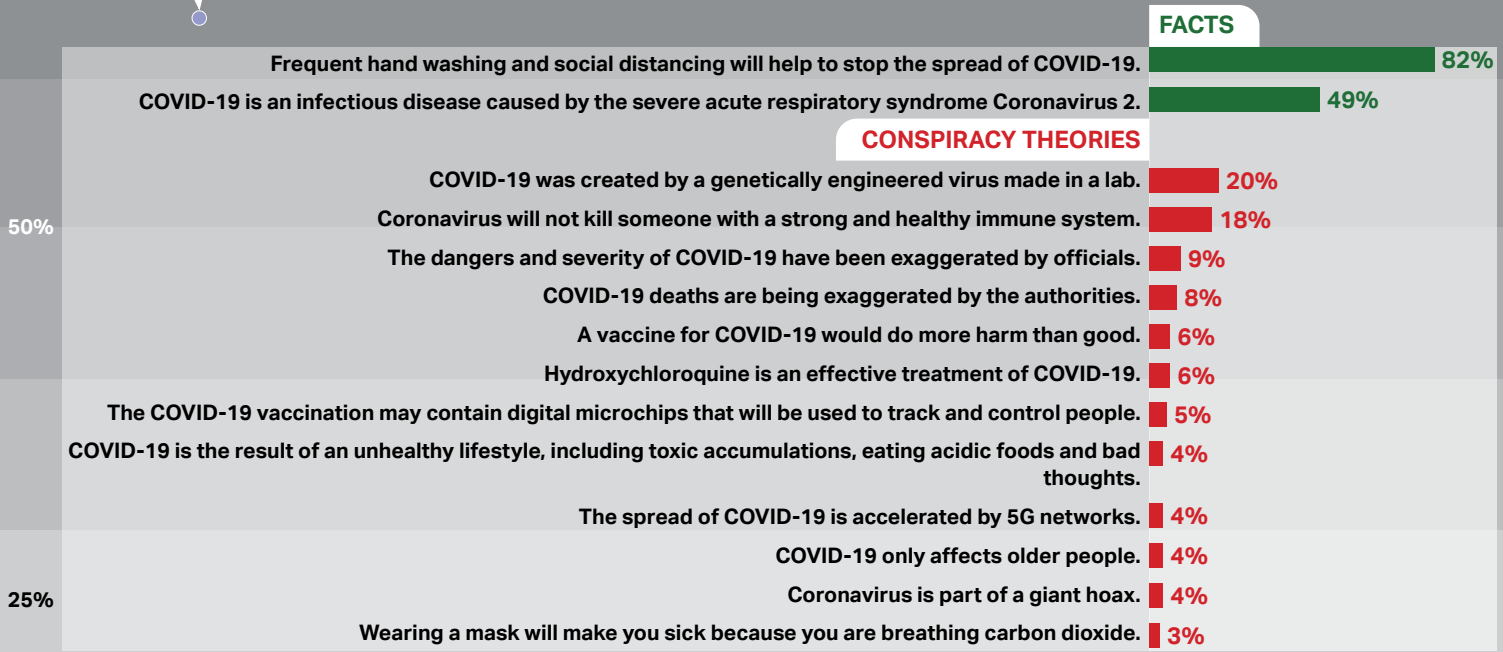
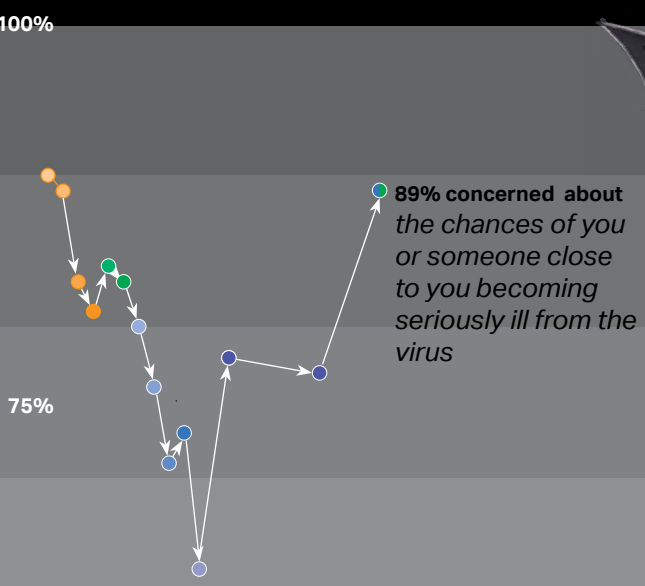


# Batty, or not?

## We ask New Zealanders about the truth and lies behind COVID-19



With concern among respondents about the chances of becoming seriously ill from the virus back at Level 4 lockdown levels of 89%, we polled New Zealanders about the extent to which they believe in various facts and alternative (conspiracy) theories around COVID-19.



The majority of New Zealanders do not believe the COVID-19 conspiracy theories, and the benefits of frequent handwashing and social distancing are being understood, but not the real causes of COVID-19.

Younger respondents were significantly less likely to believe that frequent hand washing and social distancing will help to stop the spread of COVID-19, with only 69% of 18 to 34 year olds believing this, compared to 84% of 35 to 54 year olds and 93% of those aged 55 or older.

Male respondents were also significantly less likely than female respondents to believe that frequent hand washing and social distancing will help to stop the spread of COVID-19, at 76% compared to 89% of females.

Concern among respondents about the chances of becoming seriously ill from the virus is back at Level 4 lockdown levels (9-12 April) of 89%.

These results are based on our recent surveys of 1,000 respondents 18 years and over, each sourced from Dynata, and conducted online during these dates.

The maximum margin of error is +/- 3.1% (at the 95% confidence level). The samples have been weighted by gender and age to ensure the results are representative of the population 18 years and over. The surveys were not undertaken on behalf of any organisation, but as part of Research New Zealand's social polling of New Zealanders' opinions about current issues.