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.

- **19%** did not report reduced access to lupus health care in last 3 months
- **28%** reported multiple lupus flares in last 3 months
- **4%** reported lupus-related hospitalizations in last 3 months

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).

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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.

- Reported concerns about possible side effects of the vaccine in people with lupus: 68%
- Reported concerns about the interaction of the vaccine with lupus / lupus medications: 61%
- Reported concerns about the safety of the vaccine: 52%

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