

Return to LIVE BDSM Events

Survey Results from 4/17-4/20 and
discussion recap from community meeting on 4/21

Assembled by Mx Bliss

While waiting...

- Click on the '...' in the top right hand corner of your picture to change the displayed name to your scene name. Please add your pronouns
- I will be taking notes, unattributed quotes, and recommendations and doing an after meeting write up that you can share and link to
- No photos, screenshots, sharing names of other attendees, revealing the identity of any other participant, or any other privacy violation
- Be respectful, kind, and give everyone the benefit of the doubt. Everyone has different information and risk tolerance
- If you state a fact or data that supports your opinion, site the source in the chat
- I am biased and have a point of view. I am not an expert and hosting this out of a desire to assess community sentiment and share that sentiment with fellow community members

Agenda

- Ground rules/format
- Meeting purpose and desired outcomes
- Current conditions
- Survey results
- Seeking volunteers to help w/ access
- Resources
- Discussion
- Next Steps, Community Commitments

Current Status

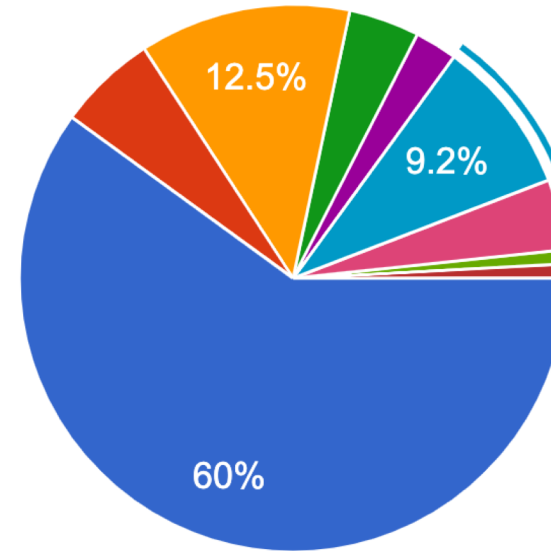
- Vaccines 'available' to anyone over 16 across the US
- BUT: disproportionate access, misinformation, insufficient data, and systemic racism/classism/ableism
- In Oregon and Multnomah County, we are currently in a 'Surge' and high risk
- Local laws have been mandating capacity limits and masking
- Current CDC: small/medium gathering of vaxxed or 1:1s for vaxxed/non-vaxxed
- Events required 1 month to 1 year of lead time and seeing parties, cons, etc. being scheduled and/or canceled
- Clubs open w/ capacity restrictions, masking requirements, and depending on the venue...more (or less)
 - The businesses that support our community are suffering!
 - Several have closed and those that have made it have had to deal with a year + of little or no revenue

Disclaimer on survey

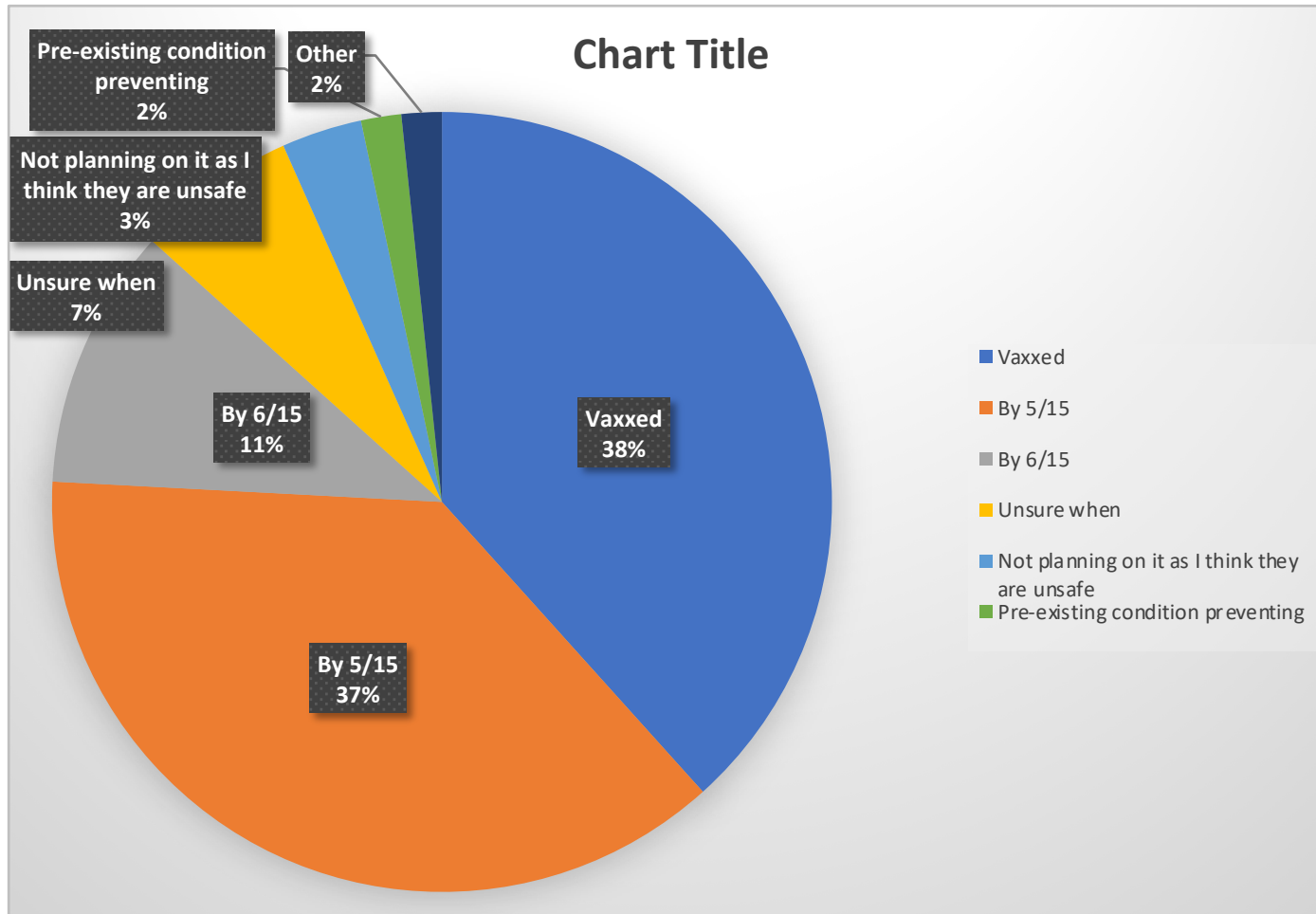
- Completely non-scientific
- I made a ton of mistakes (which I will address in a subsequent version)
 - Tried best efforts to consolidate similar answers (because my categories were confusing and I kept trying to improve them)
 - After publishing, I tried to remove snark and bias...this was a flawed survey for sure
 - Internal inconsistency observed in several areas
- Made available through my FL feed and IG feed and undoubted selection bias
- Did not retain info on folks who responded so no way to address specific questions except through these communications

120 Responses

- 60% in PDX metro
- 5.8% in Bay Area
- 10% in West (outside of PDX or Bay Area)
- 12.5% East Coast
- 4.2% Midwest
- 4.2% Outside of US
- 2.5% South

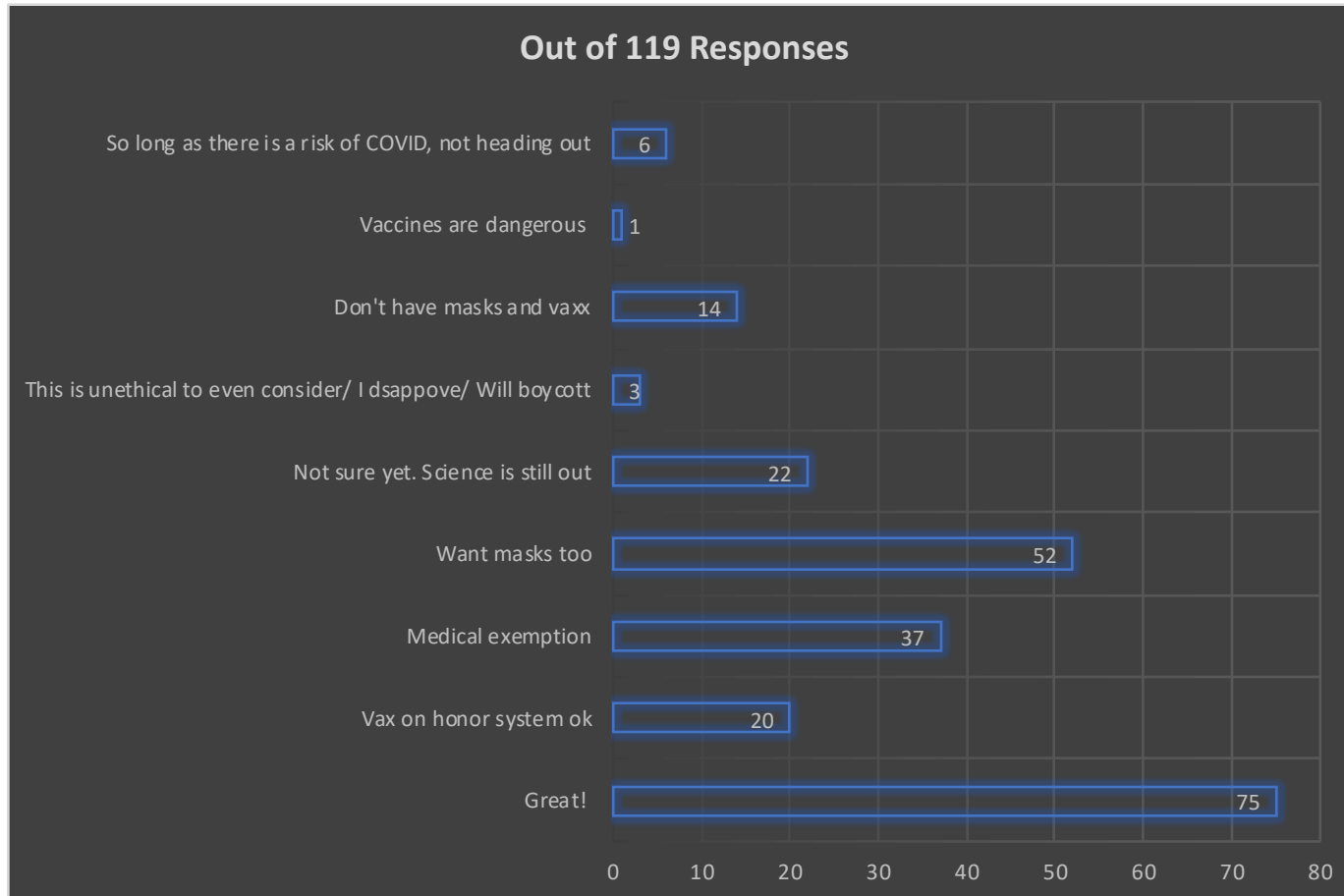


Vaccination Status



- 75% vaxxed by 5/15
- 86% vaxxed by 6/15
- 93% are/want vax
- 5-7% aren't getting vaxxed
- Comment:
 - Why do you need my status?

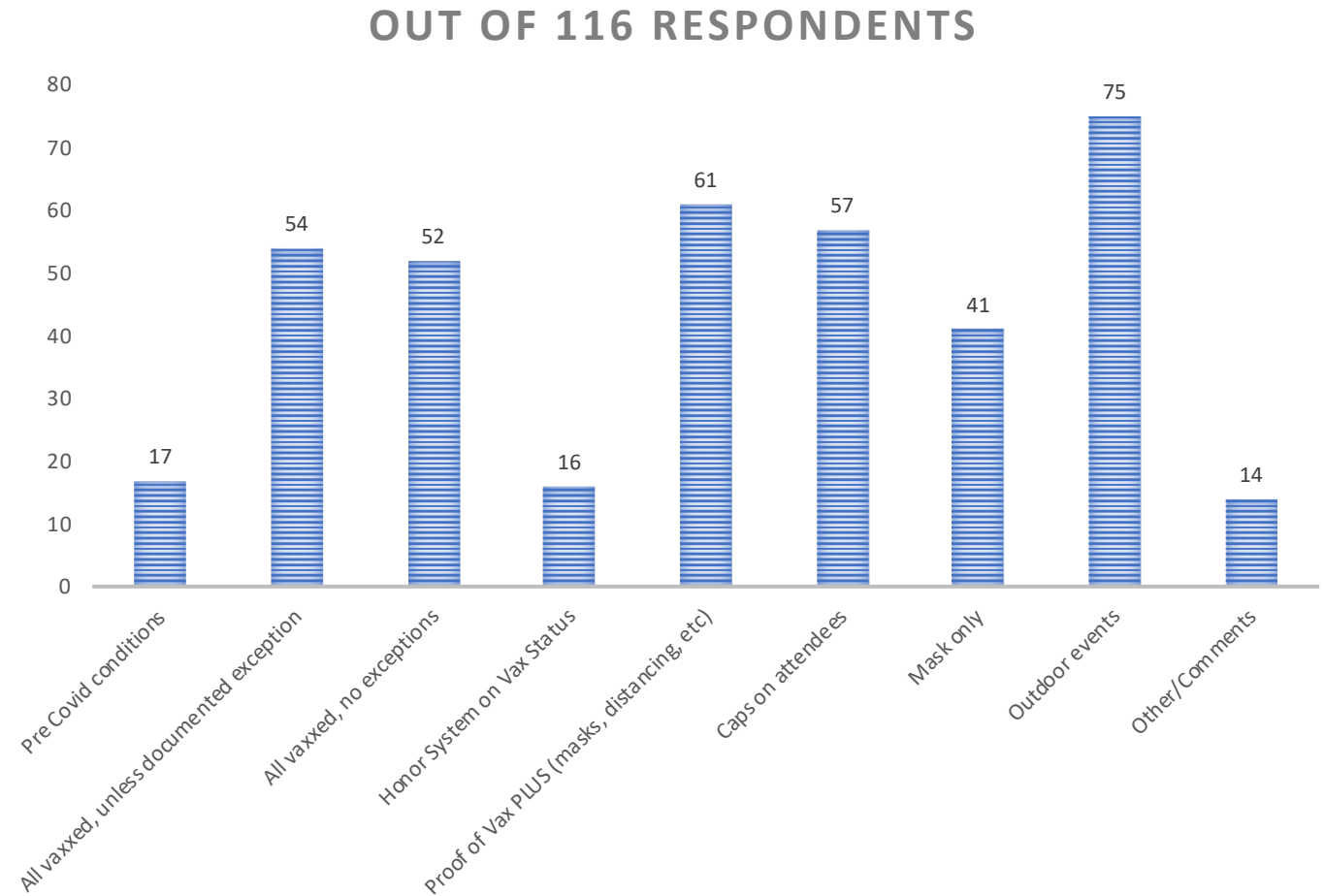
How do you feel about requiring everyone to show proof of vaccination (like checking IDs) before being allowed to an in person event indoors?



- 63% support w/ proof of vax req'd
- 43% want masks too
- 31% support medical exemptions to vax req't
- 2.5% actively disapprove
- Significant uncertainty w/ a desire to wait and see

As of 6/1 are you comfortable attending events where:

- 63% Outdoor/Social Distanced Events
- 52% People support proof of Vaxx + other safety such as mask/capacity/etc.
- 45% support Vax w/ NO exceptions
- Comments:
 - Make recent negative test results an alternative
 - Take Temps too
 - Only playing 1:1 w/n pod
 - Prefer cyber events
 - Will be boycotting any vax only events/hosts



Selected Quotes:

- “These answers are a little unclear, and they don't always seem to be mutually exclusive? Moreover, the answers have a lot of explicit bias built into them, I don't think you're going to get very scientific answers here (sorry, social science professional)” [Ed. Note: thank you...hopefully addressed]
- “I would be comfortable attending an event with contact tracing by the event producers and people signing a waiver regarding their vax status and risk criteria for covid.”
- “Requiring proof of vaccination (which I am all about) in this community introduces a big concern about potential for being outed for some people. How are you going to reassure attendees who are providing proof of vaccination that their personal information/identity will stay safe?”
- “If we would spend all the time and energy that we are currently spending on trying to plan in-person events instead on volunteering at vaccination sites, or staying healthy and calm, we would actually get on the other side of this pandemic. Instead I see folks trying to rush to the finish line and I am becoming really disappointed in the community that for so many years was the shining example of safer play.”
- “.. Add to the usual set of hosty questions, to ask/set expectations about vaccination, the expected number of guests, social distancing, indoor ventilation, bathrooms & surfaces, masks, possible situations where people might remove masks (eating/drinking/smoking outdoors), etc. Bring on the new party rules!”

Selected Quotes

- “It is ok to have rules that not everyone agrees with. They are free to make their own events.”
- “I think requiring vaccines for everyone is important before they can enter, no exceptions (ADA, religious, got covid already, etc). Why: people who get vaccines are taking covid risks seriously. If they can't get a vaccine, they shouldn't be at an indoor event for their own health. The vaccine acts as a filter for who takes covid seriously and keeps out superspreaders.”
- “...Two factors I suggest looking at as indicators of general community safety: 1. emerging research about transmission rates between vaccinated people (as in: can vaccinated people be asymptomatic carriers) and 2. the "curve" and daily new cases in our county and state.
- “Currently we are in the middle of a big spike. If it were me, I'd want to look at a steady decline over the course of two weeks or more and new cases per day in our county below 40 for a week or more.”

- “This is such a tricky topic with still a lot of uncertainty about how things will play out. I feel that as long as you continue being open and honest about the requirements for reopening (what you'll be doing and what you'll expect from others), it really comes down to the individual's choice on what is best for their risk profile.”
- “My wish would be for there to be events with limited number of participants allowed, and masks required until you can sit or play with social distancing... Like in restaurants. I would love this!”
- “The current pandemic is new to us, but we already have lots of transferable experience. In bdsm subcultures we already consider it usual and worthwhile to memorize our play partners' desires and dislikes and body quirks of countless kinds. Likewise before we attend events it's normal to reread the rules, which vary greatly from place to place. In all these situations we absorb a lot of information, most helpful when it's specific and clear, to maximize fun and prevent difficulties. We're used to it, and we can do this.”

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- “But requiring proof of vax is n/a as it is very easy to fake that card. And asking adult humans to follow the rules is difficult (ask me, I own a bar). I want to attend but the reality is that I won't due to my person risk profile.”
- “I think we need to allow for medical exemptions from people who are legit cannot get vaxxed safely, If I am personally vaccinated, I do not mind comingling with unvaxxed folks. I believe masks should still be worn when not actively in scene or aftercare to mitigate risk.”
- “I think it's too early. The variants are concerning and not enough people have been vaccinated. I think it would be most prudent to wait until a few months after we've reached peak vaccination (probably in June) to see how the case numbers & variants go after that”
- “COVID is now endemic to humans. We can have events with safety precautions in place to help minimize risk but the days of pre-covid style events are in the past now. “

- “...it is irresponsible to host any in-person events before the PNW region has reached a 75% vaccination rate (herd immunity). On top of that, to dramatically reduce legal liability for potential transmission, in-person events should require proof of vax or certified medical waiver for all attendees, staff, and vendors for the foreseeable future.”
- “I think events can proceed semi-normal (with masks and hand sanitizer and distanced options) but no masks is too little and proof of vaccinations is too much”
- “We are adults and stupid has always gotten people killed. Hosts can decide what level of risk they are prepared to have at the events they plan and execute. And Folks can decide the level of risk they want to take at each event.”

Insights/Learnings (for me)

- Vast majority support Vax only parties (w/ documentation)
 - Minority support allowing exceptions
- Even more support Vax only parties with additional safety protocols
- At least 3 people believe that attending or hosting events at this time is unethical (and killing people)—There are strong feelings
- We have people in our community that don't believe in efficacy, safety, or need for COVID vaccines (5-7% based on this survey)
- Vast majority support Vax only parties (w/ documentation)
- States/Counties impose a lot of restrictions on venues already that ratchet up/down based on local Risk Assessment Level
- Most folks are ready for events w/ fellow vaccinated people. Risk can be mitigated and flexible in light of local conditions BUT, there will be people who will be angry by virtue of hosting or attending a BDSM event so long as COVID is a threat.

Volunteers to help w/ access

“...maybe sign up to help a community member get a ride to their vax appt. Or the first part of a meet-up focuses some collective time into discussing how to help other community members schedule those vax appointments. Or partial ticket cost donated to a organization that does this already.”

- Coordination of matchmaking
- Volunteers available to discuss via Zoom or GoogleMeet or IG/Kik
 - Provide support and resources to address concerns about efficacy/safety
 - Provide guidance and support on scheduling and navigating the websites
 - Provide a degree of emotional support and encouragement
- Vaxxed volunteers willing to provide/assist with transportation
 - Try to pair by geography if possible
 - May also provide \$ support for rideshare/uber

Roundtable Discussion Points (unattributed and paraphrased)

- Asking for proof of vaccine is too invasive...like asking for STI results
- Spread at an event does not just impact attendees but has broader social implications
- Look at micro-COVID LINK:
- If you are going to throw event, you will have everyone do whatever they want. Be clear about the rules.
- Vaccination status is helping folks re-emerge
- COVID compliance officers set up to make sure things stay as safe as possible
- A risk managed event is harm reduction (avoids speakeasy type events)

Roundtable notes (cont'd)

- Not all risk mitigation efforts are not equal
- What's the point of getting vaccinated if you need to wear a mask
- Have standards based on data and science and try to get to kink events where we can be in close proximity
- We are all experiencing trauma and lets impose safety
- There is nothing inappropriate about having this information and sharing
- I'm only comfortable in an environment where it can be kept safe, and requiring proof of vaccination is the best way to do it
- COVID is different than an STI...because you can catch COVID being 5 feet away

Roundtable notes (cont'd)

- Is their liability in contact tracing?
- Don't be duped by "Safety Theatre" through temperature taking and testing
- Regardless of the decisions made by event hosts, clear communication of what is and what is not allowed will be incredibly important as well as it will relieve anxiety to those that don't have a clear social script for how to act in this very dynamically changing situation
- What about privacy and how do we honor privacy of individuals?
- Firm believer in adult risk assessment. I am taking people's word for it.

Resources cited by MxBliss

- Vaccines are widely regarded as safe (and certainly safer than COVID) by every credible scientific source I have come across. See summary of studies [HERE](#). They are effective in providing immunity (i.e. nontransmission) as well as protection from serious illnesses caused by COVID.
- See CDC guidance [HERE](#) regarding contra indications and pre-existing conditions where additional medical supervision or specific vaccine types are recommended. There seems to be only one contraindication for specific vaccines associated with ingredient allergy (and the other vaccines may address).
- Another concern is racism in medicine and gov't programs like this. This [CNN interview](#) articulates the issue succinctly.
- Everything is changing (and sometimes quickly) but legal scholars seem to agree that absent legislation to the contrary, it is legal to require proof of vaccination as a condition to admittance to an event. See [HERE](#)
- Epidemiological trends and outlook for Oregon (updated weekly) [HERE](#).
- The Oregon Risk Assessment Levels are [HERE](#)

Recommendations for restaurants, bars, and 'entertainment establishments':

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/business-employers/bars-restaurants.html>
- <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2342i.pdf>
- <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2351a.pdf>

What we know about the variants:

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/02/vaccines-should-end-the-pandemic-despite-the-variants-say-experts/>

https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/the-effects-of-virus-variants-on-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=Cj0KCQjw9_mDBhCGARIsAN3PaFMJCrBqXK4pQuNQMAF-bzeeqR1DYgJPIW8Lr0NY-zFLvQzntDdkwr0aAm7MEALw_wcB

Shared links (from meeting)

- Allows you to calculate your COVID risk by certain activities:
<https://www.microcovid.org/>
- Other orgs having this conversation:
 - www.leatherleadership.org
 - www.ncsfreedom.org
- Discussing vaccine efficacy re: transmission and variants
 - <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/yes-vaccines-block-most-transmission-of-covid-19>
 - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00869-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00869-2/fulltext)

Next Steps, Community Commitments

- Next gen survey will be available to copy (open source) w/ results visible to respondents
 - I'll maintain one that I'll close periodically through the pandemic
 - I'll also maintain a tracker of local risk level and publish my intended practices personally and for events
- Write up and slides will be available from FL and IG (probably pointing to my blog)
- What other ways do/can we show up for one another? Emotional support? Outdoor meetups?