, but am aware that quite a few people in groups are unable or unwilling to take part in this way and there is a danger of excluding them. However, I suspect that they are also some of the people who are going to want to wait longest before being happy to attend physical meetings, so at least Zoom meetings keep the groups going with some of their members. [...]*

*[...] Stick with Zoom and review at the end of the year would be my suggestion but we really do need to get together as soon as we realistically can!*

**Points to consider:** The results of the 2019 U3A membership survey suggest that 95% of members have internet access and 82% use it most days. However, only 24% of members are comfortable using social media, implying the way online facilities are used is influenced by other factors.

There are questions as to how best to use online facilities from both members and Group Leaders:

*I will use online when I've mastered the necessary technology [...]*

*Zoom meetings etc. are fine, but maybe we could use more technical support, particularly for group leaders.*

*[...] There have been suggestions for using Zoom which sounds like a good solution. I personally have not used this platform before [...] I suggest that a newsletter with more information about Zoom should be sent out and requests for volunteers who have already used it to talk through how to set it up etc for those who may not be so 'tech savvy'. [...]*

## Overall

Generally, members are concerned for their health and may take a cautious view of the risks involved in attending U3A activities in person:

*U3A activities are important but the health and well-being of the members is more so.*

*As I am shielding, I am less likely to attend anything, other than Zoom meetings, while the virus is still around. If there is another wave, I will definitely not attend any physical meetings.*

*Being vulnerable, I feel very nervous about attending any meeting, no matter what precautions have been taken. (Masks would be essential at the moment, but it would still not be worth the risk for me). A proven working vaccine is essential. We are currently using Zoom to keep in touch and together as a Group; sadly not all participate. I am happy to carry on as we are at the moment. [...]*

## Thanks

Members were generous in their thanks for everyone involved in keeping Worcester U3A going through the crisis:

*Thank everyone, committee, group leaders and anyone else involved in steering us through these difficult times.*

*Thanks so much for all you do, for keeping us informed and for trying to keep us safe. Happy and proud to provide my name to such an amazing organisation.*

Thank you – the committee and group leaders appreciate your encouragement!

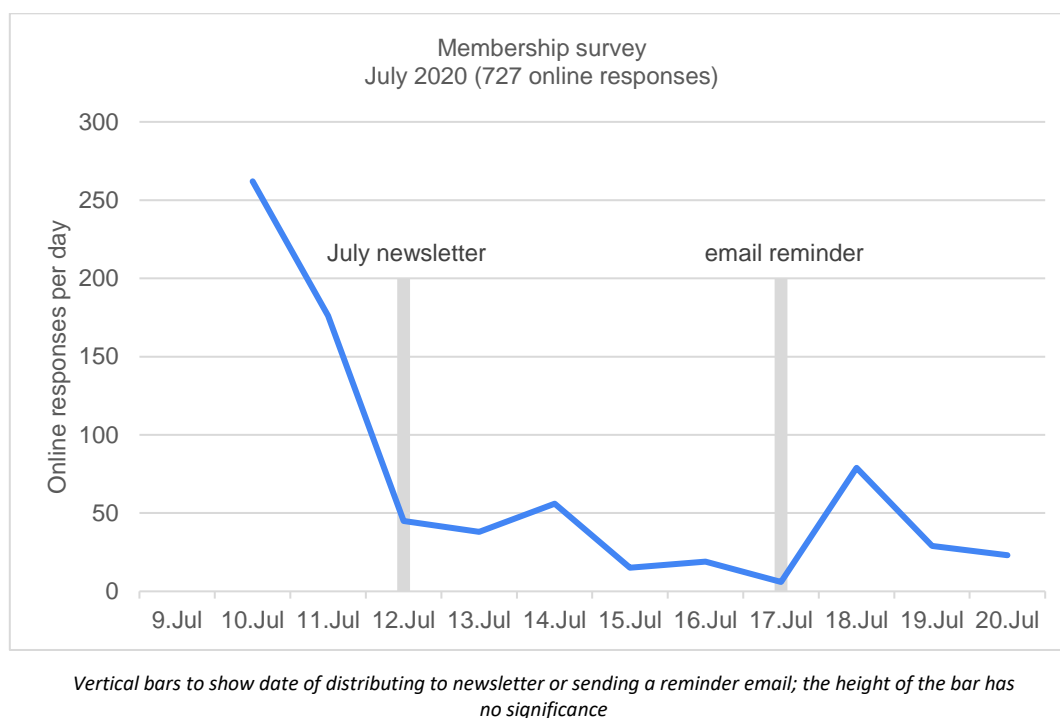
## Additional sources:

2019 U3A Membership Survey: Overview Report (dated 15.01.2020), Third Age Trust (Communications and External Affairs Committee); available [here](#) (accessed 28.07.2020)

## Annex A

### Supplementary analysis

#### Completed online questionnaires by survey day



Following the distribution of the survey by email on 9 July, there was a reminder in the July newsletter. A follow-up email was sent to members a few days later.

Completed postal questionnaires arrived throughout the survey period with no discernible daily trend in numbers received.



### Correlation between questions (weighted average)

R <sup>2</sup> (RESPONSES)	Q1 START DATE <sup>1</sup>	Q2 GO IN SEPTEMBER	Q3 AVAILABILITY OF VACCINE	Q4 MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING	Q5 WEARING FACE- COVERINGS	Q6 PARTICIPATE ONLINE
Q1 START DATE <sup>1</sup>	-	77% (740)	91% (738)	85% (739)	88% (739)	NO TREND (740)
Q2 GO IN SEPTEMBER	99% (740)	-	99% (742)	95% (743)	88% (744)	NO TREND (744)
Q3 AVAILABILITY OF VACCINE	99% (738)	97% (742)	-	99% (742)	98% (742)	NO TREND (740)
Q4 MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING	97% (739)	95% (743)	97% (742)	-	99% (743)	NO TREND (742)
Q5 WEARING FACE- COVERINGS	75% (739)	89% (744)	86% (742)	99% (743)	-	25% (742)
Q6 PARTICIPATE ONLINE	NO TREND (740)	NO TREND (744)	NO TREND (740)	NO TREND (742)	32% (742)	-

*Left hand column = independent x-variable; Top row = dependent y-variable*

*All linear correlations R<sup>2</sup> rounded down to nearest percentage point*

<sup>1</sup> Q1 scored as 1 = Before the year end, 2 = In the new year, 3 = Wait and see, 4 = April or later; Q1 response numbers exclude 4 members responding "No opinion"

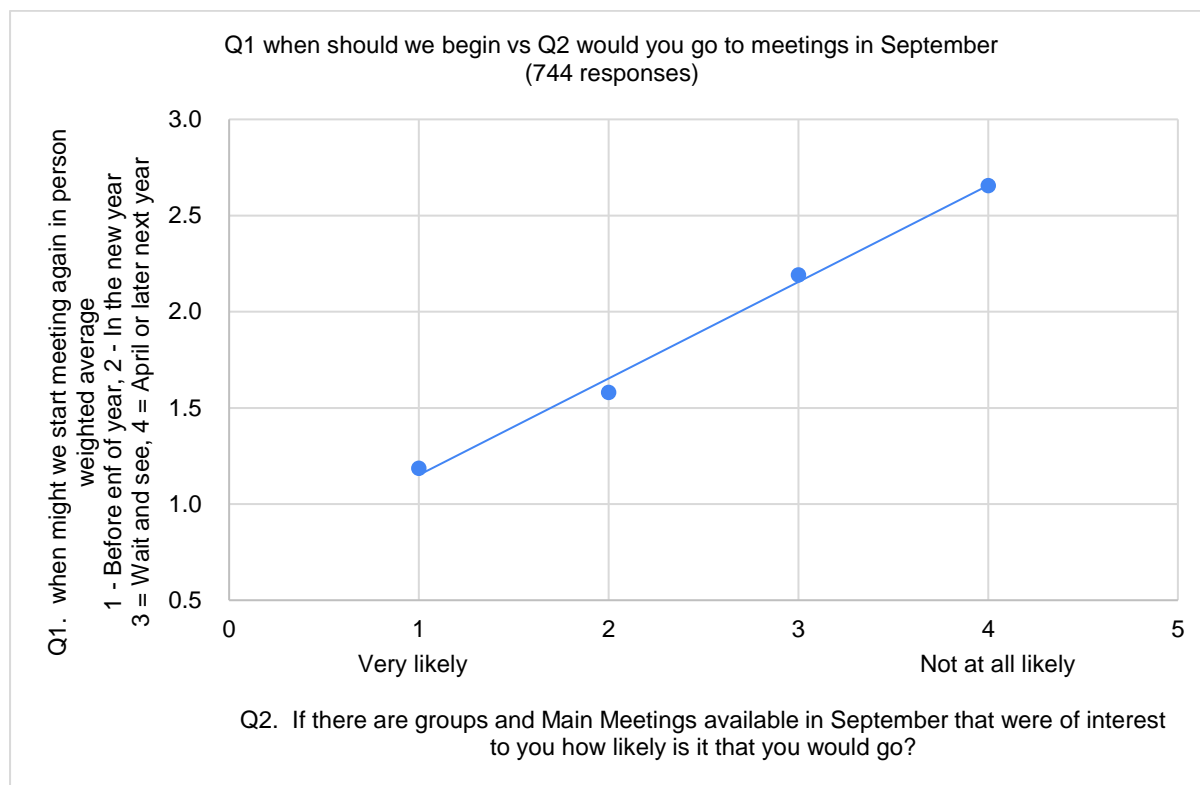
Comparison of correlations between questions shows the intention to go to meetings in September (Q2) is strongly correlated with attitudes to start date (Q1), availability of a vaccine (Q3), social distancing (Q4), and, to a lesser degree, wearing face-coverings (Q5). Correlations of Q2 with other questions are marginally stronger in all cases than for Q1 when to start.

Responses to participating online (Q6) shows no meaningful correlation with other questions suggesting that attitudes to online activities are unrelated to potential concerns about going to meetings.

The statistical significance of these results has not been tested.

## Association between suggested start date for activities and the intention to go to meetings in September

To analyse the data from Q1 when to start, a decision had to be made as to how to score 'Wait and see'. Placing 'Wait and see' between 'In the new year' and 'April or later' leads to a strong linear correlation with Q2 the intention to go to meetings in September. 'Wait and see' has been scored = 3:



Weighted average = average of n members responding with each score;  $R^2 = 99\%$

### Q1. Begin date vs Q2. Likely to attend in September

	1	2	3	4	Total
Before the end of the year	160	80	40	14	294
In the new year	11	26	84	113	234
Wait and see	10	21	45	69	145
April or later next year	1	1	12	53	67
No opinion	0	1	2	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>744</b>
<i>Weighted average</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>2.7</i>	

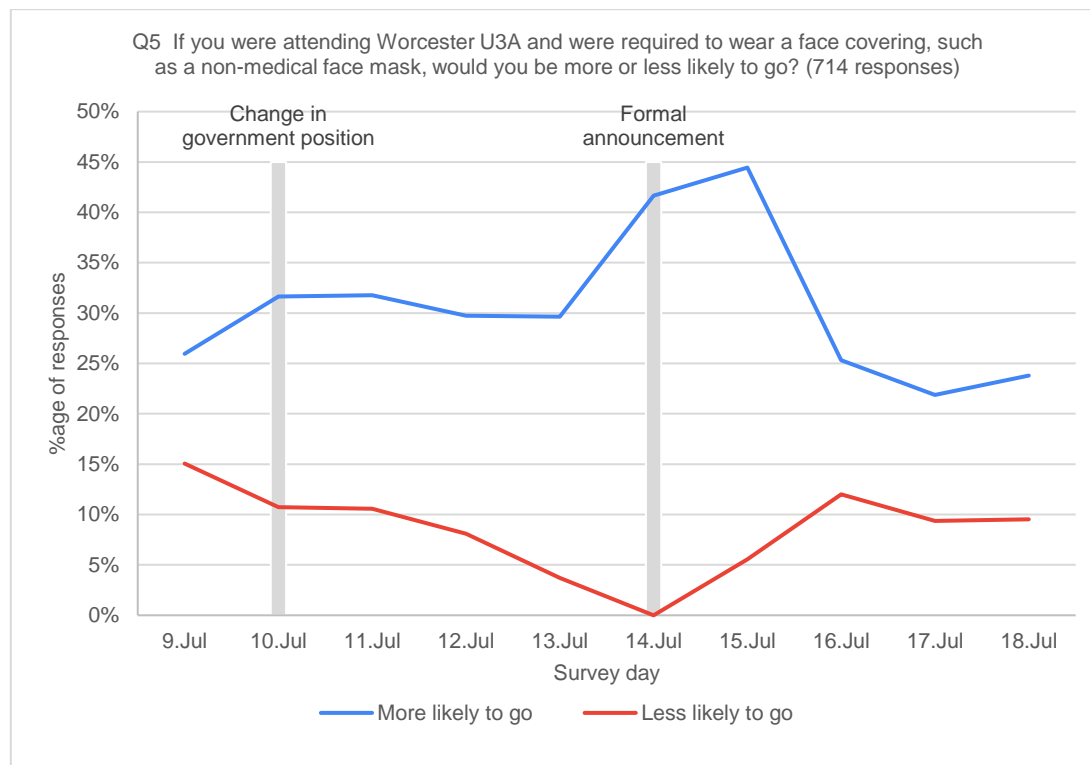
When 'Wait and see' is scored 3, there is a strong linear correlation between Q1 when to start, and questions on going to meetings (Q2), waiting for a vaccine (Q3), social distancing (Q4), and wearing face-coverings (Q5); see table of correlations above.

### Trends over the duration of the survey

After circulating the survey online on 9 July and before closing on 19 July, the government signalled that face-coverings will become mandatory on entering shops and other enclosed public places. Additionally, localised lockdowns were imposed to control Covid-19 outbreaks and the possibility raised of a second wave of Covid-19 infections coinciding with seasonal influenza. There was also

news of promising early results from one of the many vaccine trials. Any one of these could have an influence of member's attitudes.

**Question:** Have attitudes to wearing of face-coverings changed because of the recent announcements during the survey period?



*Online responses only; 16 July (n=5) and 20 July (n = 1) were excluded due to the low number of responses*

**Comment:** The government signalled a change in stance in favour of face-coverings on the second day of the survey (10 July), and a formal announcement was made on 14 July to make face-coverings mandatory when in enclosed public spaces.

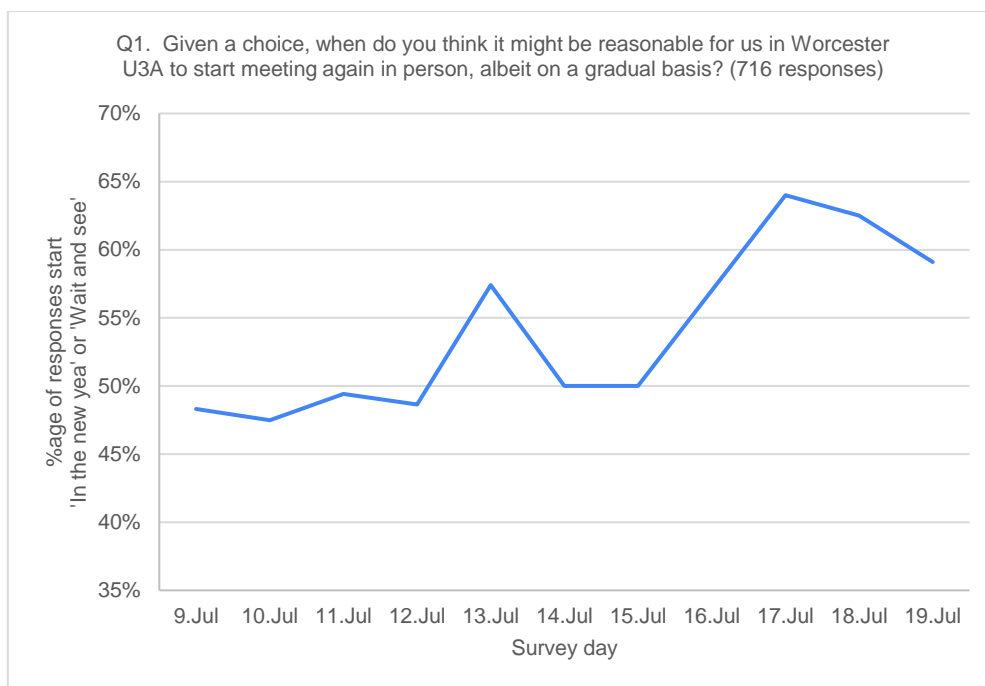
The responses over the period of survey initially were consistent with an increased intention to go to meetings if face-coverings are required. However, the change did not persist, and member's attitudes returned to the pre-announcement level, albeit with a suggestion of a modest overall downward trend over time.

**Points to consider:** Two different interpretations are offered; these are not mutually exclusive:

1. Media announcements have raised additional concerns adding to uncertainty.
2. There may be a difference in behaviour that led to the underlying trend over the survey period.

To address the question, responses over the period of the survey were analysed to see if there was a change in member's attitude to any other question.

Over the course of the survey there was a trend away from beginning 'Before the end of the year' (Q1) to start 'In the new year' or 'Wait and see'.

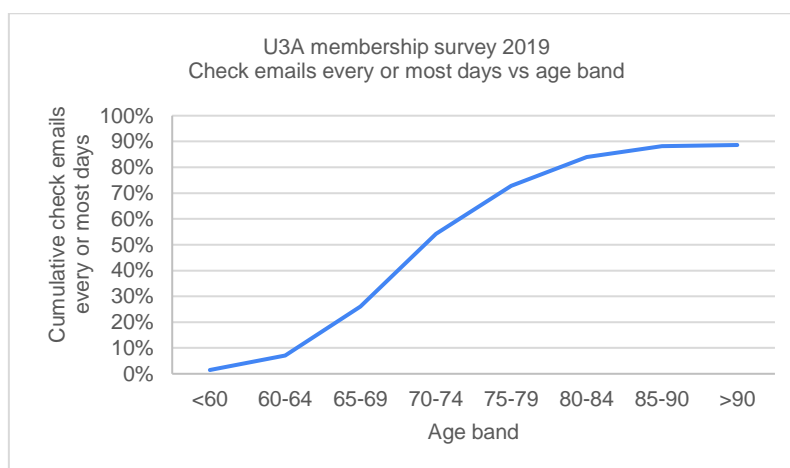


Data from responses to Q1. Given a choice, when do you think it might be reasonable for us in Worcester U3A to start meeting again in person, albeit on a gradual basis?

$R^2 = 66\%$ ; 16 July ( $n = 5$ ) and 20 July ( $n = 1$ ) omitted due to small number of responses

This trend is not strongly associated with the changing government position on face-coverings but is consistent with part of the membership responding with an increasingly cautious attitude throughout the survey period. Whilst, both interpretations offered above are possible, the 2019 U3A membership survey shows that older members tend check their emails less frequently than younger members. The movement in attitude may be related to this behaviour.

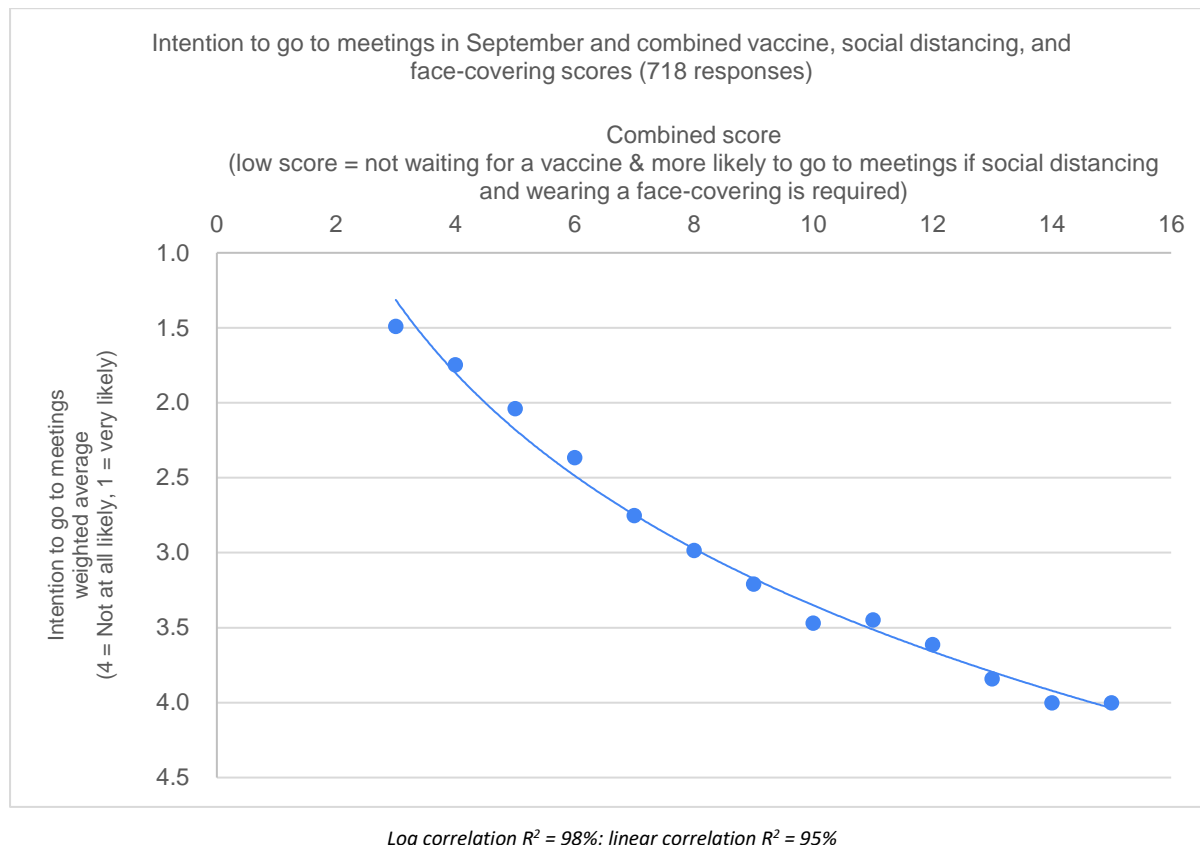
From the 2019 U3A membership survey:



Source: U3A Membership Survey 2019: overview report (15 January 2020)

## The association between waiting for a vaccine, social distancing and wearing a face-covering, and the intention to go to meetings

There is a relationship between how members responded to the questions on vaccine (Q3), social distancing (Q4), and wearing face-coverings (Q5), and both Q1, when is reasonable to start meeting in person, and Q2, the intention to go to meetings in September (the association with Q2 is shown):



The trend shows that the availability of a vaccine, social distancing and wearing face-coverings are positively correlated with the intention to go to meetings. For some members, the availability of a vaccine and the removal of the need for social distancing and wearing face-coverings may be necessary before participating again in U3A meetings.

## How do the committee's responses compare with the membership?

Thirteen of a possible 14 committee members completed the questionnaire as a pilot before it was sent to the wider membership. Taking the weighted average of responses, the committee is:

- In line with members about when to start with 39% of the membership suggesting starting earlier and 29% either later or will wait and see (Q1 weighted average score = 2, start 'In the new year').
- In the middle when it comes the attitude towards going to meetings in September with half of the membership more and half less enthusiastic (Q2 weighted average score = 2.5).
- Slightly more cautious than the membership with 62% of the membership being more optimistic and 38% being more cautious (combined weighted average scores from the availability of a vaccine (Q3), social distancing (Q4), and wearing face-coverings (Q5); sum total = 8).
- In the middle when it comes to the attitude towards participating online with half of the membership more and half less enthusiastic (Q6 weighted average score = 2).

## Annex B

### Methodology

The questionnaire was developed in Google Forms by two members of the committee and piloted with the 14 committee members. There were 13 responses and one minor change made to the final section, 'If you would like to make a comment or suggestion...'; the format of the introduction was modified to improve clarity.

The questionnaire distributed online to members is attached. The postal questionnaire was the same except for a different closing date and the inclusion of the return name and address.

A link to the online questionnaire was sent to 1,015 members by email (reciprocal and insurance members were not included). Members accessing the questionnaire online additionally received reminders through the newsletter and an email to encourage responses.

The 50 members who have not provided an email address or have requested a paper copy of the newsletter received the questionnaire along with the July newsletter. To encourage responses, a stamped addressed envelope was included with the survey.

Members were given 11 days to complete the questionnaire.

Members were not required to sign-in or identify themselves in order to complete the survey.

### Timing

The intention to conduct a survey on when to re-start Worcester U3A activities was introduced to the membership in the chairman's bulletin circulated in May 2020.

	Online members	Postal members
16 May: intention to run a membership survey announced in the chairman's bulletin	16 May	~16 May
Draft questionnaire piloted with committee	1 – 7 July	
Questionnaire circulated to members	9 July	posted 11 Jul (received 13-14 Jul)
July newsletter circulated containing a reminder about the survey	12 July (no link included)	posted 11 Jul (received 13-14 Jul)
Survey reminder	17 July (email with link)	no reminder was sent
Closing date for survey	end of 19 July	24 July (3 days allowed for receipt of questionnaires)
Days for survey completion	11 days	~11 days

## **Analysis**

Online responses were collated automatically through Google Forms into Google Sheets. Responses from postal questionnaires were transferred initially to Google Sheets before being transferred to MS Excel. Data was analysed separately by source before being combined. Committee responses were excluded from both membership data and analysis (except where noted).

Simple correlation coefficients were employed to establish associations between different questions. No statistical analysis was carried out.

There were 165 comments; these were sorted by question and response, and, separately, by subject matter. Comments were selected as being broadly representative and relevant to individual questions or related topics (minor adjustments have been made to spelling and punctuation to improve clarity but without changing the original sense; edits are indicated).

## **Exclusions (online only)**

There were 7 blank questionnaires submitted and 15 duplicates. Duplicates were identifiable either from the same comment or signature, or from questionnaires submitted within a few minutes of each other with identical responses to all questions. Their exclusion makes no noticeable difference to the overall result.

One questionnaire left all responses blank but included a comment; this was included in the reported numbers.

Unless indicated, the numbers in the report excluded blank and duplicate questionnaires.

## **Data**

Data is available on request:

*research@WorcesterU3A.org*

## Annex C

### Survey questionnaire

30/07/2020

When to restart Worcester U3A activities

## When to restart Worcester U3A activities

Before Worcester U3A can begin to meet again there are different challenges to be faced that depend both on government guidance and the way the pandemic plays out. What we are able to do also depends on the kind of meeting and the venues that are available.

Once we are able to consider restarting, we will begin only with activities where a safe environment can be provided and it is unlikely that all groups will be available immediately. Groups that meet outdoors and smaller groups where distancing can be achieved easily may well be able to start sooner than others.

We would appreciate your help in answering a few questions about meeting in person again. Recognising that there is little certainty at present, knowing how you are feeling about the future of U3A activities is valuable to us in organising our efforts.

Your anonymity is assured and no personal information is collected in this questionnaire.

There are 6 questions.

Please complete the questionnaire before Monday 20 July.

1. 1. Given a choice, when do you think it might be reasonable for us in Worcester U3A to start meeting again in person, albeit on a gradual basis?

*Mark only one oval per row.*

	Before the end of the year	In the new year	April or later next year	Wait and see	No opinion
Start again?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. 2. If there are groups and Main Meetings available in September that were of interest to you how likely is it that you would go?

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	
Very likely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Not at all likely

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1auSCyVe4-rBWvAtR5XZLU9NVTyU4cGpnty-YEErHGUA/edit>

1/3



30/07/2020

When to restart Worcester U3A activities

3. 3. How likely is it that you would go to any Worcester U3A activities before a vaccine is available?

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very likely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Not at all likely

4. 4. Social distancing could be needed for some time to come and we will review the guidance as it changes. If you were required to maintain social distancing when attending Worcester U3A activities would you be more or less likely to go?

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
More likely to go	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Less likely to go

5. 5. If you were attending Worcester U3A and were required to wear a face covering, such as a non-medical face mask, would you be more or less likely to go?

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
More likely to go	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Less likely to go

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1auSCyVe4-rBWvAtR5XZLU9NVTyU4cGpnty-YEErHGUA/edit>

2/3

30/07/2020

When to restart Worcester U3A activities

6. 6. Since the lockdown began, several groups have been using video, online forums and specialist websites and it may be possible to stream Main Meetings to view on your computer, tablet, or phone. How likely is it that you would participate in this way if, for a while, we are not able to meet in person?

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	
Very likely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Not at all likely

7. Please let us know of any comments or suggestions you may have. If you would like a response, please include your name and contact details and a member of the committee will get back to you shortly.

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Google Forms

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3/3