

In this issue of ROSA's newsletter, we present several key findings captured in August 2021 on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore and introduce two more members of the ROSA team.

## Updates and Notices

The ROSA team published a report on COVID-19 vaccination trends among older adults in July which received much attention, being picked up by media sources such as The Straits Times, Channel News Asia, The New Paper and many others. The findings were also communicated directly to the Multi-Ministry Taskforce and we believe that it had a large impact on subsequent vaccination efforts by the government.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Singapore Life Panel® (SLP) again for your continued support for our work, without which we would not be able to make these important recommendations needed to improve the well-being of older adults in Singapore. Your support is greatly appreciated!

As we move forward, do expect more questions in the coming months that will aim to understand your experiences with the transition to treating COVID-19 as an endemic and we hope you will continue to support us in the effort to guide ministries in providing the appropriate support for older adults during this period!

## ROSA Staff Features

We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce two more valued members of our team - Grace Cheong and Shama Ali!



*ROSA Research Assistant,  
Grace Cheong, on holiday  
in Lisbon, Portugal!  
(picture was taken  
pre-COVID)*

Grace is a Research Assistant at ROSA and joined the team in August 2020. As part of the translational research team for the centre, Grace's typical workday includes analysing and drafting out papers and briefs as well as helping to fine tune the monthly surveys. She enjoys being a part of the ROSA team as

it makes meaningful societal change and contributes to the advancement of knowledge on the well-being of older adults. During her free time, Grace likes to ride her bike along the park trails and listen to podcasts.



*ROSA Data Programmer,  
Shama Ali, having a great  
time on holiday  
in Thailand!  
(picture was taken  
pre-COVID)*

Shama also joined ROSA in August 2020 as a Data Programmer, and her job involves handling the technical aspects of data collection and ensuring that the Centre's IT needs are met. She enjoys the opportunity to work with a team that is friendly and respectful to each other, where every member of the ROSA team is valued and appreciated! She also feels a great sense of purpose and satisfaction in contributing to the achievement

of successful ageing for older Singaporeans.

Some of Shama's hobbies include fitness and cooking! In her leisure time, she loves to go out for runs and is always willing to try out new cuisines and recipes in the kitchen. Like most others, she also enjoys watching Netflix and keeping up with her favourite shows, and greatly enjoys spending time with her family. Prior to joining ROSA she was running her very own Indian restaurant in Singapore! It's certainly safe to say that the ROSA team is looking forward to having a taste of Shama's cooking once the pandemic is finally over and we can meet in person.

## Research Highlights

In August 2021, we asked a range of questions relating to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was observed that the majority of our SLP respondents were either fully or partially vaccinated (94.29%) against COVID-19, with only a small portion of our respondents who indicated that they will not get vaccinated (2.02%).

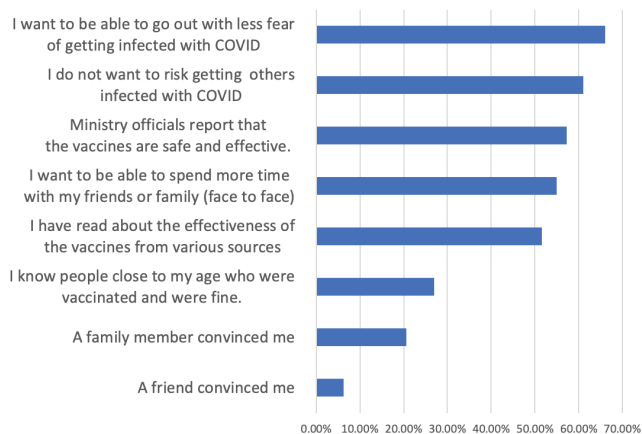


Figure 1: Proportion of respondents citing various reasons for getting vaccinated. (Note: Total is more than 100% because respondents were allowed to check all options that applied to them.)

As shown in Figure 1, the three most common reasons that convinced respondents to get vaccinated were to be able to go out with less fear of getting infected with COVID-19, to reduce the risk of getting others infected with COVID-19 and the high trust in Ministry officials who report that the vaccines are safe and effective.

We are heartened to see many of our respondents adopting a socially responsible attitude towards vaccinations. Given that booster shots for the vaccine are becoming available for adults aged 50 and above, we would like to encourage our respondents to sign up to take the shot if you can and to in turn encourage your family members and friends to do so!

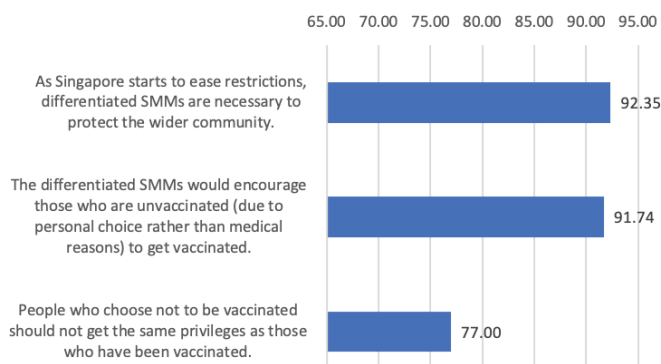


Figure 2: Proportion of respondents who agreed (slightly agree, agree, or strongly agree) with the respective statements.

As Singapore introduced differentiated Safe Management Measures (SMMs) in August, we also asked our SLP respondents if they agreed with the implementation of such differentiated measures. The large majority of our respondents agreed with the implementation of SMMs (88.37%). As shown in Figure 2, the overall sentiments towards SMMs were positive as 92.35% of respondents agreed that it was necessary to protect the wider community while a smaller proportion of 77% of respondents agreed that the same privileges should not be extended to those who choose not to be vaccinated.

While fully vaccinated individuals will be able to engage in a wider range of activities, we cannot afford to be complacent and must continue to adhere to all other prevailing safe management measures. Through the cooperation and collective efforts of everyone, we hope the situation will soon stabilise and that we will learn to treat COVID as endemic.

## Dates of Surveys

- **November Survey: 1 - 24 November 2021**
- **December Survey: 1 - 26 December 2021**
- **January Survey: 1 - 24 January 2022**

## Contact Us

If you have changed your address or telephone number, need any form of assistance in completing the survey, or have any questions or feedback, please contact us on our Centre Hotline at 6808 7910 (9am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays) or at [slp@smu.edu.sg](mailto:slp@smu.edu.sg). We are always happy to hear from you.