



Should I stay or should I go (out)?

New Zealand vs Omicron

As New Zealanders wait and watch the spread of the contagious Omicron variant, we asked whether they are curtailing activities due to concerns about catching Omicron.

One-half or more of respondents stated they had completely stopped doing three activities, or were doing them less often, specifically: attending events (54%), eating out at restaurants or cafes (54%) and using public facilities such as libraries or pools (50%).

Percentage avoiding activities because of concerns about catching Omicron - by region/age

Chart shows the percentage who have stopped the activity completely or are currently doing it less.



31

30

28 30

32

29 30

Using health services like the dentist or doctor TOTA

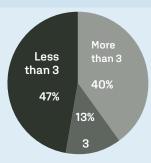
Going to the supermarket TOTA

Going into work (as opposed to working from home), assuming their employer has given them the choice



Younger respondents (18-34 years) were also more likely to state they were changing their behaviour compared to the older age group (55+). This was for all activities except using health services and going to the supermarket.

Number of activities stopped/reduced



The 'average' respondent reported changing (stopping or doing less) 3 of the 7 activities.

"What we are seeing is a form of polarisation – between those who are obviously concerned about personally catching COVID-19 and/or infecting others, and are therefore consciously changing their behaviour despite being vaccinated, and those who are simply just trying to get on with life and return to normality. The significant size of this former group has social and economic implications."

Research New Zealand Managing Partner, Emanuel Kalafatelis

These results are based on our survey of 1,001 respondents between 3 and 8 February 2022, aged 18 years and over, sourced from Dynata, and conducted online. The maximum margin of error is +/- 3.1% (at the 95% confidence level). The sample has been weighted by gender and age to ensure the results are representative of the population 18 years and over. The survey was not undertaken on behalf of any organisation, but as part of Research New Zealand's social polling of New Zealanders' opinions about topical issues.