

Vaccine Passports

Essential Credential or
Unwarranted Infringement?



The prospect of implementing a vaccine passport or mandate – effectively, documented proof that someone is fully vaccinated – has generated considerable discussion and debate of late.



As it becomes clear that a significant number of vaccine-hesitant or vaccine-opposed are unwilling to heed the recommendations of scientists and health experts, the volume on the discussion has increased steadily and audibly.

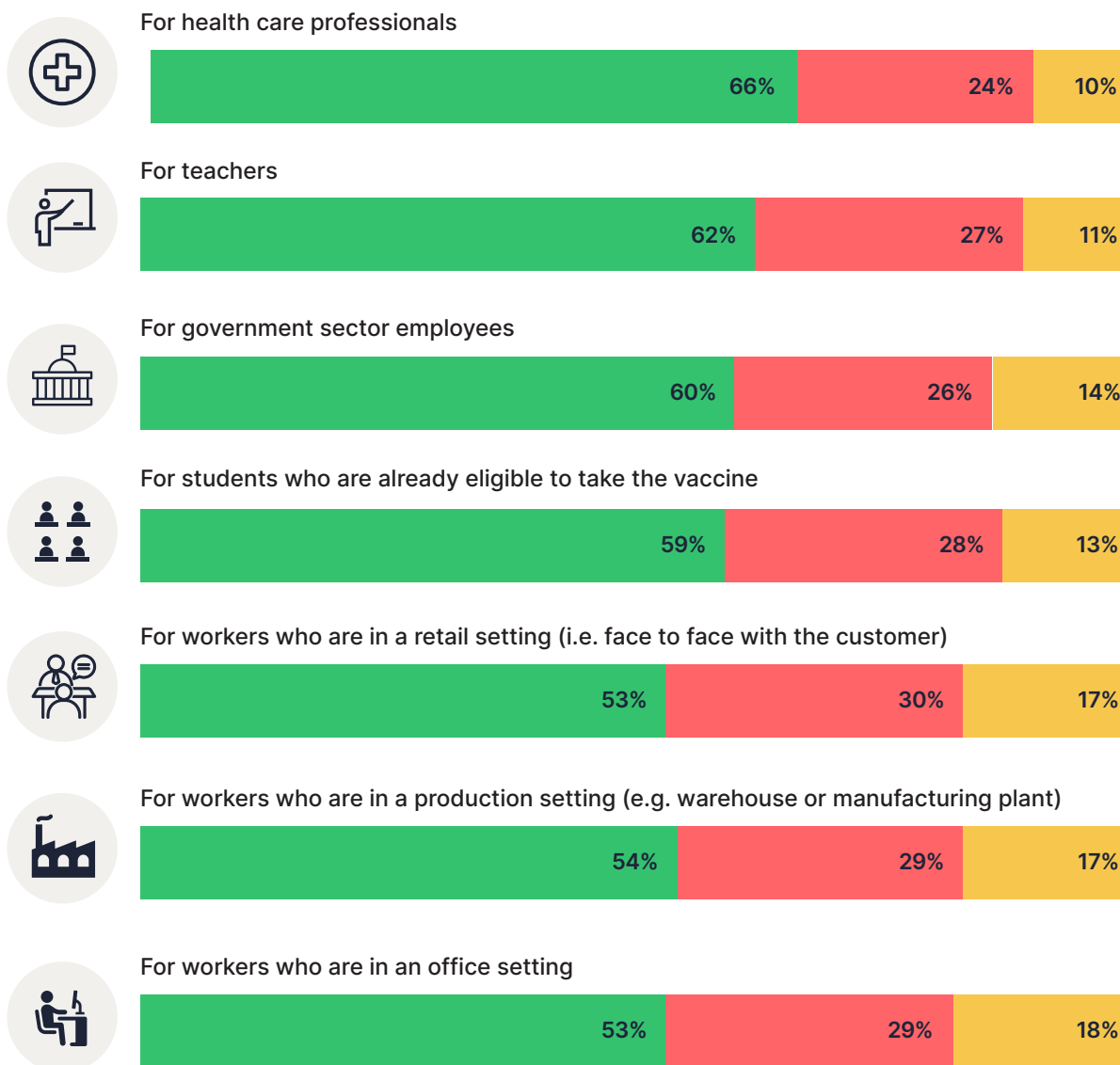
With communities eager for a return to ‘normal’, the question now arises of whether unvaccinated individuals should have access to the same services as those who would have a vaccine passport. Further, as this study captures, what are the expectations around the vaccination status within certain professions and among professionals who work alongside others.

Angus Reid Forum undertook a study that surveyed how people feel about mandatory vaccinations within professional/institutional settings as well as for those pursuing a range of personal activities. The findings indicate that, overall, support outpaces opposition for these mandates. Still, there is a wedge of uncertainty around the issue and a sliding scale around who should be mandated, and which activities deserve freer reign.

FIG 1.0

Do you support the implementation of a vaccine passport or vaccine mandate for the following work/school-related situations?

In other words, if someone doesn't have proof of full vaccination, they won't be permitted to do the following.

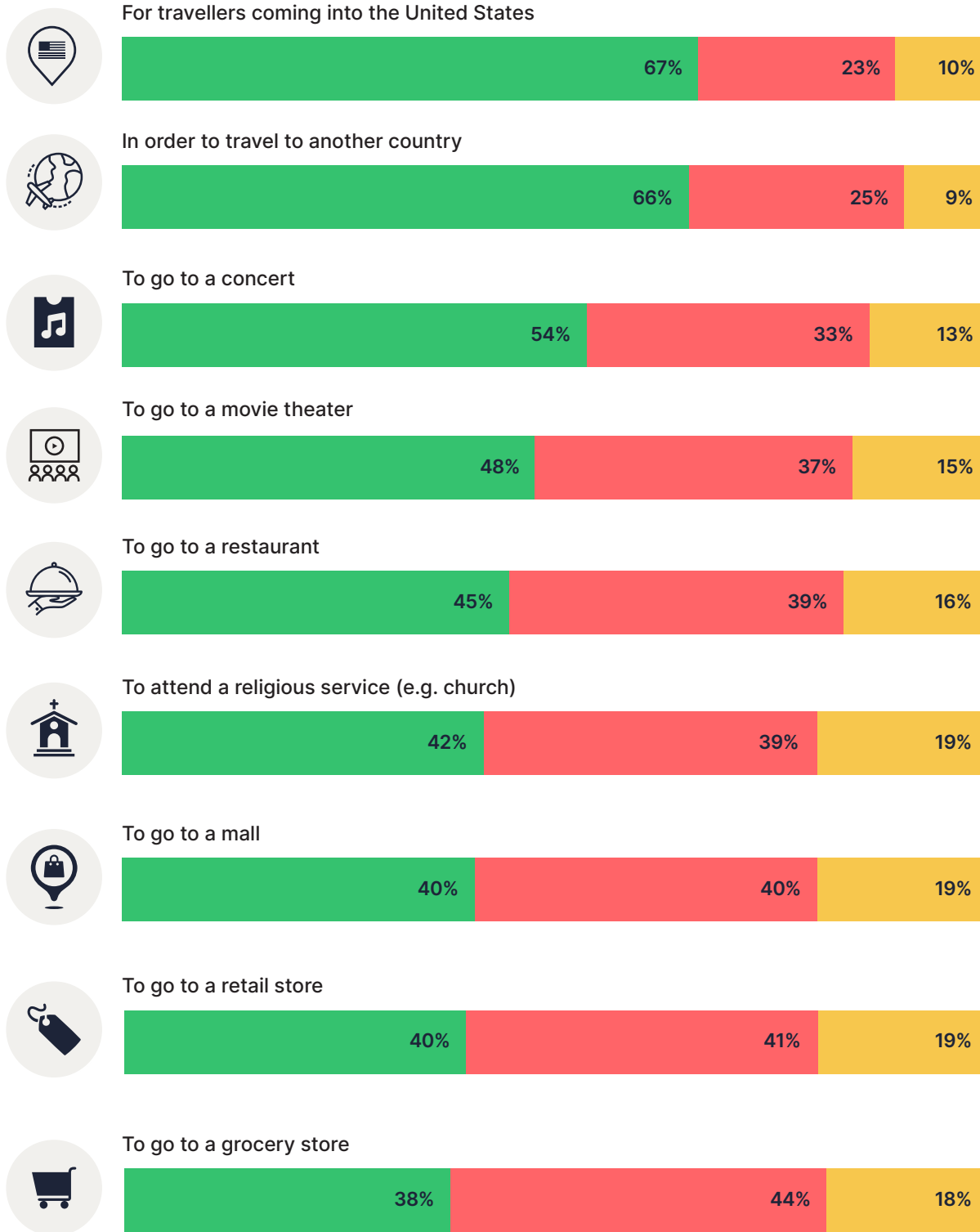


That those who work among the potentially vulnerable/immuno-compromised (health workers) and the young (teachers) rank highest among respondents suggests a higher level of presumed safety and responsibility expected. The other categories listed don't trail far behind and most respondents believe individuals have a responsibility to be vaccinated. While support clearly outweighs opposition there are still, at least, one-in-four Americans who are in opposition of vaccine mandates across each of the measured categories.

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Two-thirds of Americans believe that a vaccination passport should be a requirement for travel, whether for those visiting the United States or for travelling abroad. For other activities, respondents are split on whether proof should be a compulsory requirement, while grocery and retail shopping register notably lower support.

The responses suggest that restrictions should apply to some activities more than others. The data indicate the more routine the activity (e.g. grocery or retail shopping, going to a mall) the fewer restrictions should be imposed. Notable is the 'Not Sure' column where there is greater uncertainty as to how these everyday-type events are best managed.

The Final Shot

The prospect of having to present these credentials is a reassuring comfort for some. Others may interpret a compulsory program as undermining individual rights. Despite efforts to promote public health and protect the vulnerable, vaccine passports for several respondents are clearly considered an affront to life, liberty and the pursuit of personal choice. As concerns around the fourth wave and Delta variant continue to flare in different parts of the country, finding an agreeable solution appears to be an evolving crisis of its own.

METHODOLOGY

This study was fielded among a representative sample of n=1,013 American Adults (age 18+ yrs.) who are members of the Angus Reid Forum. The sample frame was balanced and weighted on age, gender, and region according to latest Census data. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would yield a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times of out 20.



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