

# Returning Back to Campus After COVID-19:

## Neuroticism and it's Correlated Attitudes

Ian Campuzano, McNair Mentor: Dr. Jill Seiver

Eastern Washington University

### Introduction

Personality traits are related to mental health and can play a role in a person's ability to cope with major stressful events (Rettew et al., 2021).

Students who score high on the neuroticism trait often experience more negative affectivity and respond worse to stressors that leave them susceptible to unfavorable outcomes in the context of a stressful experience such as COVID-19 pandemic (Shokrkon & Nicoladis, 2021).

Perceived stress and greater participation in health promotion activities were significantly associated with a number of personality traits including neuroticism, which saw a lower participation response and higher stress level (Rettew et al., 2021).

Neuroticism is crucial in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, showing high neurotic people having greater emotional reactivity and scarce resources to manage stress (Caci et al., 2020).

#### Hypothesis:

Students high on the neuroticism spectrum in the big 5 inventory will more likely have a negative attitude on vaccines and have a high anxiety level in crowded and maskless areas.

### Method

- Data is being collected via Survey Monkey. Student respondents are being gathered through a snowball effect from emails, announcements and text messages.
- The online survey has a total of 62 questions with 3 parts.
- The first part of the survey includes a randomized 8 question scenario which includes a mask, unmasked, social distanced and crowded pictured scenarios.



- The second part to the study includes a brief questionnaire about the COVID-19 Vaccine.
- This is to see student's general attitudes and reactions towards the COVID-19 vaccine and the EWU mandate.



The final part of this study includes the big 5 inventory to test the trait of Agreeableness, Extraversion, Conscientiousness, Openness, and Neuroticism.

We will focus and emphasize the results we find on the neuroticism to see if a pattern generates from the the questions on the previous parts.

### Procedure

#### Respondants:

- We plan to generate about 100 participants.

#### Materials:

- Computer or smartphone with internet to access survey on SurveyMonkey. Big 5 Inventory.

### Discussion

- Neuroticism is the tendency to experience emotional instability such as Anxiety, Hostility, Depression, Self Consciousness, Impulsiveness and Vulnerability.
- A very neurotic individual will experience these traits very easily.
- Will highly neurotic people be more likely to pay attention to details about the pandemic?
- Will they have a positive attitude towards vaccination mandates?
- Will they have a positive attitude on masks?

