



COVID-19 Survey Summary: August 7, 2020

The following is a summary of social, behavioral and economic survey research on COVID-19 released in the past week, as compiled for the Societal Experts Action Network ([SEAN](#)). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the [SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

[Sign up](#) for notice of these weekly summaries each Friday morning.

The debate over how best to reopen K-12 schools dominated this week’s COVID-19 polls, with a trend away from preferences for fully in-person instruction toward a hybrid or fully online approach. Among other notable results, public satisfaction with the nation’s direction has dropped dramatically, to a near-record low in data since 1979.

Back to School?

About a quarter of parents with school-age children (23 percent) say K-12 schools in their area should provide in-person instruction five days a week. Thirty-two percent call for online instruction five days a week and 34 percent favor a mix of in-person and online instruction. Views among all adults are fairly similar – 19 percent for in-person instruction, 28 percent for fully online classes and 36 percent for a hybrid approach.

Support for fully online instruction peaks among Blacks (43 percent), Democrats and those who lean Democratic (41 percent) and Hispanics (39 percent), as well as Asians, lower-income Americans and those living in counties that have been hard hit by the coronavirus recently (all 35 percent). Support for fully in-person instruction is highest among Republicans and GOP leaners (36 percent), followed by whites (24 percent), higher-income Americans (23 percent) and those living in counties that have not seen a recent spike in-COVID-19 deaths (25 percent).

Given possible factors in whether to open K-12 schools for in-person instruction, six in 10 adults say

Americans are divided over the type of instruction K-12 schools should provide in the fall

% saying that, all things considered, K-12 schools in the area where they live should provide the following type of instruction in the fall

	In-person five days a week	Online five days a week	A mix of in-person and online	Not sure
All adults	19	28	36	16
Men	21	25	37	16
Women	17	31	35	16
White	24	23	38	15
Black	8	43	32	17
Hispanic	10	39	32	19
Asian*	12	35	38	14
Upper income	23	20	44	14
Middle income	20	28	37	15
Lower income	15	35	30	19
Parent of child in elementary, middle or high school				
Yes	23	32	34	10
No	18	27	37	18
Among those living in counties with ___ COVID-19 deaths per 100K residents				
25+, most within last 8 weeks	17	35	32	16
25+, most 8+ weeks ago	17	29	37	18
<25, most within last 8 weeks	18	27	38	17
<25, most 8+ weeks ago	25	23	37	14

*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2018 earnings. See methodology for more details on income and COVID-19 impact variable.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

a lot of consideration should be given to the risk to students and teachers of getting or spreading the virus. About half say a lot of consideration should be given to parents not being able to work if their children are at home and the possibility that students will fall behind academically without in-person instruction. Fewer, 38 percent, say students missing out on social interaction with peers should be given a lot of consideration, and a third say the same about the financial cost to school systems of following public health guidelines for safe reopening.

Again, there are large partisan gaps. Democrats and those who lean Democratic are more apt to emphasize the risk to students and teachers and the financial cost to school systems, while Republican and those who lean to the GOP are more likely to prioritize the possibility that students will fall behind academically, that they will miss out on social interactions and that parents will not be able to work ([Pew 7/27-8/2](#)).

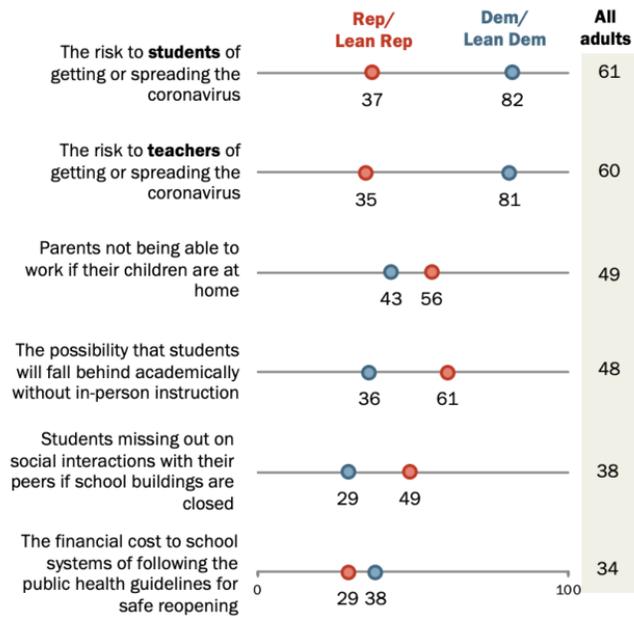
Another poll also finds that larger shares of K-12 parents support a mix of in-person classes and online instruction (44 percent) or all-online instruction (39 percent) rather than all in-person classes (16 percent). Fifty-three percent think their child’s school in fact will offer a hybrid approach, while 26 percent expect all-online instruction and 7 percent expect all in-person classes. (Fourteen percent are unsure.) Six in 10 say their child’s school has provided at least a good amount of information about its plans, while four in 10 have received little or no information.

Sixty-five percent of all adults, and 56 percent of parents, think it is not too or not at all safe to send children back to schools in their community, and two-thirds of parents oppose requiring nearly all public schools in the U.S. to open for in-person classes five days a week. Seven in 10 Republican parents think it’s safe to send children back to school in their community, while 72 percent of Democratic parents think it is not safe.

There’s also a racial divide; 57 percent of white parents see a return to school as safe, compared with 27 percent of Hispanic parents and 21 percent of Black parents. Parents with children in private school also are much more apt to view a return to school as safe compared with public/charter school parents, 70 vs. 41 percent.

Democrats and Republicans differ over factors to be considered as schools decide whether to open for in-person classes

% saying each of the following should be given a lot of consideration in deciding whether to open K-12 schools for in-person instruction in the fall



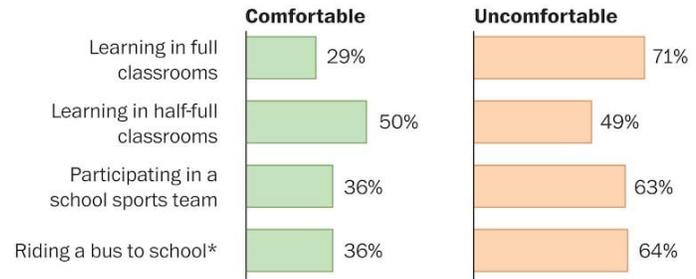
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Concerns abound: Roughly eight in 10 parents are at least somewhat concerned that if students return to a full schedule of in-person classes in the fall it will lead to teachers or their families getting sick, increase the spread of coronavirus in their community and/or lead to their own child or a family member getting sick. Seven in 10 say they'd feel at least somewhat uncomfortable with their child learning in full classrooms this fall; fewer, but still half, would be uncomfortable with their kids learning in half-full classrooms. More than six in 10 would be uncomfortable with their child participating in a school sports team or riding a bus to school. (The latter result is among those who say their child has ever ridden a bus to school.)

More parents are comfortable with their children learning in half-full classrooms than full classrooms

Q: Given the coronavirus situation, how would you feel about your child/your children doing each of the following this fall?



*Among parents of children who ever ride a bus to school

Notes: "No opinion" not shown.

Source: July 24-31, 2020, Washington Post-Schar School survey of 1,185 K-12 parents conducted on the Ipsos KnowledgePanel with an overall margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points.

THE WASHINGTON POST

At the same time, if the school provides only online instruction, 68 percent of parents are at least somewhat concerned that their child will fall behind in their education, 62 percent are concerned their child's friendships will suffer and 57 percent are concerned that their child will get depressed. A quarter express concern that their family will struggle to find childcare and 17 percent are concerned that their child will not receive meals provided by the school. More than half of those who say their child's school is going to be at least partially online this fall think that the quality of online instruction will be worse than in-person classes, and half of working parents say that if their child's school goes fully online it would make their ability to work harder, if not impossible.

If kids do go back to school, large majorities of parents support requiring both teachers (85 percent) and children (78 percent) to wear masks. Sixty-five percent say they're at least somewhat confident that officials at their child's school will take appropriate precautions to limit the spread of the virus if they offer in-person classes ([Washington Post/Schar School 7/24-7/31](#)).

A third poll, conducted in the second half of July, indicates how preferences among parents of K-12 students have changed over the summer. In late May/early June, 56 percent of parents wanted their children to attend school full time in the fall; after the summer surge in coronavirus cases, that dropped by 20 percentage points, to 36 percent. The number of parents who want their school to have full-time distance/remote learning jumped from 7 to 28 percent. The rest, 36 percent, favor a hybrid approach of in-person and distance learning, essentially unchanged.

The shift away from attending school full time likely reflects, at least in part, parents' growing concerns about their children catching the virus. In late May/early June, fewer than half (46 percent) were at least somewhat worried about this; now it's 64 percent, with the number who are very worried more than doubling, from 12 to 27 percent.

Preferences among those concerned about their child catching the virus also have shifted. In late May/early June, most of those who were worried about their child catching the virus favored a hybrid approach (59 percent), while 29 percent wanted their kids to go back full time and 12 percent wanted full-time distance learning. Now, concerned parents divide between a hybrid approach (44 percent) or distance learning (42 percent); just 15 percent still favor full-time in-person schooling. By contrast, among those who aren't worried about their children getting the coronavirus, most (74 percent) favor full-time in-person school, little changed.

There are both regional and, again, partisan differences. Half of parents in the Midwest want their children to go back to school full-time, as do four in 10 Southern parents; that falls to 27 percent in the West and Northeast alike. And while 68 percent of Republican parents back a full-time in-person approach, just 13 percent of Democrats feel the same. Democrats instead divide between a hybrid approach (46 percent, down from 57 percent in late May/early June) or full-time remote learning (41 percent, up from 10 percent) ([Gallup 7/13-7/27](#)).

Another survey, conducted in late June and the first half of July, delves further into back-to-school attitudes among adults with K-12 children in the household. Rather than asking them to choose one approach, the poll assesses support for a variety of re-opening possibilities. Among the results:

- Three-quarters support schools offering two options to students: one fully in-person and one fully remote.
- Sixty-four percent support beginning the 2020-21 school year by re-teaching the end of last year's curriculum.
- Six in 10 support physically opening schools but splitting into two shifts to allow social distancing.
- Fewer than half support other proposed policies, including physically opening schools but requiring students to wear face coverings all day (45 percent), extending the school year either by beginning early or extending into summer 2021 (44 percent) or conducting all instruction remotely and keeping schools closed for the entire school year (43 percent).

If schools are at least partially remote when the school year begins, 44 percent of parents express concerns about the quality of the education and a third are worried about how their child will fare socially or emotionally. Black and Latino parents are more likely than white parents to be concerned about the quality of education, but also far more likely to support schools conducting all instruction remotely. Given the pandemic's disproportionate impact on minorities, this may reflect greater concern among Blacks and Latinos about getting sick from the virus.

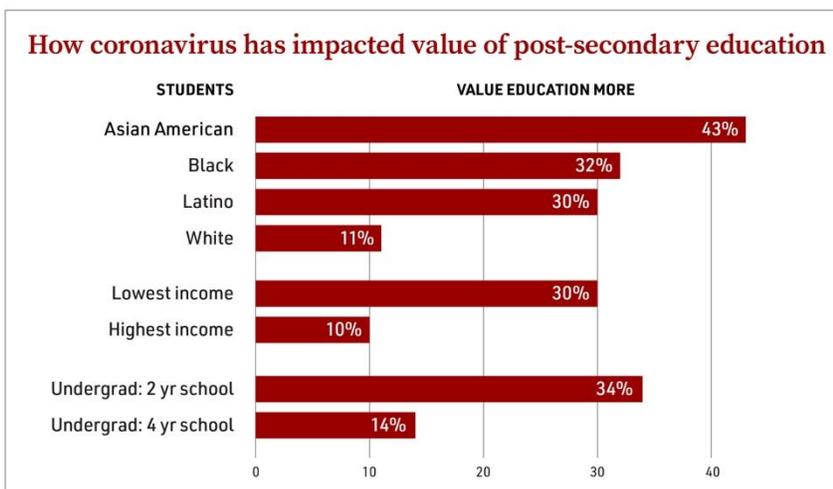
Compared with how remote learning was conducted at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, more than half of parents think that if schools are at least partially remote there should be an increased emphasis on the amount of time students receive live instruction online (56 percent) and on the amount of feedback they get from their teachers (54 percent). Roughly half think reliance upon internet-based instructional resources and lessons or activities to promote social

and emotional learning should be increased. Fewer think there should be increased emphasis on the amount of work expected from students (38 percent), how much students are expected to learn (36 percent), time spent with school counselors (34 percent), students' grades (30 percent) or the frequency of testing (23 percent) ([USC 6/24-7/21](#)).

See state-level school reopening findings in the State Results section.

Higher Education in the Pandemic

The pandemic has shifted some students' perceptions of the value of a higher education. Twenty-two percent of students enrolled in community college or a four-year institution as of the 2019-20 school year say the coronavirus epidemic has increased how valuable they perceive a post-secondary education to be, double the number who say the pandemic has made higher education seem less valuable.



Low-income and racial and ethnic minority students are particularly likely to say the pandemic has increased their perceived value of a post-secondary education: Forty-three percent of Asians, 32 percent of Blacks and 30 percent of Latinos say they value a higher education more, vs. 11 percent of whites. And those in the lowest-income bracket are three times as likely as those with the highest household incomes to say they value education more since the pandemic began.

At the same time, racial and ethnic minorities are more likely than whites to say they plan on taking fewer classes in the fall because of the pandemic, possibly delaying their graduation. Three in 10 Asian students plan to take fewer classes, as do 25 percent of Latinos and 7 percent of Blacks, compared with 3 percent of white students. This may reflect, at least in part, the fact that Latino and Asian students are more likely to say that their family-care responsibilities have increased during the pandemic ([USC UAS 4/29-7/21](#)).

Economic Impacts

The Bureau of Labor Statistics [reported](#) that employers added 1.8 million jobs last month and the overall unemployment rate dropped 0.9 points to a seasonally adjusted 10.2 percent. Job growth slowed from June, when employers added a record 4.8 million jobs. There remain 12.9 million fewer jobs than in pre-pandemic February, when the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent.

The number of part-time workers who'd prefer full-time jobs is 4.1 million higher than it was in February, and the number of workers who want a job but were not actively looking in the last four weeks is 2.8 million higher. Five percent of workers have been unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, the highest rate since November 2011.

By groups, unemployment declined in July among men, women, teenagers, whites, Asians and Hispanics, but was little changed among Blacks. By sector, the report shows job gains in leisure and hospitality, government, retail, professional and business services and health care.

Reopening America

Seven in 10 Americans are more concerned that state governments have been lifting coronavirus-related restrictions too quickly than not lifting them quickly enough. This echoes [May](#) results in which 68 percent were more concerned that states would move too fast.

At the same time, three-quarters say the failure of individuals to social distance and wear masks is a major reason for the prolonged outbreak in the United States; fewer, but still a majority, 58 percent, see premature lifting of restrictions on businesses and individuals as a major reason. Among other items, 53 percent see an inadequate response from the federal government as a major reason, 49 percent say the same about lack of timely testing and four in 10 cite unclear instructions about how to prevent the spread of the virus. The fewest, 28 percent, believe a major reason is that it's not possible to do much to control the spread.

Seventy-three percent think the more effective way to help the U.S. economy recover is to significantly reduce infections to a level where more people feel comfortable going out to stores, restaurants, schools and workplaces. A quarter instead think opening up these establishments, even if there hasn't been a significant reduction in infections, is more effective ([Pew 7/27-8/2](#)).

Contact and Concern

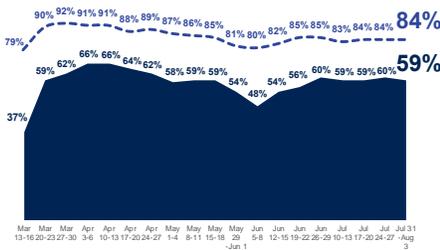
Forty-six percent of Americans personally know someone who has tested positive for coronavirus and 17 percent have personally been tested, essentially unchanged since last week. One in five knows someone who has died due to the virus, including 4 percent who say a family member has died.

American concern about COVID-19 remains high

Almost half know someone who has tested positive for the virus, and nearly one in five knows someone who has died from it

How concerned are you, if at all, about the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak?

■ Very or Extremely concerned
 --- Somewhat, Very, or Extremely concerned



Percentage of Americans who...

Know someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 **46%**

Know someone who has died from COVID-19 **19%**

Six in 10 Americans say the primary reason there are increasing numbers of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States is because there are new infections. Four in 10 say it's mainly

because more people are being tested than in previous months. Eight in 10 Democrats say it's primarily because there are more cases, while 62 percent of Republicans say it's primarily due to increased testing ([Pew 7/27-8/2](#)).

Concern about the virus remains elevated compared with early June:

- For the sixth week in a row, seven in 10 Americans think it'd be at least a moderate risk to their health and well-being to return to their normal pre-coronavirus life right now, compared with 57 percent in early June.
- Six in 10 are extremely or very concerned about the coronavirus outbreak, up from 48 percent in early June, and 42 percent are as concerned about the possibility of getting sick, up from 32 percent ([Axios/Ipsos 7/31-8/3](#)).
- In an open-ended question, three in 10 say the coronavirus is the most important problem facing the country today. While that's down from the 45 percent who mentioned it in April, it's up 10 points since late May/early June ([Gallup 7/1-7/23](#)).

Daily Life

As noted [last week](#), roughly half of Americans have established a “bubble” that includes people outside of their household that are all following the same rules about minimizing the risk of catching coronavirus. In new data, when asked what rules or guidelines their bubble has adopted, a majority say they're wearing masks at all times outside of their home (74 percent) and washing hands immediately upon entering the other person's home (55 percent).

Other less commonly adopted guidelines include not seeing anyone outside the bubble (32 percent), only seeing non-bubble members outdoors (39 percent), daily temperature checks (13 percent) and requiring all adults in the bubble to work from home (12 percent) ([Axios/Ipsos 7/31-8/3](#)).

Two-thirds of K-12 parents report that on a typical weekday the past week their child interacted with peers in person, and nearly eight in 10 say they interacted with peers virtually. Roughly four in 10 say they spent at least some time on educational activities, and far more say they spent time reading (82 percent) or writing (72 percent). Very few say their child attended summer camp either virtually or in-person (about 10 percent apiece) ([USC 6/24-7/21](#)).

Masks

Nine in 10 Americans now say they wear a mask at least some of the time when they leave the home, including 67 percent who say they always do, a numerical high. Mask use remains far more rare amid friends and relatives – just two in 10 of those who visited with friends or family in the past week say they always wore a mask while doing so, and about as many (22 percent) say they always maintained a distance of six feet ([Axios-Ipsos 7/31-8/3](#)).

Another poll finds that 86 percent of Americans say they always or usually wear a mask when in an indoor setting where they cannot socially distance, but far fewer, 47 percent, say they always or usually wear a mask in an outdoor setting where they cannot socially distance ([Gallup 7/20-8/2](#)).

Vaccine

Sixty-five percent of Americans say that if an FDA-approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus was available right now at no cost they would get it; 35 percent would not. Among groups:

- Eight in Democrats would get such a vaccine, compared with 59 percent of independents and 47 percent of Republicans.
- Whites are more apt than racial and ethnic minorities to say they'd get a vaccine, 67 vs. 59 percent.
- About two-thirds of those living in non-rural areas say they would get the vaccine (including approximately equal numbers in large cities, suburbs and small towns), compared with 56 percent of those living in rural areas.
- Three-quarters of adults younger than 30 say they'd get vaccinated, as would seven in 10 seniors. This dips in the middle age groups – 64 percent of 30- to 49-year-olds and 59 percent of 50- to 64-year-olds say they'd get the vaccine ([Gallup 7/20-8/2](#)).

Government Response

Public satisfaction with the nation's direction has dropped dramatically during the pandemic to a near-record low. Just 13 percent are satisfied with the way things are going in the United States, down 32 points since February, when satisfaction was at a 15-year high. Satisfaction is now 6 points from its all-time low in October 2008, amid the Great Recession, and ties the ninth-lowest in data since 1979. (As noted [last week](#), views that the country is headed in the wrong direction also have soared during the pandemic.)

Satisfaction has dropped especially among Republicans. Two in 10 are now satisfied with the way things are going in the country, down a vast 60 points since February. Among independents, satisfaction has dropped 26 points since February to 12 percent; among Democrats it's been more stable, and low – 13 percent were satisfied in February, 7 percent are now ([Gallup 7/1-23](#)).

Sixty-two percent think the U.S. response to the coronavirus outbreak has been less effective than the responses in other wealthy countries; a quarter think it's been about as effective and 13 percent think it's been more effective. While Republicans are more positive than Democrats, still just 22 percent think the U.S. response has been more effective than other wealthy countries. (Thirty-four percent of Republicans say it's been less effective and 42 percent say it's been about the same). Among Democrats, 87 percent think the U.S. response has been less effective.

There's also a partisan divide in views about which level of government should primarily be responsible for developing and executing policies to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Overall, the public is split – 48 percent say the federal government should be mainly responsible, 51 percent say it should be state and local governments. Republicans by more than 2-1 say state and local governments primarily should be responsible, 68 vs. 30 percent. Among Democrats views are flipped, with 64 percent saying the federal government should take ownership, while 35 percent say it chiefly should be up to state and local governments.

More than six in 10 Americans give Trump a negative rating for the job he is doing responding to the coronavirus, calling it poor (48 percent) or only fair (15 percent); 37 percent rate him positively.

These views are similar to ratings in May, but less positive than they were during the early days of the outbreak in late March, when 48 percent gave Trump positive marks. Positive ratings of the job public health officials are doing also have declined since March, from 79 to 63 percent, as have ratings of state (from 70 to 56 percent) and local government officials (from 69 to 60 percent) ([Pew 7/27-8/2](#)).

When it comes to school reopening, 63 percent of Americans disapprove of how President Trump has handled the issue, including an identical 63 percent of K-12 parents ([Washington Post/Schar School 7/24-7/31](#)).

A new analysis of weekly tracking data shows that while trust in state governments to “look out for the best interests of you and your family” has eroded during the pandemic, it has not done so universally. It's declined in states that lifted their restrictions quickly and experienced a subsequent surge in cases, such as Florida, Arizona, Texas and

Public divided over which level of government is primarily responsible for policies to limit the spread of COVID-19

Which should be *mainly* responsible for developing and executing policies to limit the spread of the coronavirus? (%)

	The federal government	State and local governments
Total	48	51
Rep/Lean Rep	30	68
Dem/Lean Dem	64	35

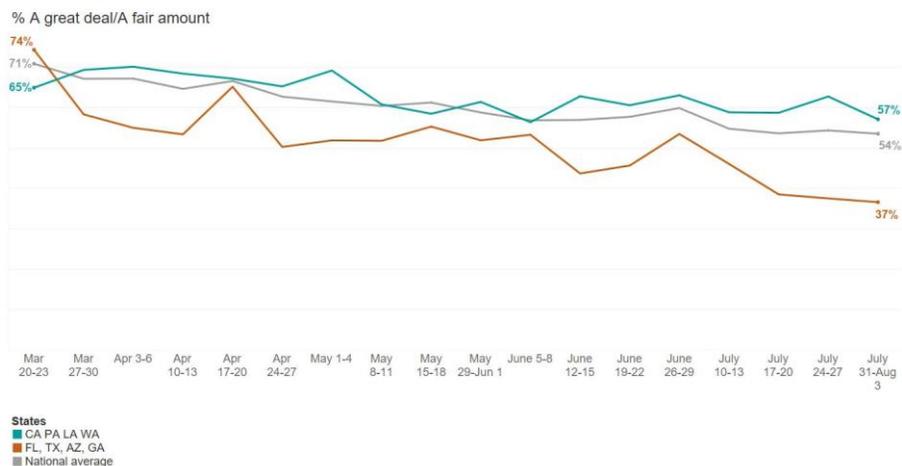
Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Rising skepticism of state leadership in Florida, Arizona, Texas and Georgia

Q. How much trust do you have in your state government to look out for the best interests of you and your family?



Source: Axios-Ipsos Coronavirus Index, Wave 1, n=1,092; Wave 2, n=998; Wave 3, n=1,355; Wave 4, n=1,136; Wave 5, n=1,098; Wave 6, n=1,021; Wave 7, n=1,021; Wave 8, n=1,012; Wave 9, n=980; Wave 10, n=1,009; Wave 11, n=1,033; Wave 12, n=1,006; Wave 13, n=1,022; Wave 14, n=1,023; Wave 15, n=1,065; Wave 16, n=1,063; Wave 17, n=1,037; Wave 18, n=1,076; Wave 19, n=1,129



Georgia, where now just 37 percent have trust in their state government. Conversely, in states such as California, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Washington, which have had high numbers of cases but have been more conservative in lifting restrictions, majorities continue to trust their state government to look out for their best interests ([Axios/Ipsos 7/31-8/3](#)).

Voting

With the presidential election approaching, roughly half of Americans (52 percent) see voting in-person as at least a moderate risk to their health and well-being. That's similar to the share that sees grocery shopping as a risk (55 percent), but fewer than the number who think it's risky to shop at retail stores (63 percent), attend in-person gatherings of friends and family outside the home (68 percent) or dine in at a restaurant (70 percent).

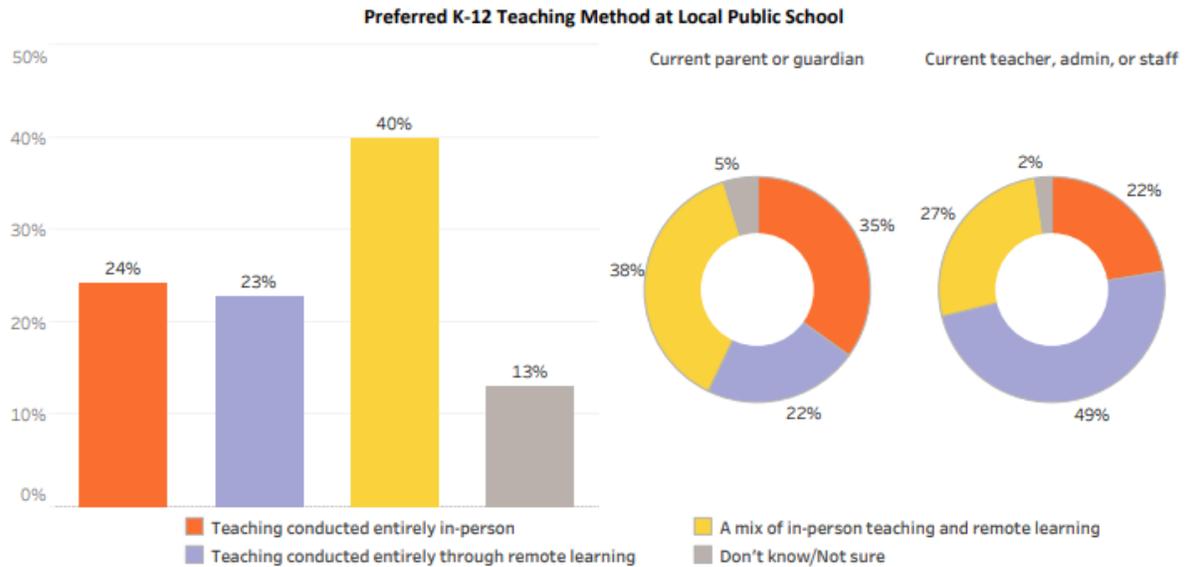
Democrats and independents are about twice as likely as Republicans to perceive in-person voting as risky (64 and 59 vs. 29 percent). In addition, women are more likely than men to see a risk, 57 vs. 47 percent, as are Hispanics and Blacks compared with whites, 65 and 63 vs. 45 percent ([Axios-Ipsos 7/31-8/3](#)).

State Results

In Iowa, nearly three-quarters of registered voters think individual towns and cities should be allowed to establish face mask rules that are stricter than statewide regulations, a view at odds with Gov. Kim Reynolds's policy. Most also disagree with Reynolds's directive that all schools be required to have students spend at least half their instruction time in the classroom – 69 percent instead think individual districts should decide. Even among Republicans, majorities think mask rules should be up to individual towns and cities (59 percent), and school districts should be able to decide on classroom time (55 percent). (It's 94 and 85 percent, respectively, among Democrats.) Still, most registered voters – 54 percent – think individual districts should be required to provide at least some in classroom instruction, including 76 percent of Republicans, compared with 31 percent of Democrats. Even with differences on these policies, 58 percent overall think Reynolds has done a good job handling the outbreak ([Monmouth 7/30-8/3](#)).

In New Hampshire, views on how best to reopen schools are divided – 24 percent prefer teaching at their local public schools to be entirely in-person, 23 percent want it to be entirely remote and 40 percent favor a mix of the two. Among K-12 parents, more (35 percent) prefer in-person instruction, while among K-12 teachers, administrators and staff in the state, half (49 percent) prefer entirely remote learning.

Fifty-five percent of New Hampshire parents say they're at least somewhat comfortable sending their child back to their local public school, down from 67 percent in June. Moms in particular have become less comfortable with the idea, now just 44 percent, down from 68 percent. (Seven in 10 dads are comfortable sending their kids back, up slightly from 63 percent.) Comfort engaging in many other activities (e.g., going to a golf course or attending a wedding) has changed little since June, though more now say they're comfortable eating indoors at a restaurant (+9 points to 49 percent) or dining outdoors at a restaurant (+7 points to 71 percent).



Nearly half of New Hampshire residents (47 percent) know someone who has contracted COVID-19, up 12 points since June. Eight in 10 are at least somewhat confident in the state government’s ability to respond effectively to the pandemic, including 71 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of independents and 90 percent of Republicans. Three-quarters approve of Gov. Chris Sununu’s handling of the situation. By contrast, half as many are similarly confident in the federal government’s ability to respond effectively (36 percent) or approve of President Trump’s handling of the situation (also 36 percent) ([UNH 7/16-7/28](#)).

In Vermont, which has one of the lowest infection rates in the country, 83 percent approve of Gov. Phil Scott’s managing of the pandemic. Still, 56 percent think the state will open too quickly, risking greater harm to public health than necessary, compared with a quarter who think the state will not open quickly enough, risking greater harm to the economy. About three-quarters are at least somewhat worried about out-of-staters bringing the virus to Vermont.

The poll, conducted before the Aug. 1 implementation of a statewide mask requirement in public places, found that three-quarters back such a mandate. Views on schools are more divided – 47 percent favor reopening K-12 schools in the fall, 42 percent are opposed. When it comes to reopening Vermont universities and colleges, half oppose letting students on campus, while 44 percent are in favor of their return.

Forty-three percent of Vermonters say they used federal relief payments to pay living expenses; a quarter saved the money, 5 percent bought something they otherwise would not have purchased and 10 percent did something else with it. (Sixteen percent did not receive a payment.) Among those who got a payment, a third say it made a big difference to their family, 41 percent say it made a small difference and a quarter say it made virtually no difference at all.

Ninety-three percent are at least somewhat concerned about the future of small businesses in Vermont. A quarter see the COVID-19 outbreak as major threat to their personal financial situation, 44 percent as a minor threat. Two-thirds are at least somewhat concerned about

contracting COVID-19 and four in 10 personally know someone who has had the virus. Half say they've experienced increased anxiety since the pandemic began; three in 10 say they've had trouble sleeping and quarter have experienced depression ([VPR/Vermont PBS 7/15-7/28](#)).

In a mid-July poll in Virginia, six in 10 adults thought that wearing a mask helps slow the spread of coronavirus "a lot"; an additional 21 percent thought it helped a little. A third of likely voters said the outbreak will be one of the most important issues in their vote for president, while a similar share said the same about the economy. Six in 10 Virginians approved of Gov. Ralph Northam's handling of the crisis, down 15 points since April. Forty-three percent approved of Donald Trump's handling of the government's response, down 7 points ([VCU 7/11-7/19](#)).

Polls focused primarily on key Senate races in Kentucky, Maine and South Carolina contain some coronavirus-related results:

- In Kentucky, 66 percent of registered voters approve of how Gov. Andy Beshear is handling the response to coronavirus, while half approve of how Trump is handling it.
- In Maine, 64 percent of registered voters approve of Gov. Janet Mill's handling of the coronavirus response, compared with 37 percent approval for Trump's performance.
- In South Carolina, views of Gov. Henry McMaster's handling of the response are evenly split – 46 percent approve, 46 percent disapprove. It's 46-51 percent for Trump.
- Most in Maine think presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden would do a better job than Trump handling the response to coronavirus, 55-38 percent. In Kentucky and South Carolina, views are more evenly divided (KY: 44-48 percent; SC: 47-48 percent).
- In Kentucky and South Carolina, more trust the Republicans over the Democrats in Congress to handle the economic impact of the coronavirus on Americans (KY: 51-39 percent; SC: 50-40 percent). In Maine, more trust the Democrats, 48-41 percent ([Quinnipiac 7/30-8/3](#)).

International Results

In Canada, nearly nine in 10 support or somewhat support a face mask requirement in indoor public places, nearly eight in 10 think it is at least somewhat important for provinces to find a way to open schools for in-person learning in the fall and more than seven in 10 say they'd support closing all but essential businesses and asking people to self-isolate at home if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 ([Globe/Nanos 7/26-7/30](#)). Seven in 10 agree (51 percent) or somewhat agree (20 percent) that "both government and opposition parties should do all they can to make the Minority Parliament work to avoid a general election until the COVID-19 pandemic has substantially passed or a vaccine is available" ([CTV/Nanos 7/26-7/30](#)).

In Chile, where lockdown restrictions are starting to lift in parts of the country, approval of the government's handling of the coronavirus crisis has increased 10 points in the past week to 39 percent. Fifty-three percent agree with the plan to gradually open communities. Fears about the

virus have gradually declined since mid-June: Sixty-two percent now say they're concerned about catching it, down from 74 percent. When it comes to ensuring voter safety in an October referendum, virtually all agree that it should be mandatory to wear face masks (99 percent), that there should be special hours set aside for the elderly (96 percent), that everyone should carry their own pencil (91 percent) and that voting should take place in shifts according to age brackets (90 percent). Seventy-three percent agree that an early vote-by-mail system should be established for those who cannot vote in person ([Cadem 7/29-7/30](#)).

In Great Britain, mask use continues to climb; 84 percent of those who have left the house in the past week have worn a face covering, up from 71 percent last week and 61 percent the week before. Masks are mandatory while shopping in Scotland and, as of July 24, in England, but not in Wales. Reflecting this, nearly all (97 percent) in Scotland who went shopping in the past week said they wore a mask, as did 74 percent in England, compared with 58 percent in Wales. Overall, 57 percent strongly support a mandate requiring face masks in shops and supermarkets, including 71 percent in Scotland, compared with 50 percent in Wales. Just fewer than half, 47 percent, say it's likely they will use the National Health Service COVID-19 app, which supports testing and tracing, when it becomes available ([Office for National Statistics 7/22-7/26](#)).

In Mexico, which recently passed the United Kingdom as the nation with the third-highest number of fatalities, 71 percent have a negative opinion of President Lopez Obrador's preferring not to wear a face covering at public events. Still, favorable ratings of the Obrador government's management of health issues advanced from 40 to 45 percent in the past month ([El Financiero 7/24-7/25](#)).

In Bulgaria, despite a rising caseload, six in 10 oppose the reintroduction of strict restrictive measures, unchanged since last month. Forty-four percent have lost income due to the pandemic, also unchanged. Just a third now think life will return to normal by the end of the year, down from 61 percent in early June. At the same time, 55 percent agree that the government is doing well with the coronavirus situation ([Gallup International Bulgaria 7/22-7/24](#)).

Additional U.S. and international poll results are available at the [COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

Summary for SEAN by [Langer Research Associates](#).