

Statement of contribution

What is already known about this subject?

- Understanding the potentially modifiable determinants of vaccine hesitancy is essential in informing public health policy and communications to promote vaccination uptake;
- Motivational factors, including the perceived health threat from infections, perceived risks and benefits of vaccination, and self-efficacy can contribute to vaccine uptake and vaccine hesitancy.
- Research carried out during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic identified general anti-vaccination attitudes, perception of COVID-19 as harmless and therefore vaccination unnecessary, safety concerns regarding a perceived rushed development process, lack of trust, and wanting more information before making a decision may act as potential barriers to vaccination uptake

What does this study add?

- While COVID-19 vaccines were being widely rolled out in the UK, vaccine hesitancy was independently associated with low fear of the disease and more negative attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination, including concerns about profiteering, preference for natural immunity, mistrust of vaccine benefits, and worries about unforeseen future effects;
- Specific barriers to COVID-19 vaccine uptake included concerns about safety and efficacy in light of its rapid development, mistrust of government and pharmaceutical companies, dislike of coercive policies, and perceived lack of relaxation in COVID-19 related restrictions as the vaccination program progressed;
- Fear of COVID-19 and perceived personal control over COVID-19 infection transmission decreased between the 3- and 12-month surveys. This could impact on future uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and should be monitored to inform communication and policy strategies as the vaccination program continues to be rolled out.