



Outcomes of Anti-Doping Organizations Survey -
Impact of COVID-19



Introduction

As part of a broader review to identify the impact of COVID-19 on anti-doping programs around the world and what lessons can be learned from this situation, on 2 September 2020, WADA issued a survey to Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) with a completion deadline of 18 September 2020.

Beyond evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on ADOs programs, the survey was also designed to gather feedback on the [COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Testing document](#) issued by WADA on 6 May 2020; and, to understand the impact that COVID-19 was having on sample collection, shipment and the sample analytical process.

The survey was issued to 247 ADOs and nearly half of them responded. Of the respondents:

- **75%** were National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs);
- **10%** were International Federations (IFs); and
- **15%** were 'Other' (e.g., Regional Anti-Doping Organizations).

WADA is extremely grateful to all who took the time to complete the survey.

As you will see from the survey results, which are summarized in this document, responses showed that the guidance and Q&A documents that WADA developed and shared with ADOs in the early stages of the pandemic were very useful. The feedback received is assisting WADA in determining the improvements that can be made to these documents; as well as, the global anti-doping system; in particular, how we can continue to adapt and be better prepared should similar public health crises arise in the future.



In short, the survey provided feedback on a number of key areas that have or are in the process of being addressed including:

- **That information and guidance documents be updated as promptly as possible.** WADA is working with key stakeholders to update guidance documents for ADOs. In particular, the [Strategic Testing Expert Group](#) is in the process of updating the [COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Testing document](#), which WADA intends to publish late November 2020 in the dedicated [COVID-19 section](#) of WADA's website. This will provide further assistance to ADOs as they continue to test/resume testing during the pandemic including guidance on in-competition testing, blood testing, storage of samples, and B sample analysis -- all with the continued focus on the health and safety of athletes and sample collection personnel.
- **Requests for flexibility around compliance matters.** The independent [Compliance Review Committee](#) (CRC) announced flexibility around compliance matters due to the exceptional nature of the situation. This was communicated to Code Signatories after each of the meetings of the CRC since March 2020 and will be further reviewed during its first meeting in early 2021.
- **That there be priority testing.** WADA is working with the anti-doping community to ensure that the priority for testing is on athletes that are due to compete in upcoming major events, including: the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, World Championships and other major events.
- **That there be ongoing support for the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code (Code) implementation.** WADA will continue to support ADOs with their implementation of the 2021 Code and International Standards (IS) via its [Code Implementation Support Program](#) (CISP) that includes numerous live webinars, guideline documents and other supporting documentation (e.g., factsheets, checklists, templates, etc.) – all that are available on WADA's [Anti-Doping e-Learning platform \(ADeL\)](#). In addition, we encourage all ADOs to continue engaging with the relevant WADA Departments as well as the WADA Regional Offices for direct assistance and support.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at SandH@wada-ama.org.



General Section



For the areas identified below, please indicate the level at which they were impacted (and/or are still impacted) by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANSWER CHOICES	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	SOMEWHAT	QUITE A LOT	A LOT	TOTAL
General Operations or Administration	6.73% 7	18.27% 19	25.00% 26	33.65% 35	16.35% 17	104
Current budget / current fiscal year	24.04% 25	19.23% 20	12.50% 13	25.00% 26	19.23% 20	104
Future budget / next fiscal year	22.00% 22	14.00% 14	25.00% 25	23.00% 23	16.00% 16	100
Testing	0.00% 0	2.91% 3	9.71% 10	30.10% 31	57.28% 59	103
Education	4.81% 5	14.42% 15	24.04% 25	28.85% 30	27.88% 29	104
Results Management	22.55% 23	23.53% 24	30.39% 31	13.73% 14	9.80% 10	102
Laboratory analysis	28.71% 29	16.83% 17	16.83% 17	15.84% 16	21.78% 22	101
Therapeutic Use Exemptions	47.06% 48	19.61% 20	22.55% 23	7.84% 8	2.94% 3	102
Intelligence and Investigations	25.49% 26	22.55% 23	32.35% 33	11.76% 12	7.84% 8	102

Identify any other areas impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Themes	RESPONSES
Uncertainty of budget and reducing budget in some areas (like research)	4
HR and Hiring – impact on daily activities & hiring	1
Travel restrictions (e.g., for testing, meetings, shipment of blood)	3
Testing in-competition stopped	3
Communications (e.g., reduced training opportunities, changed format for education to webinars, etc.)	3



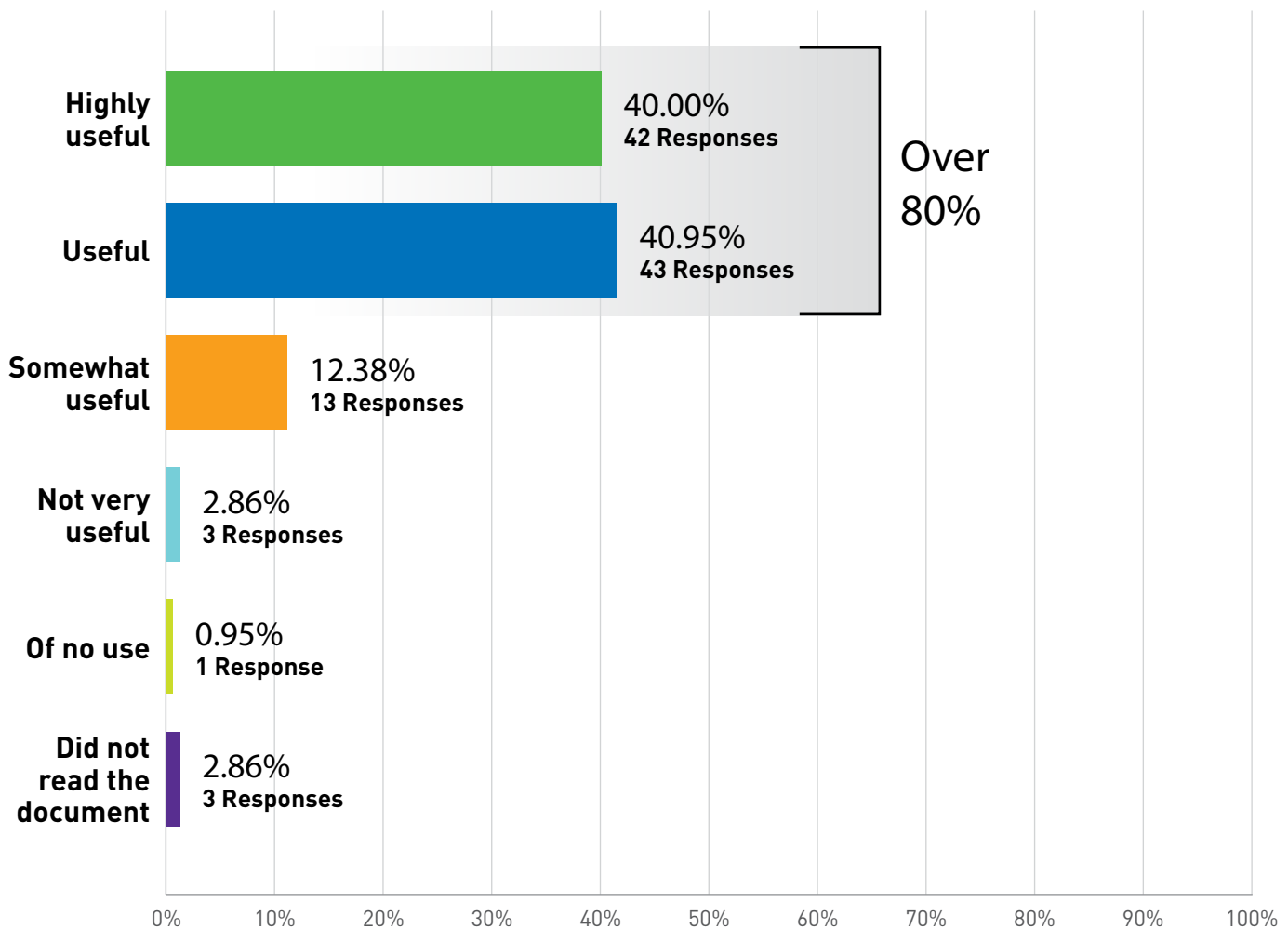
For the areas impacted, please briefly explain what measures your ADO put in place to minimize the impact for each program area.

- 1. General administration:** remote working and moving to digital platforms (21 of 70 ADOs).
- 2. Education:** proactive focus on education via online tools (21 of 70 ADOs).
- 3. Testing:**
 - a) Readjusted Test Distribution Plans (TDPs) (14 of 70 ADOs)
 - b) Developed new testing protocols, e.g., use of vans, mobile doping control stations (9 of 70 ADOs)
 - c) Included WADA COVID-19 Guidance, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (11 of 70 ADOs)
- 4. Results Management and Investigations:** activities conducted virtually and some postponement (4 of 70 ADOs)
- 5. Budget and HR:** reducing budgets, reducing staff and/or re-allocating responsibilities, outsourcing work (9 of 70 ADOs).



How useful did you find the COVID-19 Guidance for Anti-Doping Organizations published by WADA on 20 March 2020?

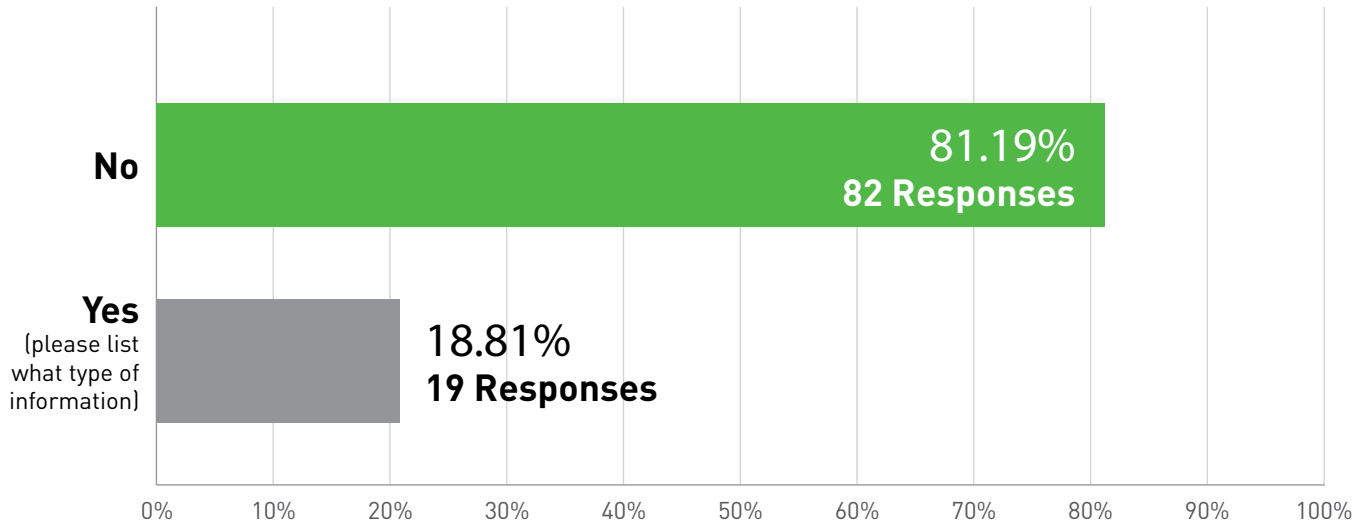
- 105 Responses





Could more information have been provided in the COVID-19 Guidance for Anti-Doping Organizations published on 20 March?

- **101 Responses**



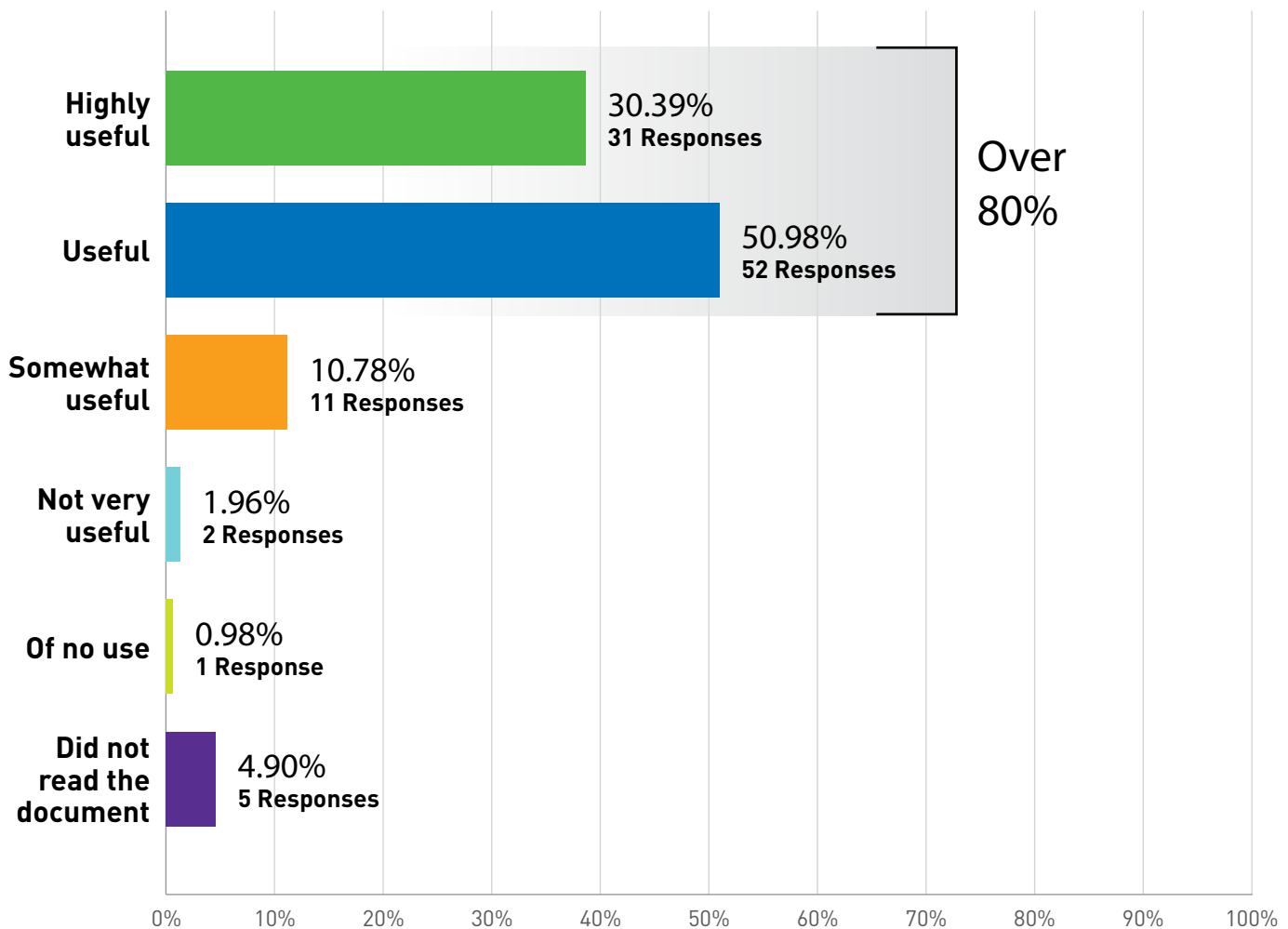
- **Yes, please list what type of information:** 15 ADO responses

Themes	RESPONSES
Guidance on impact of reductions (e.g., testing, Minimum Levels of Analysis (MLAs), etc.) on WADA compliance measures	6
Provide guidance earlier/quicker	5
Additional guidance to resume IC and blood testing	2
Guidance for laboratory (how to deal with sample from athlete who tested positive for COVID-19)	1
Guidance for all areas of ADO's work	1



How useful did you find the Athlete Q&A documents published by WADA on 23 March and updated on 25 May?

- 102 Responses





Did you receive any feedback from athletes on these Athlete Q&A documents or could other information have been provided?

ADO 1:

"Athletes were thankful about given guidelines, which explained and regulated unknown situation all around. Some athletes asked that such international guidelines could have come earlier."

ADO 2:

"Positive feedback was received from athletes. They appreciated the information provided. They expressed gratitude for measures we have implemented to protect them from COVID."

Athlete 1:

"The Q&A was helpful and informative. However, I would have preferred a video answering the questions. This means the Para athletes who struggle to read on a screen would have better access to the information."

Athlete 2:

"WADA's messaging was contradictory. On one hand they stated athletes will be required for testing and in public they stated that testing will be reduced. I would have preferred that they did not come out with such statements. This is confusing and actually leads to high risk athletes potentially thinking about cheating since testing is reduced."

Athlete 3:

"I think that the updated documents were extremely helpful and answered any questions I could think of. Especially, as the newer document referred to the previous document from March in case any athletes had missed that update and any of their questions had not been answered in the second update in May."

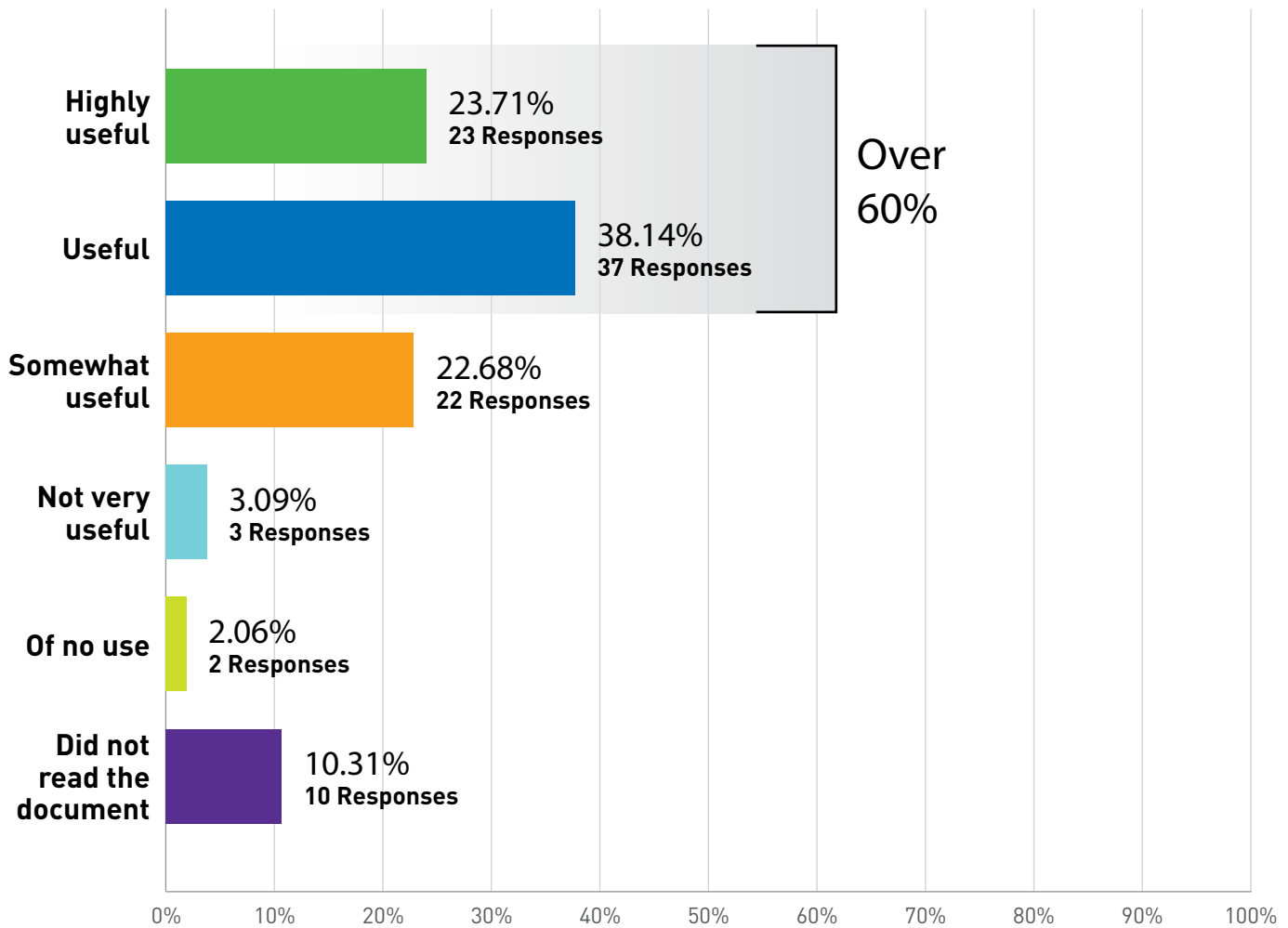
Athlete 4:

"I was able to get doping test with security because the DCO took measures to address the corona situation."



How useful did you find the ADO Guidance for Remote Education Programs published by WADA on 5 June?

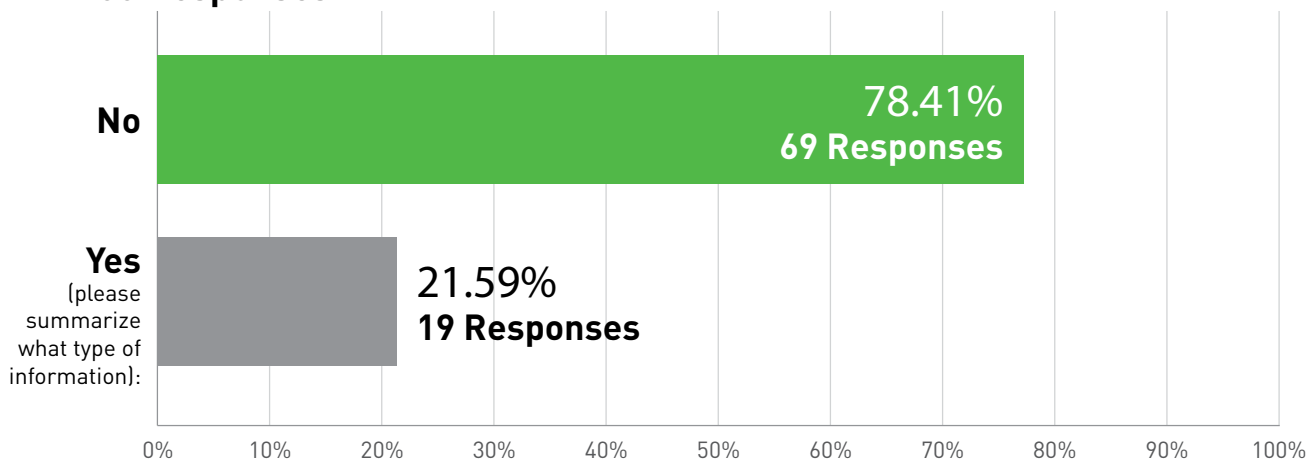
- 97 Responses





Could more information have been provided on remote education programs?

- **88 Responses**



Four main topics were raised:

1. Eleven respondents mentioned that **more practical information/tools and examples of what other ADOs are doing** would have been helpful and to consider making those resources **available in other languages**.

"I would appreciate some educational templates which can be easily translated to other languages... For example PowerPoint presentation, work sheets, etc."

"Nothing specifically from the guidance, however in addition to this, it may have been helpful for some examples of activities NADO's were doing during this period to share ideas that ADOs may not have thought of doing."

"A better exchange of experience between the large anti-doping organizations in order to support the small NADO's in their prevention efforts."

2. It was **very good but came too late** was mentioned by two ADOs.

3. Additional information related to **content** was raised by two ADOs

"Additional information on the adverse effects of substance abuse."

"How to adjust proper education to all levels of professional and recreational athletes, so it really has effect in life."

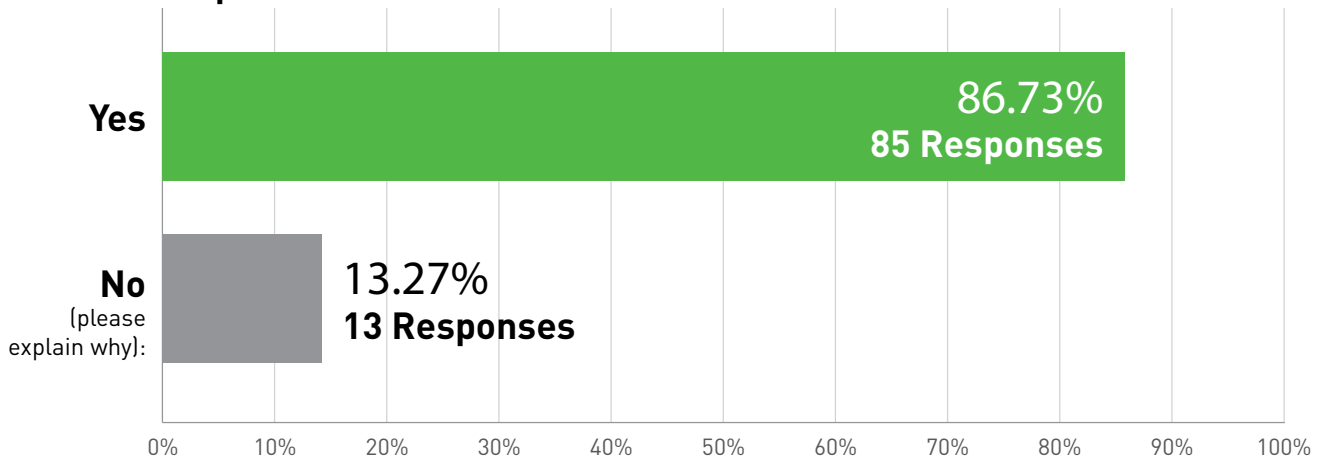
4. **Measuring impact** was raised by one ADO.

"It would be helpful to have guidance on how to measure the impact, effectiveness, and success of the remote education programs. This is a topic many ADO education leaders are discussing and struggling with."



Has your organization accessed the Code Implementation Stakeholder Support Program (CISP) resources hosted on WADA's Anti-Doping e-Learning (ADeL) platform launched on 4 May, as part of your efforts to prepare for the 2021 Code and International Standards?

- **98 Responses**



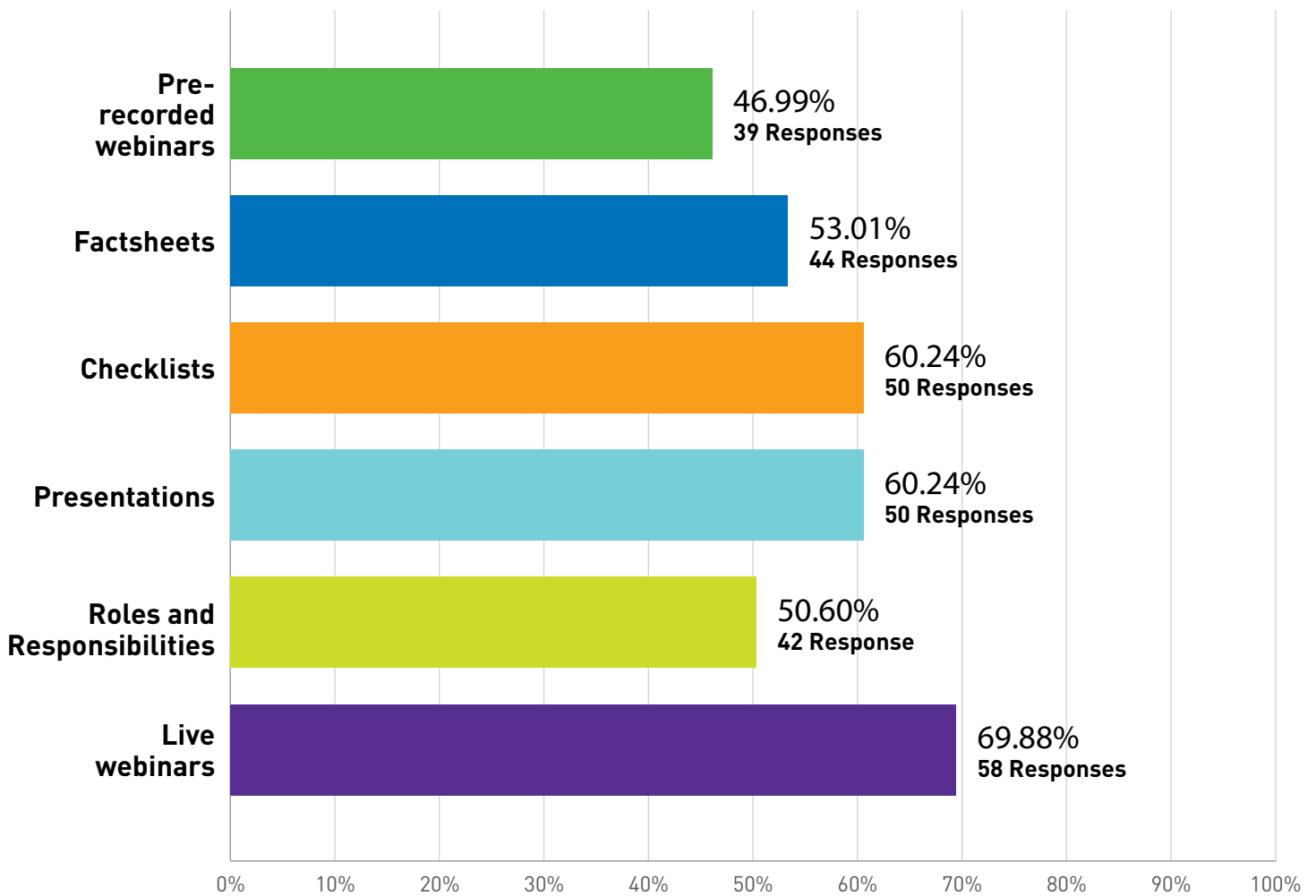
- **No, please explain why: 9 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Was not aware/have not accessed it yet	3
We are using other resources/support	3
Lacking personnel/impact of COVID-19	2
Was not available in Arabic	1



Which of the CISP resources did you find the most useful? (Select all that apply)

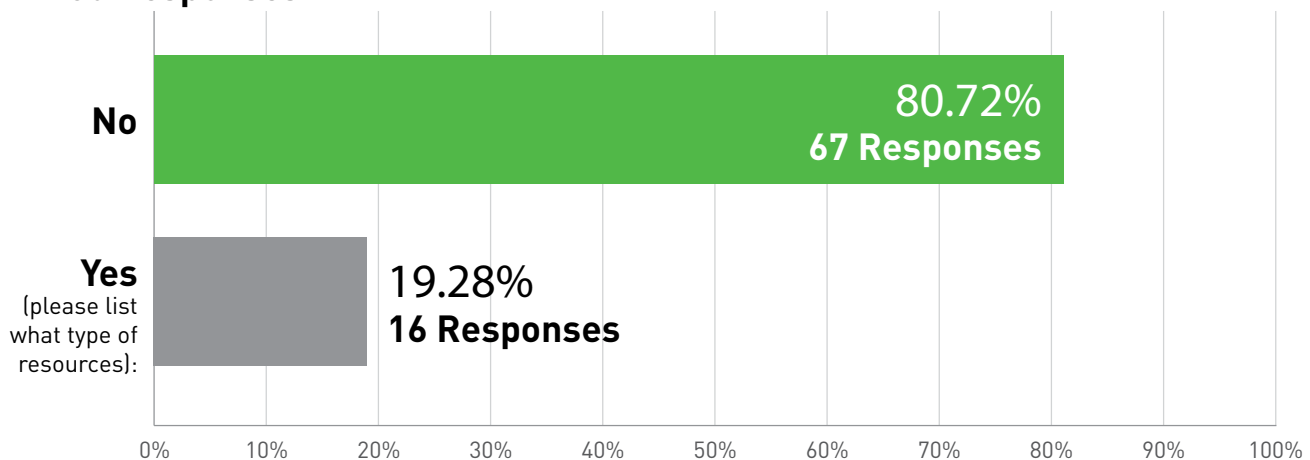
- 83 Responses





Could more resources have been provided by WADA to help ADOs prepare for the implementation of the 2021 Code and International Standards?

- **83 Responses**



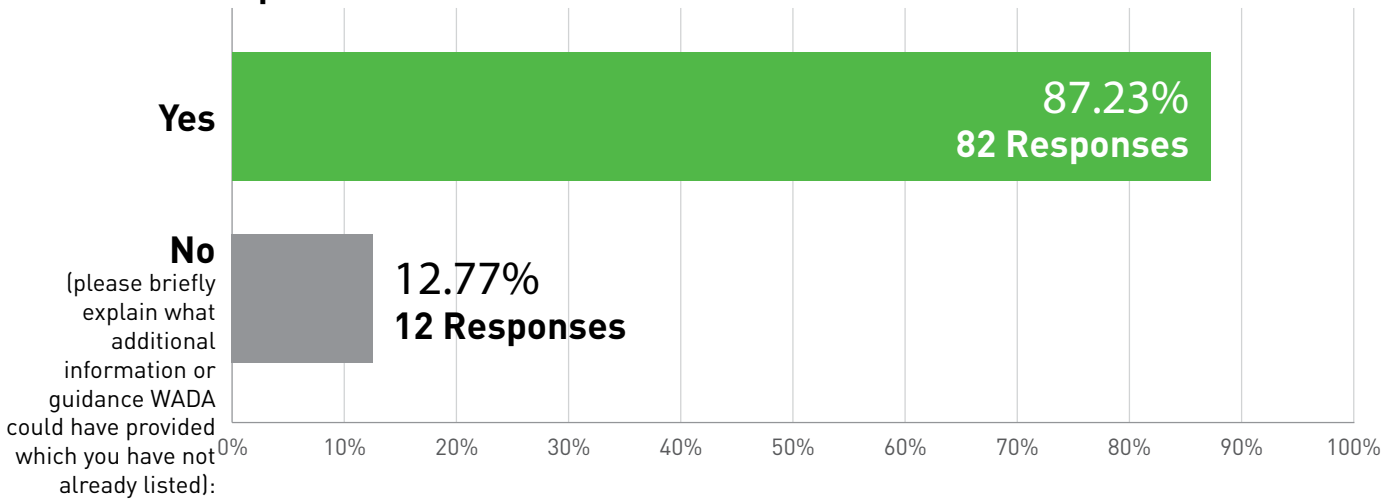
- **Yes, please list what type of resources:**

- Infographics, posters, templates, reports.
- Q&A hotline/ hands on expertise.
- Not only CISP Webinar series, but also athlete series webinars and ADO webinar series are needed on Adel.
- To show more respect for the work done by the NADOs in difficult (political) circumstances.
- More checklists on IS.
- Reply to any inquiry or comment by email.
- A formal request to member states to inject more funding for COVID-19 as contingency for other unforeseen circumstances.
- Provide new/updated guidelines (e.g. Urine Sample Collection Guidelines) and templates on WADA website/Adel based on 2021 Code and International Standards.
- Resources in relation to independent and institutional independent panels.



Overall, do you feel that, to date, WADA has provided sufficient information and guidance during the pandemic?

- **94 Responses**



- **No, please briefly explain what additional information or guidance WADA could have provided which you have not already listed: 12 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Provide the information earlier	3
Provide COVID-19 specific information *	3
Provide resources in different languages	2
Provide information on laboratory capabilities	2
Provide more context specific and athlete specific information	2

* "Currently, none of the WADA documents and guidelines speak to everything we are now learning about the transmission of illnesses. It has been difficult trying to understand this within the various jurisdictions in our country, yet athletes will need to know this around the world. It might be beneficial to have experts in disease control consider the ISTI and offer any general points or principles."

* "WADA could have given more information regarding COVID-19 test in saliva, blood (PCR) or antibodies testing that are performed by WADA accredited laboratory. Maybe inform which COVID-19 test can be done together with "normal" anti-doping test in blood and if existing in urine."



What have been your biggest lessons learned through the pandemic that you would like to share with WADA and other ADOs?

- **68 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Importance of technology	26
Importance of flexibility, innovation and being prepared for the future	20
Importance of working together (clear communication between stakeholders)	9
Importance of health and safety of athletes and Sample Collection Personnel (SCP)	5
Importance of risk management	4
Importance of increased and clear communication to athletes	4



In terms of the on-going pandemic/crisis, what are your organization's biggest concerns?

- **75 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Inability to continue testing/impact on testing program	20
Maintaining the health and safety of athletes, SCP and staff/fear of transmission from SCP to athletes	14
Budget reductions	12
Uncertainty around sporting events	7
Difficulties with shipping of samples (particular emphasis on blood)	7
Uncertainty of this situation in general and second wave	6
Inability to continue activities/meet performance indicators	5
Fear of non-compliance and being ready for 2021	4

Two additional points:

1. While the biggest concerns expressed were the impact on testing and the health and safety of all concerned, some also raised that these needed to be weighed carefully. One ADO said it well when they said: "The balance between implementing the planned testing program and protecting the health and safety of all stakeholders."
2. There was also a recurring concern that due to the different restrictions imposed in different countries and limited/reduced testing in some countries but not others, this would create **greater opportunities for athletes to cheat and that a level playing field would be difficult to achieve/maintain.**



In terms of the on-going pandemic/crisis, what are your organization's biggest concerns?

- **70 ADO responses**

- 1. Financial support and sufficient human resources (30)**
"Financial and material resources to continue fighting doping in sport even during this challenging time of living with the COVID-19 pandemic."
- 2. Education**
"Online education platform."
- 3. Resuming testing and ensuring a coordinated approach**
"Resuming doping controls."
"Worldwide harmonized approach for testing."
- 4. Exchange of information and updated COVID-19 information**
"Exchange of information with other NADOs to hear about their solutions for the future of anti-doping."
"Up-to-date information about the global COVID-19 situation."
- 5. Flexibility in compliance and testing procedures**
"Compliance flexibility and moving faster to implement alternative strategies for collecting urine and blood."
- 6. Other**
"Accreditation of our national lab for blood sample analysis."
"Timely guidance from WADA."
"PPE Procurement."
"Patience!"



In terms of the on-going pandemic/crisis, what are your expectations of WADA?

- Of the 70 ADO responses, over 60 % of ADOs are calling for WADA to continue to provide **guidance** and ensure that this guidance is **timely, flexible in nature, and fosters innovation**.

Others are calling for WADA to:

- Provide flexibility around compliance and share information on this topic (e.g., flexibility on TDP implementation and Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA) requirements).
- Provide financial support, additional grants.
- Continue providing education, webinars, etc.
- Offer a position on mandatory COVID-19 testing of SCP (especially when being requested by other organizations) and whether COVID-19 testing could be coordinated through WADA-accredited laboratories.

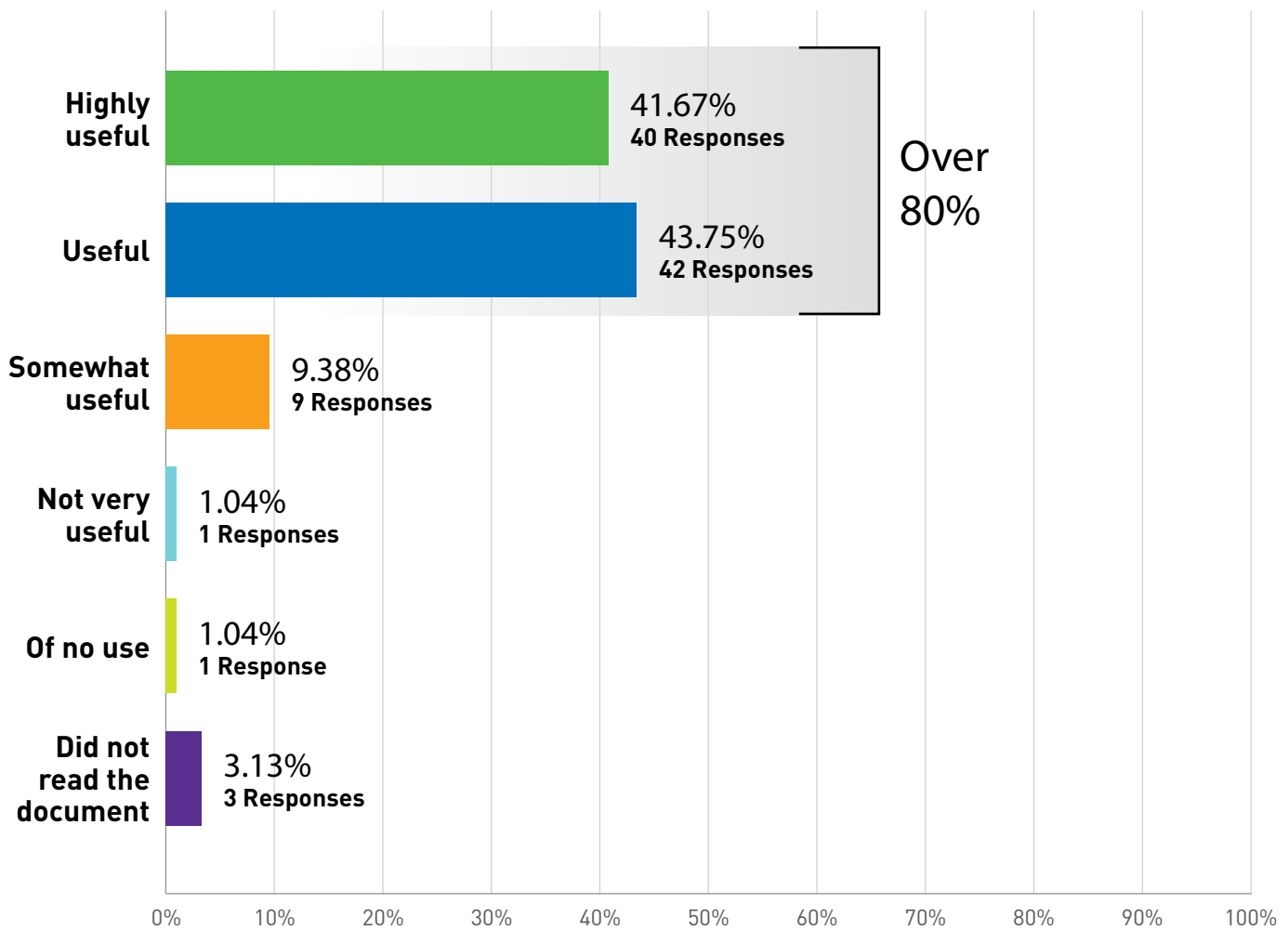


COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Testing Document



As you planned/are planning to resume testing, how useful was the COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Testing document?

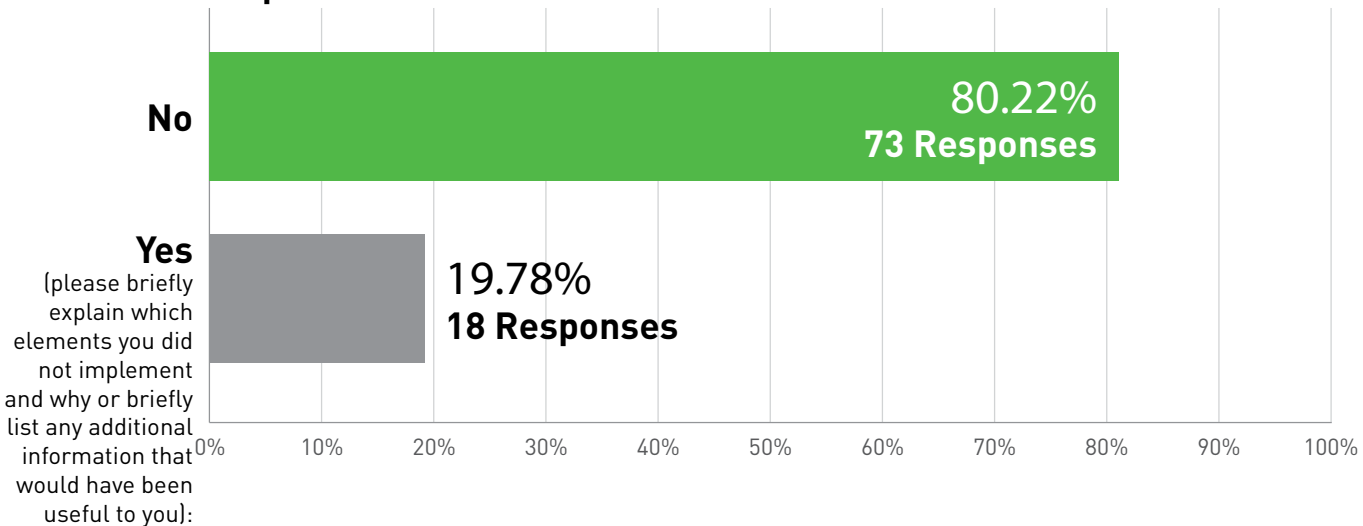
- 96 Responses





Are there any elements from the COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Testing document that you did not implement or additional information that would have further assisted you as you resumed testing?

• 91 Responses



- 6 ADOs responded that this did not apply to them since they had not resumed testing.
- 1 ADO mentioned that it came too late, they had already resumed testing.
- 5 ADOs provided specifics on what they did not implement:
 - Breaking the physical distancing (i.e., physical distancing was respected at all times).
 - Athlete questionnaire was not needed as athletes were in a training center.
 - Instead of an athlete letter, ADO prepared a video.
 - SCP and athletes are not wearing gloves, instead they use sanitizer.
 - ADO followed national guidelines instead.
- 3 ADOs provided feedback on additional information:
 - “I would like to see information on the procedures to be applied in accordance with the actual situation on the field, rather than guidelines in general terms.”
 - “We fully implemented a return to testing program that includes regular COVID-19 testing of SCP before sample collection to give another layer of assurances to athletes and to protect our DCOs/chaperones/BCOs.”
 - One ADO would like to see specific information on in-competition testing and blood testing.

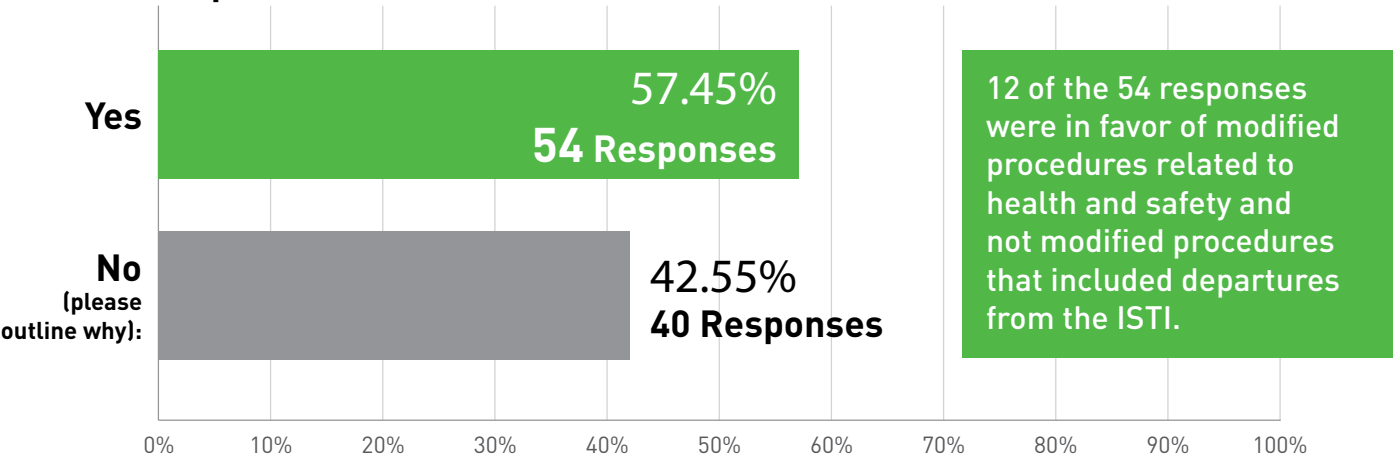


Modified Sample Collection Programs



Should modified sample collection procedures be developed that may contain departures from the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) to enable a urine sample to be collected from an athlete during a pandemic 'full lockdown' (i.e. where the national government or health authorities prevent SCP to conduct activities) where such departures may include the processing of a sample by the athlete with the SCP not physically present and not witnessing the provision of the urine sample, etc.?

- **94 Responses**





Should modified sample collection procedures be developed that may contain departures from the ISTI to enable a urine sample to be collected from an athlete during a pandemic ‘full lockdown’ (i.e. where the national government or health authorities prevent SCP to conduct activities) where such departures may include the processing of a sample by the athlete with the SCP not physically present and not witnessing the provision of the urine sample, etc.?

- **No, please outline why:** 37 responses

Themes	RESPONSES
The integrity of the sample cannot be guaranteed (with some noting that if we do so during a pandemic, why not all the time)	26
There would be too many variables to consider	5
This could negatively impact the results management process	2
Because full lockdown is full lockdown - public health first	2
No, but...	2

“To clarify, in order to ensure that sample collection can continue considerations should be given to how some of the alternative sample collection methods used by ADOs during the pandemic, could be improved so they can better align with the provisions of the ISTI. In the absence of any such rigorous review and approval process we feel that only testing that aligns with the provisions of the ISTI should occur.”

“I’ve put ‘No’ but my answer is not specifically a ‘No’ but wanted to be able to provide some further context. I think modified sample collection procedures should be considered and explored - but not categorically developed and implemented. Consideration should be given to what alternatives there are, what the departures are and understanding in detail what the risks of the departures are. If it is then deemed that these risks can be mitigated to a certain extent, that enables testing to still achieve its main goals (deterrence and detection) - then they should develop and implemented.”



Since you answered Yes, please outline how you suggest the risks (such as manipulation or tampering of the process and/or sample) associated with potential departures from the ISTI, might be mitigated to protect the integrity of the sample collection process.

- **30 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Yes, as it relates to additional measures that protect the health and safety of athletes and SCP (not departures)	12
Using a combination of science (e.g., DNA, temperature), technology (e.g., video) and athlete feedback	11
Not sure/No comment/WADA is best suited to address this	5
Increase education of SCP and athletes	2

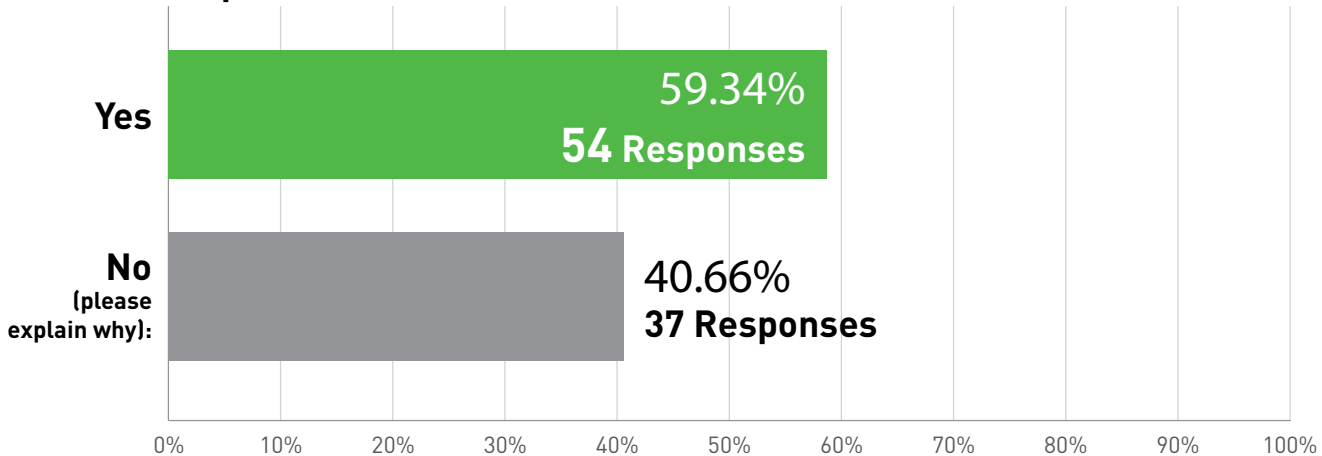


Resuming Testing



Did you inform athletes and relevant stakeholders in advance that testing was resuming?

- **91 Responses**



For those who informed athletes, what communication strategies were developed and/or the information that was provided to athletes and relevant stakeholders when you resumed testing?

The various strategies mentioned by ADOs:

- Zoom sessions with sample collection personnel
- Direct emails or letters to athletes
- Press releases, advisory notes
- Prepared guidelines and delivered training to athletes
- Guides and materials have been released online, website
- Infographics
- Videos
- Social media
- Webinars

If ADOs did not inform athletes or other stakeholder that testing was resuming, it was made clear here that they were informed of measures in place to protect them:

“No information was issued that the program stopped, but information regarding the development of a COVID proof testing method was widely spread within sport and media, stakeholders where informed of the details.”



Did you inform athletes and relevant stakeholders in advance that testing was resuming?

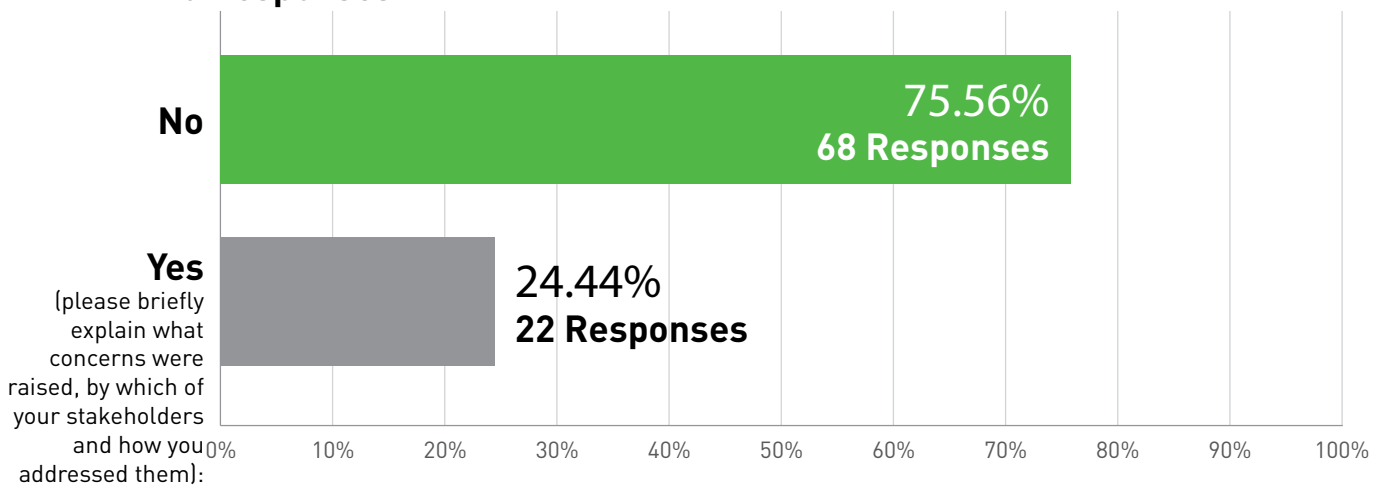
- **No, please explain why:** 29 ADO responses

Themes	RESPONSES
We have not resumed testing	13
We did not inform athletes in the first place that we had stopped testing	11
We did not stop testing	3
We did not want to provide notice to athletes	2



As you resumed testing, did athletes, support personnel or other stakeholders raise any concerns?

- **90 Responses**



- All the concerns raised were around protecting the health and safety of athletes and ensuring that proper measures were in place to do so. Some examples:
 - “The possibility of exposure to the virus from the sample collection personnel to the athletes. This was a concern raised by athletes. It was addressed by ensuring the SCP were well equipped with PPEs and briefed on the procedures and protocols to follow during a mission.”
 - “We got some comments from specific athletes on their expectations around testing and PPE use. We also put in place a process for collecting a sample if athletes did not feel comfortable testing in their homes.”
 - “From the overwhelming majority, we have had no concerns raised. The only concern has been from 1 or 2 athletes who are clinically vulnerable who were ‘shielding’ and wanted to clarify whether they could prevent a DCO entering their home for sample collection. This was addressed through a Q&A detailing the process of Covid-19 safeguarding questions (i.e. Athlete Questionnaire) at notification.”
 - “They asked specifically about PPE, the adaptations to the doping control process.”



How did you determine when to resume your testing activities? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The decision was made in consultation with government representatives (e.g., sport, health, etc.)	50.55%	46
The decision was made based on restrictions being lifted in my country (or in various countries)	65.93%	60
The decision was made based on sports competitions resuming	31.87%	29
The decision was made based on the laboratory(ies) resuming their activities	15.38%	14
Other (please briefly explain):	29.67%	27
Total		91

- **Other, please briefly explain:** 24 responses

Themes	RESPONSES
We have not resumed testing	10
After implementing safety guidelines and acquiring PPE	6
Based on training/competitions resuming	3
Through consultation (e.g., experts, SCAs and other partners)	3
Based on budget and need to test high profile athletes	2

“Internal team consultation and new policies and processes were developed. We made science-based decisions based on consultation with experts (internal and external) and looked at the data. PPE shortages impacted resumption of testing. Listening to athlete feedback through a RTP athlete survey as well as hearing from athletes that they wanted testing to continue was a large factor in our decision making and push to continue testing safely.”



When you initially resumed testing, what types of testing missions did you prioritize? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Out-of-competition, home visits only	33.33%	30
Out-of-competition, only training venues (no home visits)	25.56%	23
Out-of-competition, based on athlete location/ whereabouts (no restrictions regarding location)	42.22%	38
Out-of-competition and in-competition	20.00%	18
In-competition only	2.22%	2
Urine only	55.56%	50
Blood only	1.11%	1
Blood and urine	20.00%	18
Only Registered Testing Pool (RTP) athletes, high risk athletes	54.44%	49
Any athlete	11.11%	10
Other (Provide any additional information):	27.78%	25
Total		90



You answered that blood samples were not prioritized when you resumed testing. Please indicate why. (select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Collecting blood does not allow for the recommended physical distancing	52.94%	27
Lack of Blood Collection Officers (BCOs)	25.49%	13
Other (please briefly explain):	52.94%	27
Total		51

- **Other, please briefly explain:** 23 responses

Themes	RESPONSES
Blood transport issues (e.g., border closure, delays)	11
No requirement for blood/Not included in TDP	5
Lack of BCOs/lack of equipment	4
Started with urine and now working on protocols for blood	2
WADA Guidance said to prioritize urine	1

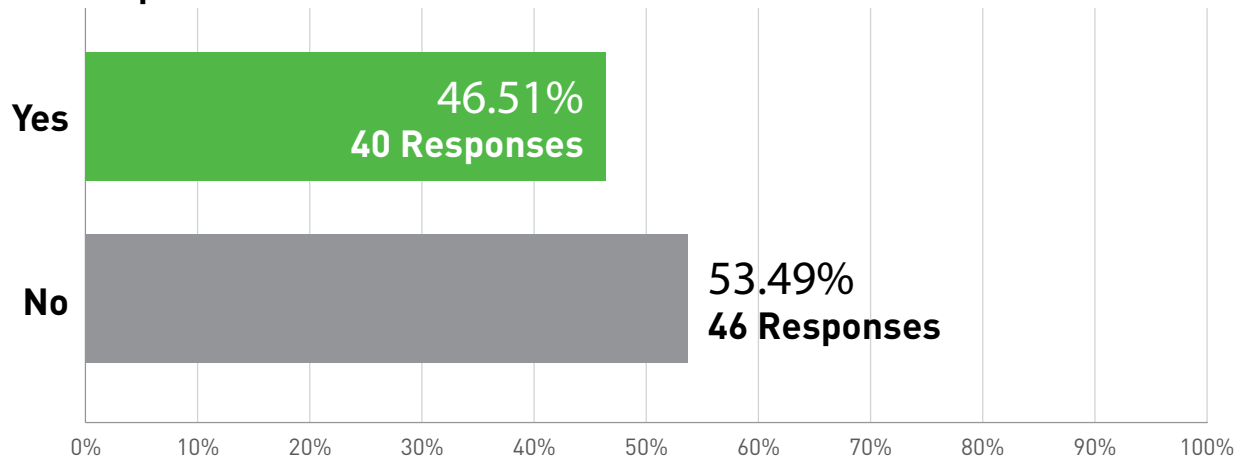


Sample Collection Personnel



Did you reduce your pool of Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) when you resumed testing?

• 86 Responses





Why did you reduce your pool of SCP when you resumed testing? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
We wanted to use our most experienced SCP.	53.66%	22
Some SCP were part of a vulnerable population group and we excluded them.	41.46%	17
Some SCP did not want to resume testing at this time.	26.83%	11
We had less testing to conduct.	58.54%	24
Other (please briefly explain):	29.27%	12
Total		41

- **Other, please briefly explain:** 12 responses

Variety of responses:

“Some SCP lived in areas of high levels of COVID19 and therefore were not engaged due to higher risk.”

“In order to minimize the risk, the number of DCOs has been reduced to 2.”

“Because our DCOs are physicians and some of them were engaged in COVID-19 hospital.”

“SCP to undergo additional COVID-19 training prior to be assigned to the mission.”

“We chose DCOs from the health care sector who were familiar with health protective procedures.”

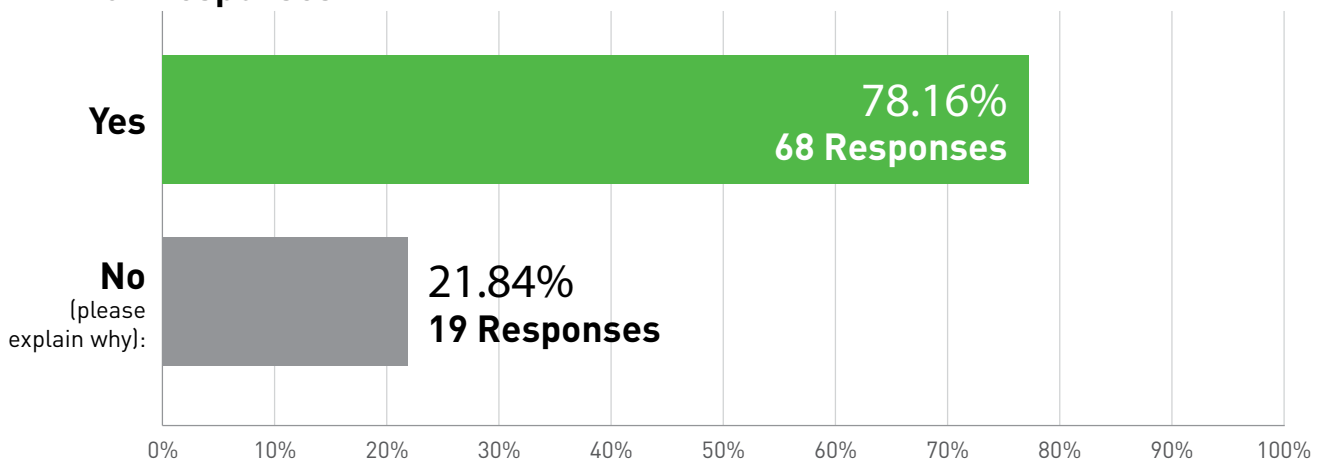
“Budget reduction.”

“Nominated most experienced SCP as we modified our OOCT process by using one SCP (while our normal operation is always two SCP on one mission even for one sample from single athlete).”



Did you develop and implement a process where SCP had to self-certify the status of their health before missions?

- **87 Responses**



- **No, please explain why: 15 responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Not applicable, testing has not resumed	3
We outsource services	3
SCP asked to measure temperature and decline mission if feeling unwell	3
Cost prohibitive	2
Not implemented yet but we are planning to do so	2
Not a requirement in our country	2



Did you develop and implement a process where SCP had to self-certify the status of their health before missions?

- **Please identify any challenges you faced in implementing a self-certification process for SCP (e.g., any lessons learned)**

18 ADOs responded that they did not face any challenges. Some examples of the lessons learned below:

“We initially created a self assessment form which quickly became dated as a result of evolving questionnaires from public health authorities. As a result, our process was altered to direct SCP to the online tools being provided by public health. SCP were then asked to certify that they had undergone screening and were fit to proceed with a mission.”

“Unclear specifications regarding vulnerable person, implementation of PCR testing for testing personnel.”

“Paper based self certification system was found challenging and due to that online system was developed very quickly.”

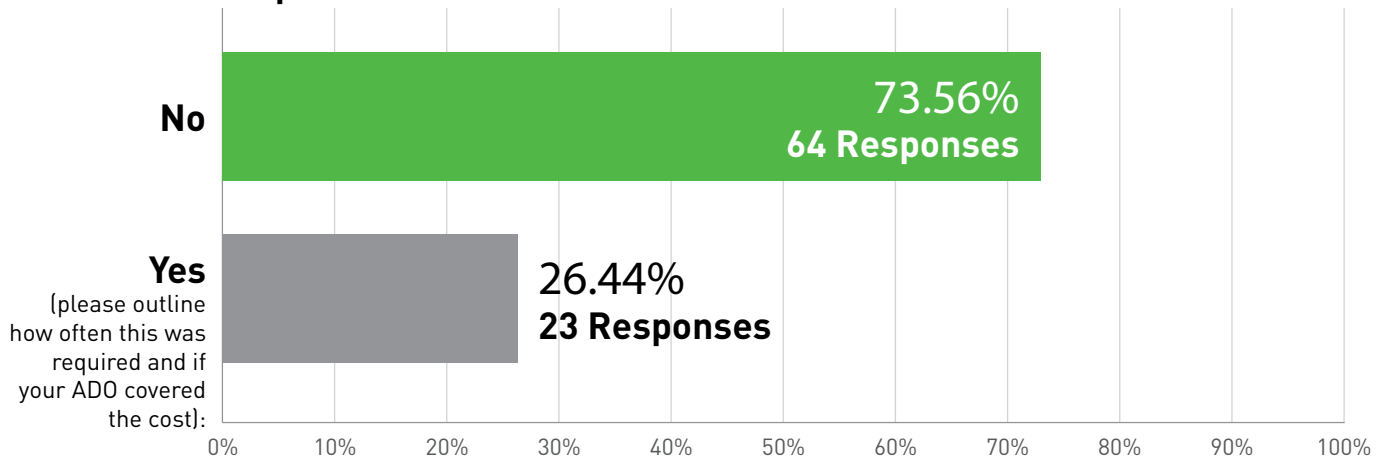
“While the self-certification process was effective overall, because we were concerned about asymptomatic transmission, we decided to implement a COVID-19 testing program on SCP as an added layer of safety for them and athletes.

“Difficulties in implementing preventive epidemiological measures in non-medical staff.”



Did you require your SCP to be tested for COVID-19 prior to accepting a testing mission?

• **87 Responses**





Did you require your SCP to be tested for COVID-19 prior to accepting a testing mission?

- **Yes, please outline how often this was required and if your ADO covered the costs:** 23 ADO responses

"One initial test and was covered by the NADO."

"Every second week, we cover the costs."

"We did not pay the cost. Every ten days the DCOs perform serological tests and swab."

"Prior first mission and then once in 10 days at our costs. More testing can be agreed where needed."

"We did it before every competition where high-level athletes were involved and yes the costs were covered from our NADO."

"We covered the cost and depending on the type of mission and/or travel, the timing is within 48 hours of the mission to once every 2 weeks. We have complied with all bubble environment requirements to ensure we can maintain access to athletes both out-of-competition and in-competition environments."

"Once in 3 month and SCP pay by themselves."

"5 days prior."

"SCP were required to be tested when conducting a mission in a certain sport. This was at the request of the sport. SCP were not required to be COVID19 tested for missions in other sports."

"Monthly"

"Once and the costs were covered by the International Federation."

"Before every anti-doping control."

"Twice a month."

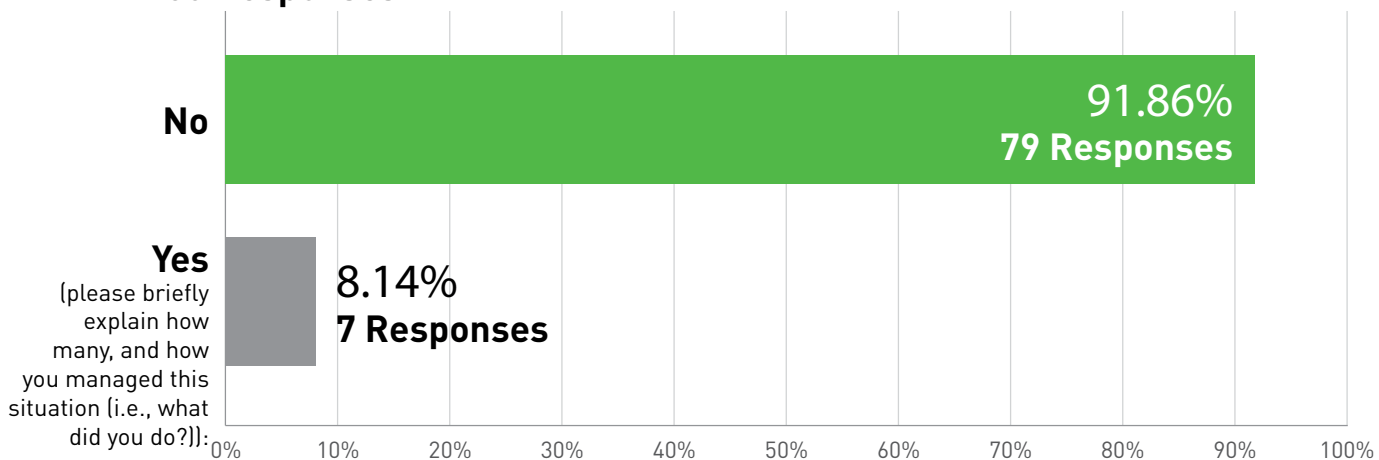
"Not for every test mission, but every 2 months. The test is free."

"Our SCP work in hospital, so they were tested at work, we asked them for copies of the recent test. We didn't have cost."



Were you informed by any of your SCP that, after resuming testing and having conducted some testing missions, they tested positive for COVID-19?

- **86 Responses**



- **Yes, please briefly explain how many, and how you managed this situation (i.e., what did you do?): 7 ADO responses**

“Just one case and we managed the situation according to the general health system procedures.”

“Keep calm and manage stress.”

“2 cases, in the first one - negative results were provided right after, in the second case DCO was put under quarantine, all other DCOs in a group have been sent for additional COVID-19 testing and removed from mission until results are received, all tested athletes been informed properly.”

“Only once, DCO tested positive by source at his medical institution. Health Authority were informed and a sport club as well. A special procedure was followed.”

“Notification of relevant ADOs, athletes and offering COVID-19 testing. Strict protocol for returning those positive SCP to testing.”

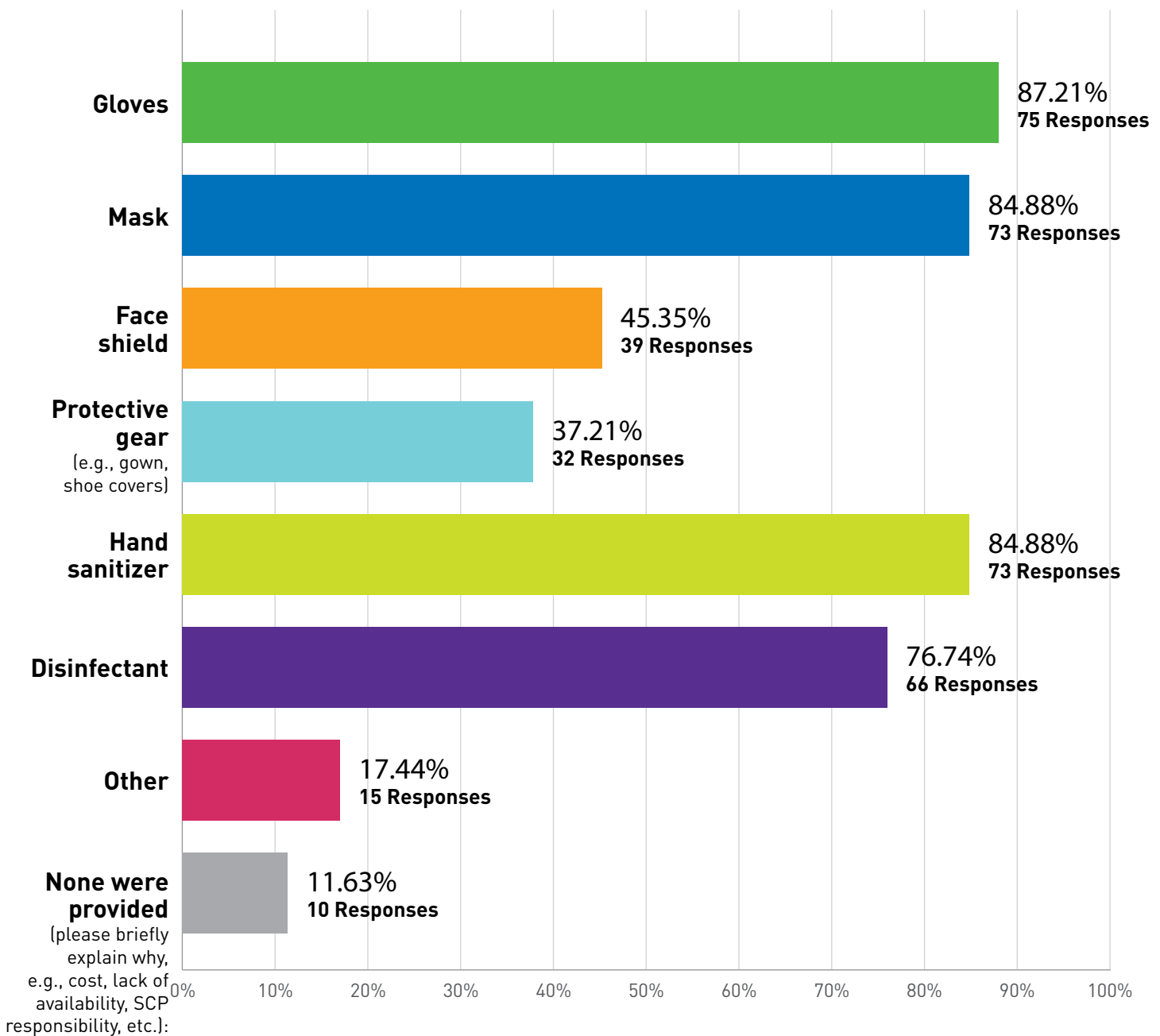


Personal Protection Equipment & Hygiene Measures



Which PPE are you providing to your SCP to use during sample collection? (Select all that apply)

• 86 Responses





Which PPE are you providing to your SCP to use during sample collection? (Select all that apply)

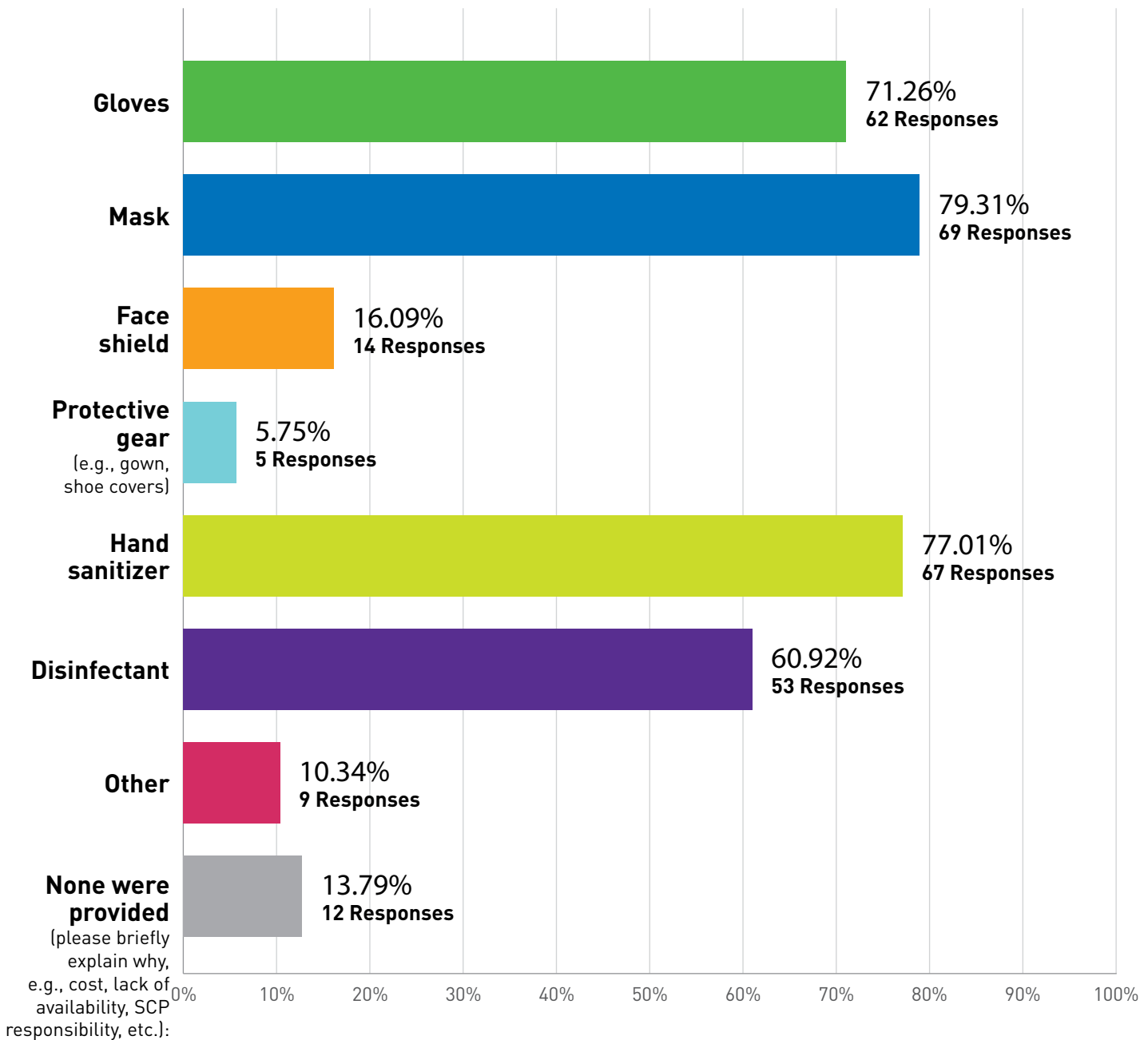
- **None were provided. Please briefly explain why, e.g., cost, lack of availability, SCP responsibility, etc.:** 10 ADO responses

Themes	RESPONSES
Responsibility of SCP	4
No testing yet	3
We outsource	2
No obligation to do so	1



Which PPE are you providing to athletes to use during sample collection? (Select all that apply)

• 87 Responses





Which PPE are you providing to athletes to use during sample collection? (Select all that apply)

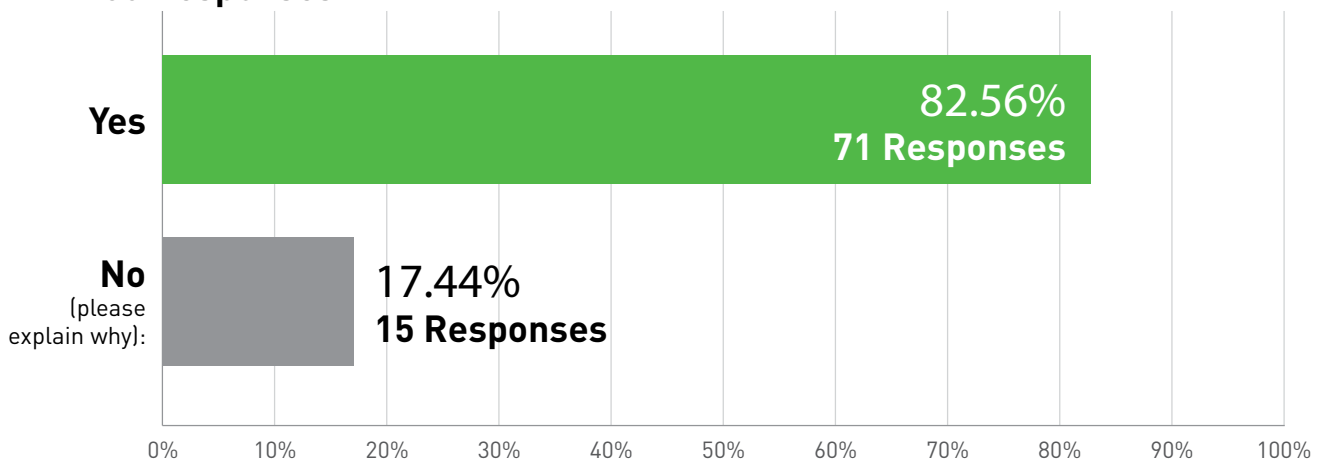
- **None were provided. Please briefly explain why, e.g., cost, lack of availability, athlete responsibility, etc.:** 11 ADO responses

Themes	RESPONSES
Testing has not resumed	5
Athlete responsibility/SCP responsibility to provide	2
We outsource	2
We are planning to provide it to athletes	1
No obligation to do so	1



Did you provide specific information and training to your SCP on the enhanced hygiene procedures and use of PPE before they resumed testing?

- **86 Responses**



- **No, please explain why: 15 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Testing has not resumed	7
No need, we use health professionals already trained	4
We outsource	3
We circulated WADA guideline	1



Should WADA consider including additional hygiene measures and/or the use of PPE around sample collection in the ISTI or should such measures be located in a relevant testing Guideline to provide flexibility for ADOs?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, such measures should be included in the ISTI.	25.26%	24
No, such measures should not be included in the ISTI but Yes, they should be included in a testing Guideline.	69.47%	66
No, such measures should not be included in either the ISTI or in a Guideline document. Please briefly explain why:	5.26%	5
Total		95

- **No, such measures should not be included in either the ISTI or in a Guideline document. Please briefly explain why:** 5 responses

2 ADOs mentioned that cost would be too prohibitive.

“In the recent months, we learnt that each country put in place its own measures and it is important to understand and comply with them; WADA guidelines are very important to have the security and safety minimum requirements, but they can be different from country to country.”

“Don’t feel that additional hygiene measures and/or PPE is required outside of a Pandemic. If included in the Guidelines, it should be included as an option rather than an actual recommendation.”

“Issues regarding PPE maybe need to be addressed on a more local/regional level depending on the circumstances, for example what type of PPE is available in a certain country.”



Sample Collection Procedures



Did you adapt your sample collection procedures based on the guidance provided within the COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Testing document?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, we included everything that was proposed.	58.62%	51
Yes, we included most steps proposed.	25.29%	22
No, we did not adapt our sample collection procedures. (Please briefly explain why)	16.09%	14
Total		87

- **No, we did not adapt our sample collection procedures. Please briefly explain why:** 14 ADO responses

Themes	RESPONSES
No testing yet but we plan to include everything	5
Testing has not resumed	3
We adapted our procedures before guidance was issued	2
We adapted our procedures based on national guidance	2
We outsource	2



You indicated that you included most steps but not all proposed within the COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Testing document. Please briefly explain what you did not include in your revised procedures and why.

“We did not launch a notice regarding the resuming of the doping controls.”

“COVID-19 Athlete Information Letter was not developed (this information was provided verbally) and we did not implement all the athlete questions regarding COVID-19 status due to medical/privacy concerns and not wanting to encourage the athlete to refuse testing.”

“We only use face masks when we cannot keep the 2-meter social distance (according to the advice from our Public Health Authority). We also allowed DCOs working in the health sector to perform testing, since they are the professionals at hygiene measures and infection control. Doctors and nurses are not over-represented in our Covid-statistics.”

“We have not implemented flexibility around social distancing - we are required to maintain this at all times, throughout the process.”

“We did not offer gloves to the athletes.”

“Online and virtual education were not considered.”

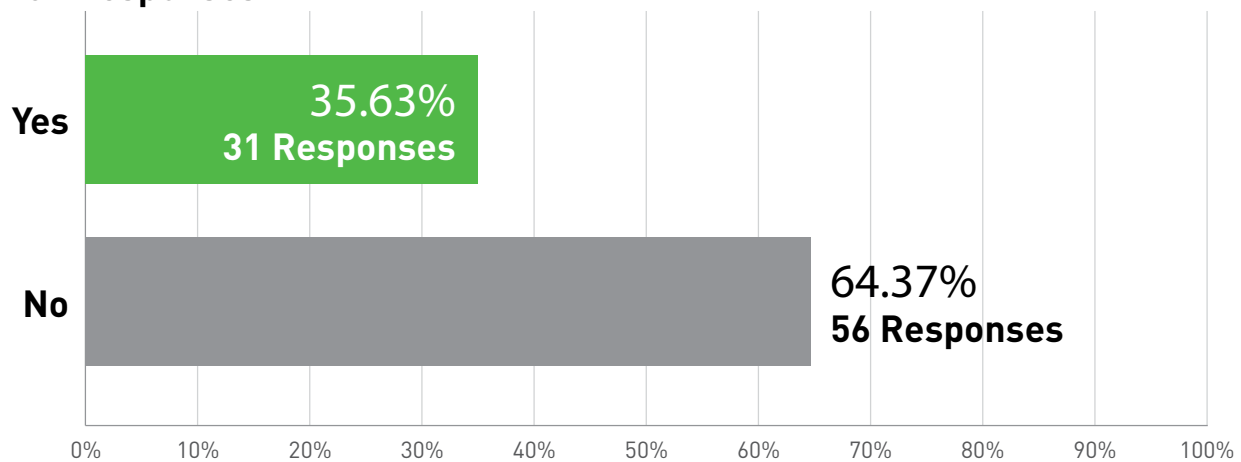


Athlete Health Assessment/Status



Did you request that athletes enter information related to COVID-19 into ADAMS (i.e., whether they had any symptoms, had COVID-19, had been in contact with someone who had COVID-19 or lived with someone who had symptoms or had COVID-19, etc.)?

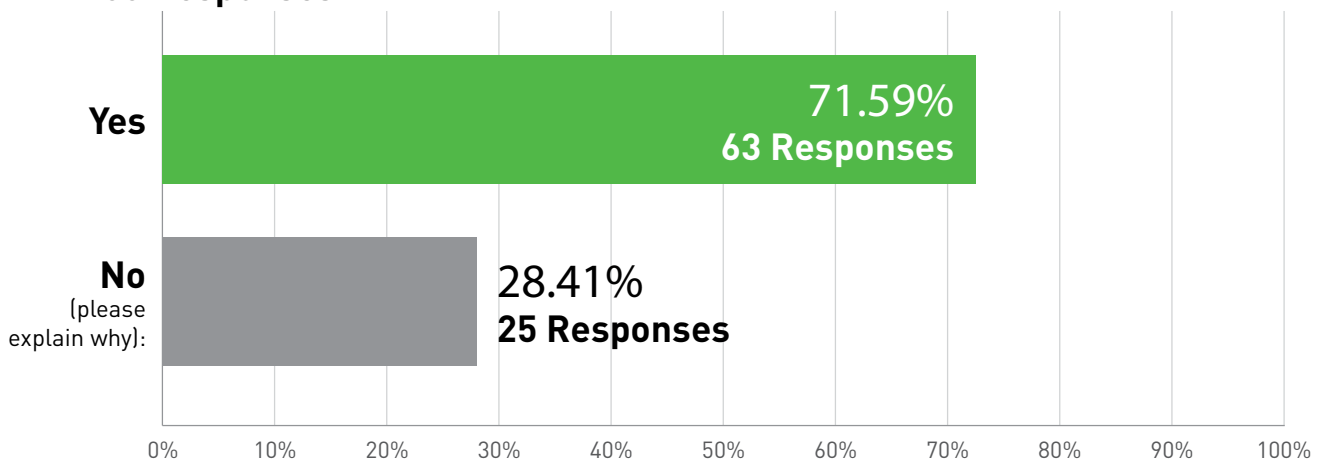
- **87 Responses**





The COVID-19 ADO Guidance for Resuming Testing document proposed that 'athlete health questionnaire' be developed. Did you develop such a questionnaire?

- **88 Responses**



- **No, please explain why: 20 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
In progress	7
Lack of resources/no time/not needed	5
We outsource	4
Have not resumed testing	3
Privacy concerns	1



Based on applicable data privacy regulations, were you permitted to ask specific medical questions related to COVID-19 within your 'athlete health questionnaire'?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Did not consult such regulations	17.46%	11
Yes	74.60%	47
No (please explain why):	7.94%	5
Total		63

- **No, please explain why:**

"Athlete's consent is obtained prior to data collection to avoid any violation of privacy."

"We had to ask for their permission according to GDPR to ask the question. Everyone has accepted to answer questions so far."

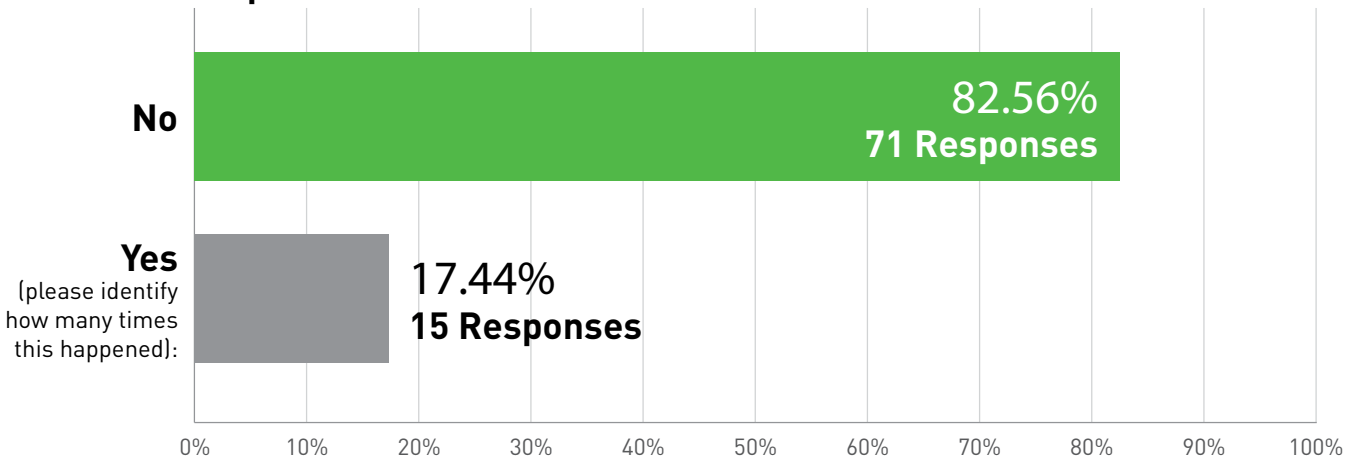
"Only relevant information to protect the health of everyone involved in the process are asked. Medical questions are not included."

"I would have chosen 'Yes' but wanted to leave comment: we do have those questions in the questionnaire but under the law athletes are allowed not to answer them."



Once contact was established with the athlete, did your SCP encounter any situation where testing could not be conducted due to COVID-19 (e.g., athlete had symptoms, lived with someone with COVID-19 or who had symptoms, athlete was in quarantine, athlete refused to complete the 'athlete questionnaire', etc.)?

- **86 Responses**



- **Yes, please identify how many times this happened:** 13 ADO responses

Themes	RESPONSES
1 instance	7
2 instances	3
5 instances	1
6 instances	1
9 instances	1



How your SCP were instructed to proceed:

- **7 ADOs responded that SCP were instructed to cancel the mission.**

Other responses included:

“Proceed by virtual meeting.”

“To ask the athlete if they could call them and perform a health questionnaire by phone.”

“We created material based on WADA’s guideline issued on 6th of May and trained using such material online.”

“The doctor was briefed on the situation, i.e., that he could be refused access in the absence of a PCR (COVID-19) result.”

How did you track this information?

“Via DCO reports, online database”



Did you follow up with the athlete to validate?	RESPONSES
Each case is reviewed to determine next steps	4
Yes, follow-up occurred	4
No follow-up with athlete	3
No follow-up with athlete but with NF/IF	2

Was information included in ADAMS?	RESPONSES
No	12
Yes	1

Did you reschedule the test?	RESPONSES
Yes	12
No	1



Did you have a situation where an athlete confirmed shortly after sample collection that they tested positive for COVID-19 and may have had COVID-19 at the time of sample collection?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	95.35%	82
Yes	4.65%	4
Total		86

If yes, please identify the number of athletes

"We received a notification from the national federation that almost all the athletes in the training camp were diagnosed with COVID-19, where we had conducted a doping control mission and collected 5 samples from 5 athletes. All the 5 athletes were diagnosed with COVID-19 a couple of days later."

"Two athletes in an international competition."

"1 athlete."

"Difficult to confirm but no more than 5 athletes."



How did you manage this situation? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
We informed the laboratory immediately.	75.00%	3
We informed all SCP involved in the testing mission.	100.00%	4
Other	75.00%	3
Total		4

If other, please briefly explain

"When the laboratory refused to analyze the samples as a result of their risk assessment, we asked them to ship the samples to our office. We store the received samples in a separate refrigerator in our office for future investigations. In addition, we ensured that all doping control personnel presented in the mission are subjected to a COVID-19 PCR test 7-days apart. All results were negative."

"We informed WADA at once of this situation."

"We have a process in place to manage this - the SCP in question has been 'paused' work for a designated period of time to enable the NHS Test and Trace process to contact them if need be (although we believe they will not be contacted due to procedures, social distancing and PPE)."

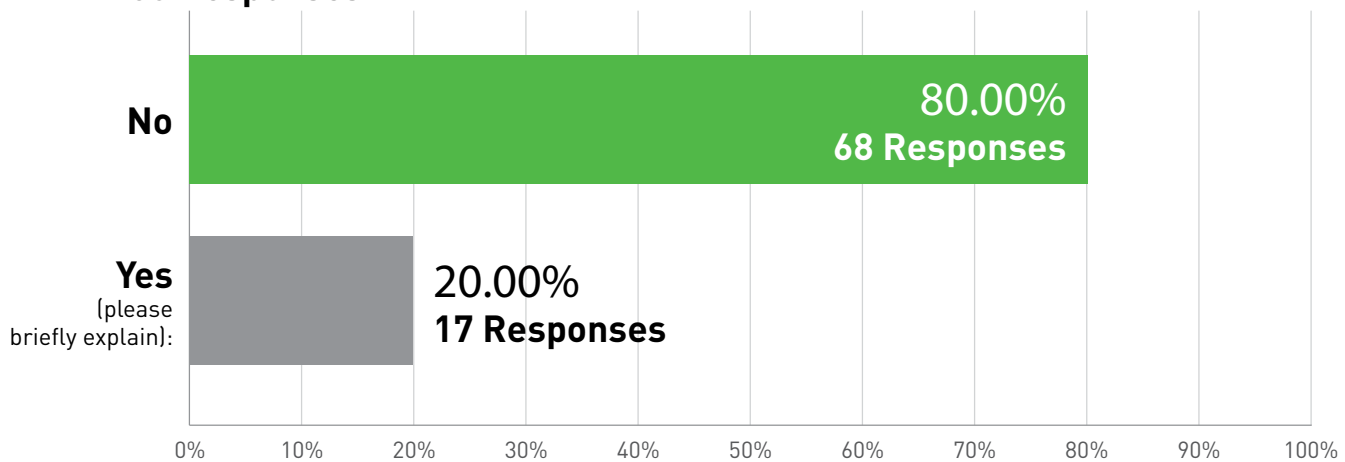


Laboratories



Did you have any problems with the shipment of samples to a WADA-accredited (or approved) laboratory or the laboratory's receipt of samples as a result of national regulations due to the pandemic?

- **85 Responses**



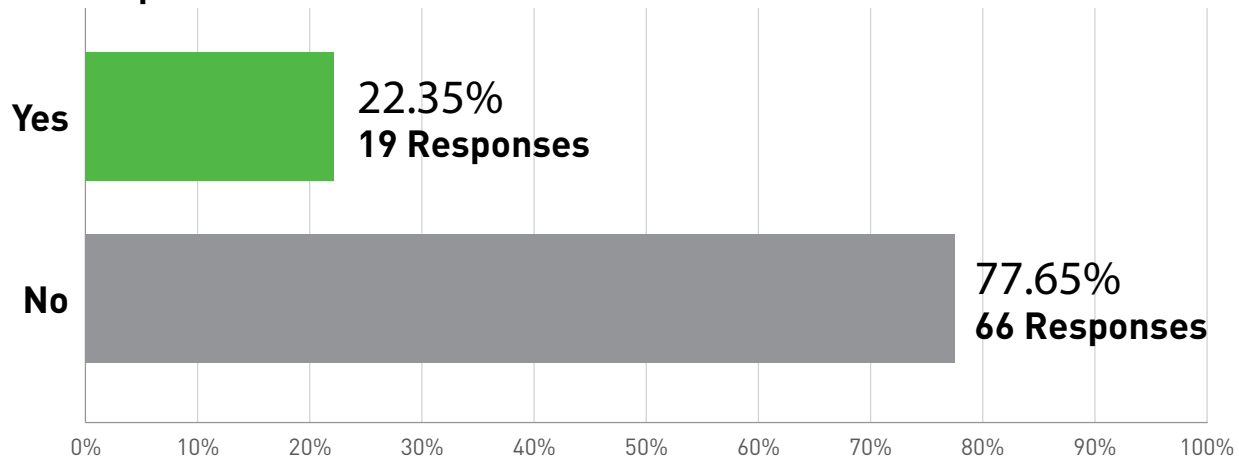
- **Yes, please briefly explain: 17 ADO responses**

Themes	RESPONSES
Border closure and limited flights	10
Reduced/limited courier capacity	5
Laboratory was closed/reduced capacity	2



Did the closing of a number of WADA accredited laboratories during COVID-19 impact your ability to collect or send samples to a laboratory?

• 85 Responses



What measures did you have to put in place because the laboratory was closed? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sample were sent to another laboratory.	21.05%	4
Samples were temporarily stored until the laboratory re-opened.	26.32%	5
We did not collect any samples until the laboratory re-opened.	78.95%	15
Other	10.53%	2
Total		19

If other, please briefly explain

"The samples were sent to the laboratory with which we had a long-term cooperation agreement."

"Some samples were collected just before the lockdown and could not be shipped for 3 months."

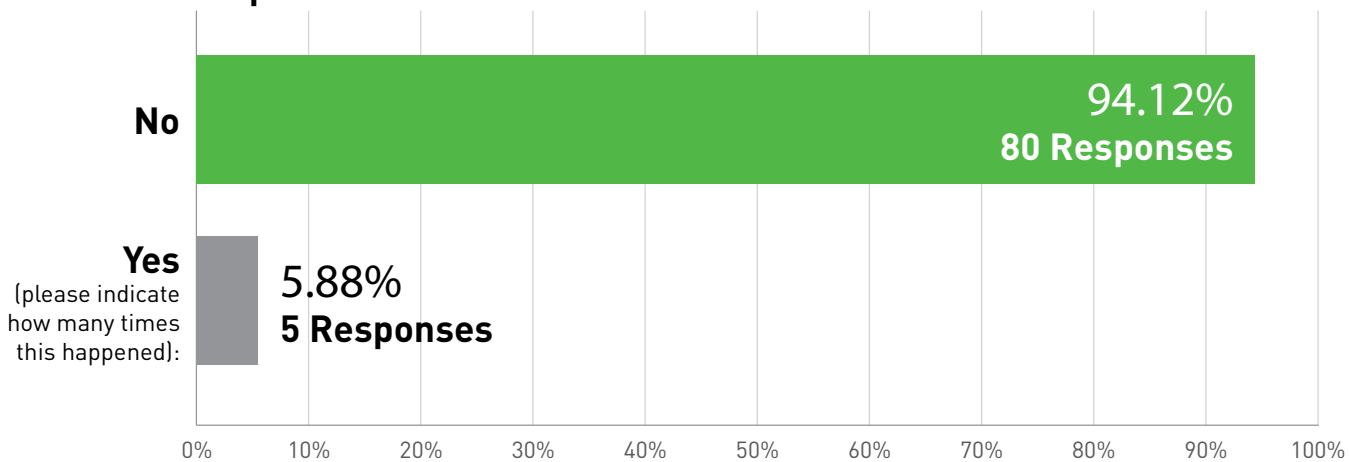


B Sample Analysis



Did you face any issue regarding the possibility for athletes or their representative or an independent witness to attend the B-sample analysis?

- **85 Responses**



- **Yes, please indicate how many times this happened:**

“This happened twice: one cancelled their request for the B sample analysis (but not due to Covid) and the other was happy for the B sample to go ahead with them (or their rep).”

“It was necessary to postpone a second opinion following the ban on the presence of an external witness.”



Please explain the reason(s) why athletes, their representative or independent witness could not attend the B-sample analysis. (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
National legislation prevented entry to the laboratory for any external persons.	25.00%	1
Laboratory health and safety rules prevented entry to the laboratory for any external persons.	25.00%	1
Travel restrictions in place did not allow the athlete or their representative to travel.	50.00%	2
Athlete did not accept to have an independent witness.	50.00%	2
Other	25.00%	1
Total		4

If other, please briefly explain

“Representative did not feel safe to travel and laboratory closure prevented B-sample opening scheduling. Labs were not able to adapt to a video-based B-opening procedure which was unfortunate because this would have been easy and acceptable to some athletes and/or their representative. We had to make special arrangements with the laboratory to transfer the A and B samples to an alternative laboratory due to closure or delays in order to expedite cases.”



Should an athlete or their representative not be allowed to access the laboratory or to travel to the laboratory or the athlete not accept the independent witness, what solution would you consider as the best option?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Continue to store the B-sample and wait until the situation is back to normal and then analyze the B-sample;	33.33%	28
Ship the B-sample to another laboratory that the athlete or their representative could travel to and access;	5.95%	5
Have the B-sample opening and analysis video-streamed so the athlete can observe it online;	54.76%	46
Other options (please specify):	5.95%	5
Total		84

Should the pandemic continue for the unforeseeable future, would you favor the adoption of new measures around the B-sample opening and analysis?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, such measures should be included in the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL).	50.00%	42
No, such measures should not be included in the ISL but Yes, they should be included in a Guideline document to allow for flexibility.	48.81%	41
No, such measures should not be included in either the ISL or in a Guideline document. Please briefly explain why:	1.19%	1
Total		84



Is there any other information you wish to share with WADA regarding the COVID-19 situation?

- **26 ADOs mentioned 'None at this time' (4 of those due to testing not started).**

Other comments:

"Share more details about remote doping control in case the latter is in compliance with the ISTI."

"It would be helpful to have a label in the ADAMS whereabouts specifically for quarantine with some remarks (e.g. is it self-quarantine or a decision of health authorities). If an athlete fills out the label quarantine, there could be an alert for the athlete to inform the responsible ADO about the quarantine."

"In addition to those mentioned in the questionnaire, the status of educational activities during the outbreak can be mentioned. During the COVID-19 pandemic, education plan changed from face to face type of education to the online platforms. Online educational format adaptation term was fast and efficient through the planning process. Additionally, educational activities continued via social media and online seminars in cooperation with some national federations to inform athletes, athlete support personnel about the importance of clean sport and doping control processes on COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, especially during the quarantine and lockdown periods, we had the opportunity to reach many athletes that we could not reach before through online activities. From this point of view, we can say that the educational processes are carried out better and more broadly rather than a negative impact."

"The global sport community and anti-doping programs are going to be impacted for a long time to come. We are particularly concerned with the reductions in testing and the possibility that athletes use this opportunity to dope in preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The reporting of testing numbers by region seemed unfair because of the proportionality of testing by region. The raw testing numbers lack context related to the status of the COVID-19 outbreak in certain regions and the variability around the world. It also lacked context around the strict mitigation measures that had to be put in place in our country due to the huge impact of the outbreak. Investment into alternative collection strategies that offer more flexibility and athlete-friendly collections that would be less impacted by crises such as the pandemic are also important to push forward. We highly support the establishment of the Strategic Testing Group and further encourage close collaboration and communication to work together to manage the crisis and its impact on athletes."

play true

Thank you to all who completed the survey!



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