

**APPENDIX 1: CATEGORISED FREE TEXT RESPONSES**

<b>Other reasons provided for not getting tested for COVID-19 after noticing symptoms?</b>
<b>Mild Symptoms (34 ticked responses)</b> <b>N=8</b>
very mild symptoms
It was just a headache
A one day headache IS NOT a symptom
Only headache
It was only a headache, no other symptoms
<b>Symptoms unrelated to COVID – pre-existing conditions (143 ticked responses)</b> <b>N=54</b>
<b><i>General conditions</i></b>
symptoms consistent with other health conditions
Have pre existing health issues. years
Existing medical conditions
It is part of my illness as to my health been like this for
Both were symptoms of something else and not due to illness, or even a cold.
Symptoms are from my other health conditions
It wasn't covid Its related to three other health issues
Underlying medical problems not related to covid
They are all symptoms of pre-existing conditions.
My symptoms are from other health issues not covid related
Symptoms of other condition
Know they're related to other health issues
They all have nothing to do with C19. They are symptoms I have had for years.
Part of my usual ongoing symptoms
On going previous condition
Ongoing health concerns not related to covid
Have being living with these symptoms before Covid 19
These were symptoms of a previous health issue not related to COVID
Related to medical condition
Medical advice not related
<b><i>Specific conditions</i></b>
I know my symptoms have no relationship to this awful mutant flu that's running rampant right now but in fact those symptoms I ticked off are due to my Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome condition that I have had since 2003

These are side effects of my chemotherapy treatment
Insomnia and back pain
Breathing difficulties relate to lung disease that I am afflicted with.
I have Bronchiectasis and my symptoms are consistent with how I always feel
My symptoms of pain/aches and fatigue are not uncommon to me. I have had those same symptoms ongoing for the past few years before covid came along. It is my usual day to day ailments due to nerve pain,arthritis and depression
MY SYMPTOMS WERE DUE TO GLANDULAR FEVER
Fatigue is part of known health condition for adrenal fatigue from thyroid issues
Usual Symptoms for my Disability
Have had same symptoms for years. Related to diagnosed issue-eustacase displacia, constant headache syndrome and premenipause and
I have ME/CFS and these are my symptoms
Aches from osteoarthritis
<b>Respiratory</b>
I have had the same cough for 30 years, so it's clearly unrelated to COVID. If I developed new/different symptoms, I would get tested right away.
Symptoms more asthma related
Asthma and saw my GP
Tested a while back, ongoing cough
<b>Back</b>
Had on going back pain
Symptoms are caused by my medication and have been present for the last 6 years.
<b>Arthritis</b>
Pain caused by arthritis
Arthritis pain as normal not new
<b>Migraine</b>
Normal migraine headache, I suffer from migraines
I had a severe migraine. The symptoms I had were migraine related. I have had migraines on and off for years and did not get a covid test for this reason.
Not covid it's called migraine
<b>Headache</b>
I often get headaches. Headaches are common for me I do not believe they are related to covid
I always get headaches and on medication for them had them for years
I get frequent headaches and in the absence of other symptoms I do not consider it a Covid risk; otherwise I would be getting tested 3 or 4 times a week

I suffer with headaches all the time due to an acquired brain injury in a car accident 20+ years ago
<b>General</b>
I know the reasons for these issues, not covid related
Have aches & pain all the time
Always tired
My symptoms are not unusual for me.
Don't think it is related to covid as the pain last for years even before the covid
<b>Current conditions explicable for the respondent</b>
<b>N=35</b>
<b><i>Stress, sport and work</i></b>
Symptoms were due to stress from exam period
It was only a one off headache that was stress related
I had a headache from stress I knew what it was
Symptoms due to hard work.
The symptoms were caused by over participating in sports events
Related to exercise
<b><i>Hangover</i></b>
Knew symptoms weren't COVID (I was definitely just hungover)
Was more of a hangover
Ache was from back strain, headache was from hangover
<b><i>Short term conditions</i></b>
One the symptoms was from bad food and the other from ceiling dust in the air at the worksite.
Was diagnosed with laryngitis
Headache was from toothache
Not related to Covid but surgery
I was in a clinical trial and as was part of the testing I had an uncomfortable thing on my head giving me a headache
it was an allergic reaction to dust
It was just a head ache
Know symptoms aren't related to covid, as headaches are due to wisdom teeth and aches is due to a foot issue.
I only had a cold - not COVID-19
Have been told by GP that I have sinusitis
Been seen by doctor
Allergic reaction to antibiotics
Was neck related
Got tonsillitis

<b><i>Fatigue</i></b>
New mum I'm very fatigued
Symptoms related to lack of sleep
Symptoms definitely not related to covid - Fatigue caused by late nights
I knew my symptoms were caused by busy work
Runny nose was caused by being outside in the cold. It stopped running when I went inside. Headache was caused by being tired.
It is just tiredness from the cold
<b><i>I just know</i></b>
Illness not related to COVID-19
Had covid test 6 weeks ago, cough was residual
Definitely NOT covid related
I had a sore hip one day and three days later I had a headache. I also have chronic fatigue. None of these are a symptom of Covid
Aches and pains not covid related
I know it is not Covid
not necessary
I didn't have Covid
Not Covid symptoms
I am definite that my headache was caused by other thing and not Covid. I wasn't out and about days prior to my headache.
<b><i>Vaccination related</i></b>
Have had my 1st jab Astra Venica no symptoms Covid 19
Part of vaccine post symptoms
Symptoms due to covid vaccine
Symptoms were after COVID vaccination so were expected
reaction to covid vaccination
Son had flu like symptoms after phizer shot and gave it to all the family
<b>Seasonal/regular symptoms</b>
<b>N=4</b>
MY NOSE BLOCKS UP EVERY WINTER FOR NO REASON. I KNEW THIS WAS ONE OF THESE TIMES
allergy
I am a seasonal asthmatic and take an inhaler for that.
It's because I'm a woman at that time of mouth, ain't covid my man.
<b>Explained by behaviour or circumstances</b>
<b>N=4</b>

I am in total isolation for other health reasons and the only outside contact I had was to get the vaccine and I was told these were common side effects of the vaccine
i haven't left the house for over a year
I only go to work and home, get home delivered shopping, when I stop for petrol I'm very hygienic, I wear a mask everywhere, plus I smoke and drink a lot so blame my symptoms on that
I don't go anywhere. I am VERY careful when I do. And I suffer from hay fever badly. So I know MY symptoms
<b>Don't believe in COVID</b>
<b>N=3</b>
It opens too many cans of worms and I'm not having people knocking on my door plus I don't believe COVID is any worse than the flu
Cause it's a scam
This whole COVID stuff is a scam
<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>N=8</b>
Don't feel comfortable having the job it seems like there is too much confusion as to which if any job to have
Stuff the tests anywhere you see fit
none
Nothing
Had an appointment with my GP anyhow
Doctor told me it was a cold
Didn't want to
Tested 3 months ago
<b>Note this!</b>
my symptoms are due to breast cancer and the meds involved! I have been tested for COVID about 4 times this year and always been found negative. Due to other problems I have been house bound for many months! In fact since last year with 2 or 3 exceptions! Please don't freak out like this, it's upsetting! You CANNOT just say that I have experienced COVID symptoms!!!!