

## COVID-19 Survey Summary: November 27, 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](#).*

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Americans' intentions to get vaccinated against the coronavirus have risen after positive news about vaccine trials, but many remain reluctant. Survey results released this week provide an in-depth exploration of the particularly pronounced vaccine hesitancy among Black Americans.

Other newly released results document racial disparities in COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths, show a new high in mask wearing and a rise in views that it's risky to return to normality, reveal broad public support for an additional economic stimulus package and demonstrate the pandemic's particular toll on working single mothers.

New analyses also suggest that stronger statewide containment policies helped to limit summer and fall surges in some states. One finds that in Kansas, a summer surge was halted in counties that implemented a mask mandate, while cases continued to rise in counties without a mandate.

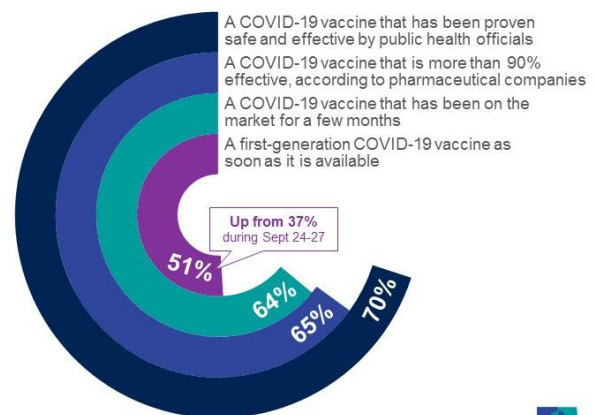
### Vaccines

Fifty-one percent of Americans now say they're at least somewhat likely to get a first-generation vaccine as soon as it's available, up 6 percentage points in the past week and 13 points since early October. Optimism that a vaccine will be available soon also has increased - nearly half (47 percent) believe that one will be ready in the next three months, up 15 points in just a week.

More – seven in 10 – say they'd get a vaccine if it is "proven safe and effective by public health officials," and nearly two-thirds would get a vaccine that is more than 90 percent effective (65 percent) or has been on the market for a few months (64 percent).

Willingness to get a first-generation vaccine has jumped in particular among seniors, to 68 percent, up 14 points from last week and 20 points since early October. Similarly, it's up

**COVID-19 vaccine: Percentage of Americans who would be very or somewhat likely to get...**



among Westerners by 25 points since early October, to 60 percent, and almost has doubled among rural Americans, to 51 percent.

Racial differences persist: Compared with early October, likelihood of getting a first-generation vaccine has increased 15 points among whites (to 55 percent) and 14 points among Hispanics (to 54 percent), but has held relatively steady – and low – among Blacks (+5 points to 26 percent). Intended uptake increases to 55 percent among Blacks if the vaccine is proven safe and effective by officials, vs. about seven in 10 white and Hispanic adults ([Axios-Ipsos 11/20-11/23](#)).

A separate poll, conducted in early September, explores Black Americans' compunctions in detail. Forty-eight percent of Black adults said they'd definitely or probably get a coronavirus vaccine if it were available for free, compared with 66 percent of Latinx adults. Higher vaccine hesitancy among Black people reflected greater distrust that a vaccine will be safe and effective, as well as differing assessments of risk. Among the results:

- Just 14 percent of Black adults said they completely or mostly trust that a coronavirus vaccine will be safe and only 18 percent trusted that it will be effective, compared with 34 and 40 percent of Latinx adults, respectively.
- Black people were 19 points less likely than Latinx adults to say they were confident that a vaccine will be adequately tested for safety and effectiveness within their own racial or ethnic community, 28 vs. 47 percent.
- Sixty-four percent of Blacks thought an eventual vaccine will be at least somewhat effective in preventing infection, compared with three-quarters of Latinx adults.
- Although both Black and Latinx communities have been hit hard by the pandemic, Blacks were 19 points less likely than Latinx adults to think it's at least somewhat likely that they'll catch the coronavirus, 33 vs. 52 percent.
- In one point of agreement, three-quarters of Black and Latinx adults alike said they would be less likely to get a vaccine if it were approved on an emergency-use basis without the full usual FDA review process.
- In another, roughly eight in 10 Black and Latinx adults alike thought it was at least somewhat likely they'd experience side effects if they were vaccinated. About six in 10 thought that if side effects occurred, they would be at least somewhat severe.
- Statistical modeling indicated that trust in the safety of the vaccine was by far the strongest predictor of willingness to get vaccinated among both Black and Latinx adults, and that confidence in the institutions involved in the vaccine process, trust in the government and perceived social pressure to get vaccinated informed these views.

The report suggests potential avenues to encourage uptake, including enhancing understanding of the development and approval process, highlighting moral and subjective norms and developing

messaging that is sensitive to historical and ongoing mistreatment of Black Americans by the health care system ([COVID Collaborative 9/1-9/15](#)).

### Racial Disparities

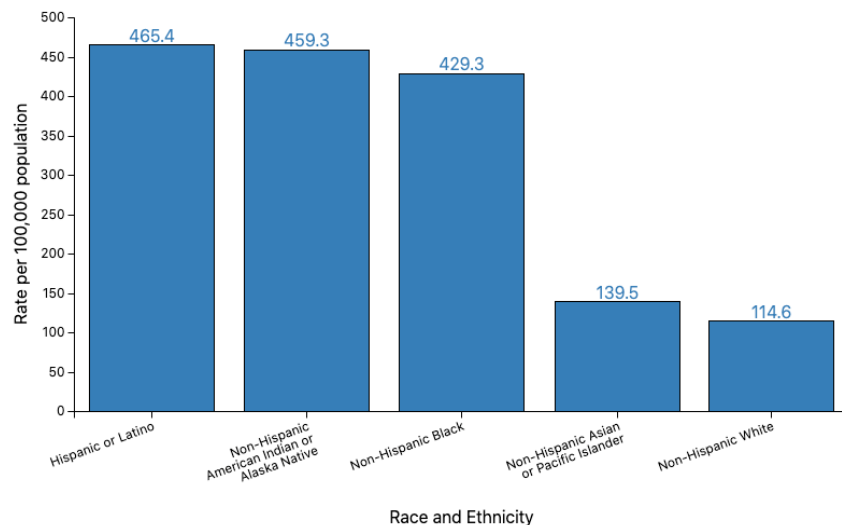
An analysis of records from 5.8 million people who tested positive for the coronavirus from early March through mid-October found that racial and ethnic minorities were more likely than whites to die from COVID-19. It estimated a 53 percent higher fatality rate for Asians, 37 percent for Black Americans, 26 percent for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives and 16 percent for Hispanics. These discrepancies persisted after controlling for age, sex, date and pre-existing conditions, and regardless of how missing data were handled ([Washington Post 2/29-10/17](#)).

In its latest weekly COVIDView surveillance summary, the CDC also documents racial and ethnic disparities in coronavirus hospitalization rates, with Black, Hispanic and Indigenous Americans who have been infected approximately four times more likely than whites to be hospitalized.

Using 71,211 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19-associated hospitalization cases that included information on race and

ethnicity, the analysis found that the age-adjusted hospitalization rate from March to mid-November, compared with whites, was 4.1 times higher for Hispanic people, 4 times higher for American Indian and Alaska Natives and 3.7 times higher for Black people ([CDC 3/1-11/14](#)).

Age-adjusted COVID-19-associated hospitalization rates by race and ethnicity — COVID-NET, March 1–November 14, 2020



### Daily Life

Seventy-two percent of Americans now say they always wear a mask when leaving the home, a numerical high in polling since mid-April, and 56 percent say they always maintain a distance of at least six feet from other people when they leave home, up 5 points from last week to the most since late July/early August.

Seventy-two percent also think that returning to their normal pre coronavirus life would be at least a moderate risk to their health, the most since mid-April. Forty-three percent say it'd be a large risk, up 10 points in the past month to a pandemic high.

Perceptions that several every day activities are risky continue to climb, and some behaviors are shifting accordingly:

- Seventy-two percent, again, now see dining in at a restaurant as a large or moderate risk to their well-being, up from 61 percent at the end of October. Just a third report having gone out to eat in the past week, down from 40 percent last week.
- Similarly, more than seven in 10 now view in-person gatherings as at least a moderate risk, up from 63 percent in late October. Forty-two percent have visited with friends or relatives in the past week, fewer than the half who'd done so in late September and October.
- Fifty-four percent think going to the grocery store is at least a moderate risk, up 5 points in the past week to the most since late July/early August.
- Seventy-seven percent say they've stayed home and avoided others as much as possible, again essentially unchanged from last week but up from 69 percent in late October. ([Axios-Ipsos 11/20-11/23](#)).

Amid the sharp rise in cases across the country, 44 percent think there should be more restrictions on public activity in their area, up 17 points since late April/early May, when 27 percent thought more restrictions were warranted. Thirty-five percent think the current number of restrictions is about right, down from 48 percent; 21 percent think there should be fewer restrictions, little changed ([Pew 11/12-11/17](#)).

### Contact and Concern

Seven in 10 Americans say they personally know someone who has had the coronavirus ([Marist 11/16-11/18](#)), and a third say they personally have been tested for it, a new high. Eighty-five percent are at least somewhat concerned about the outbreak, the most since late June. Three-quarters are concerned about the possibility of getting sick ([Axios-Ipsos 11/20-11/23](#)).

### Pandemic Parenting

A new analysis of [Current Population Survey](#) data finds that the pandemic has taken a particular toll on employment among single mothers. Compared with other parents, the share of unpartnered mothers of children younger than 18 at home who are employed and at work declined from 76.1 percent in September 2019 to 67.4 percent in September 2020, a nearly 9-point drop. By comparison, the share of unpartnered fathers employed and at work declined about 4 points in the same time period, and the decline was about 5 points for partnered mothers and fathers. (Unpartnered parents include those who never have been married, are not cohabitating, are widowed or separated or who report their spouse is absent.)

In another racial and ethnic disparity, Black and Hispanic unpartnered mothers have been particularly hard hit – the shares who are employed declined by about 10 points in both groups, nearly double the decline among white unpartnered mothers and partnered Black and Hispanic

mothers, alike. In addition, those whose youngest child was age 5 or younger were particularly impacted – 58.5 percent of unpartnered moms in this group were unemployed in September, down from 69.7 a year previous ([Pew](#)).

### Government Response

Eight in 10 Americans think another coronavirus economic assistance package should be passed; 68 percent think it should be done as soon as possible by President Trump and the current Congress, 11 percent after President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration in January. Two in 10 do not think another economic package is necessary ([Pew 11/12-11/17](#)).

More broadly, 55 percent think the measures taken by the federal government to slow the pandemic have not gone far enough, about the same as in August. Three in ten think the measures have been about right; 14 percent say they have gone too far ([Monmouth 11/12-11/16](#)).

Four in 10 are at very or somewhat confident that Trump can handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak. More – 58 percent – say the same of Biden. Both are little changed since late September/early October ([Pew 11/12-11/17](#)).

In a direct comparison, 48 percent expect that the Biden administration will do a better job than the current one handling the outbreak, while the other half divide between thinking it will do worse (27 percent) or about the same (22 percent).

The pandemic tops the public’s list of the biggest issues the president will have to face over the next four years, picked by 42 percent as the top or second-biggest issue, vs. 36 percent who cite the economy. Democrats are more apt than Republicans to mention the pandemic, 59 vs. 25 percent, while Republicans are more likely to prioritize the economy, 43 vs. 34 percent ([Monmouth 11/12-11/16](#)).

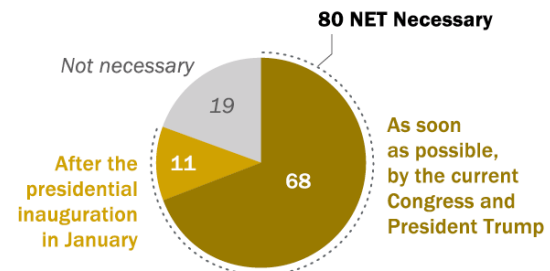
### State-Level Impact of Restrictive Policies

A new analysis finds that states that imposed stronger measures to contain the virus generally had smaller outbreaks than those with weaker measures. This study used an [index](#) that quantifies the strictness of containment measures in a state (e.g., mask mandates, contact tracing and restrictions on schools, businesses and gatherings) on a given date, using a 0-100 scale, then compares each state’s score with the number of cases and hospitalizations there two weeks later.

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#### **Most say new COVID-19 aid is needed – and want Congress to act ASAP**

*As you may know, Congress and President Trump passed a \$2 trillion economic assistance package in March. Do you think another economic assistance package is ... (%)*



Note: Based on general public. No answer responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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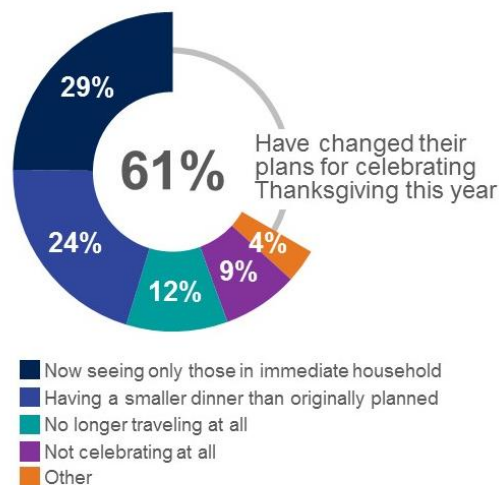
During the spring surge, there was no clear relationship between policies and the severity of an outbreak. However, as the pandemic progressed, states that maintained stricter policies (such as Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont) generally fared better than those that rolled restrictions back quickly (e.g., Florida or Texas) or never imposed restrictive measures (e.g., Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota). There were some exceptions, though. For example, New Mexico and Rhode Island have some of the strictest containment measures in the country, but both states are facing serious outbreaks now ([New York Times](#)).

### Holiday Season

Three-quarters of Americans say traveling for the upcoming fall and winter holidays is a large or moderate risk to their health or well-being, and, pre-holiday, 64 percent viewed seeing family or friends for Thanksgiving as similarly risky. Accordingly, 61 percent changed their Thanksgiving plans in some way this year, i.e., only celebrating with people within the household and having a smaller dinner than initially planned ([Axios-Ipsos 11/20-11/23](#)). In another poll, 58 percent planned on celebrating Thanksgiving with fewer people than last year ([Marist 11/16-11/18](#)).

As with most attitudes and behaviors related to the pandemic, there are partisan differences. Democrats were far more likely than Republicans to say they'd modified their Thanksgiving plans, 75 vs. 49 percent ([Axios-Ipsos 11/20-11/23](#)). And while three-quarters of Democrats and nearly six in 10 independents said their gathering this year would be smaller than last year, that fell to four in 10 Republicans ([Marist 11/16-11/18](#)).

Impact on Thanksgiving celebrations



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In newly released findings from an August poll of parents with children age 12 or younger, three-quarters said they usually see extended family on Thanksgiving. At least in August, 61 percent of those who usually see extended family said they were still planning to gather in-person with family this year. More than a third (35 percent) felt that overall, the benefits of gathering with family at Thanksgiving were worth the risk of getting or spreading COVID-19.

There are competing concerns at play: Nearly eight in 10 parents said it's very important to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at family gatherings, but majorities also said it's very important that their child shares in family holiday traditions (58 percent) and sees extended family (53 percent). As it is, half of parents said COVID-19 has caused a substantial decrease in the time their children spend with extended family members.

Among the strategies parents planned to use to keep children and guests safe, 88 percent said they would ask family members with COVID-19 symptoms or exposure not to attend, three-quarters planned to limit contact between their child and high-risk guests (e.g., seniors and

people with underlying conditions), 68 percent planned to ask guests to maintain social distance as much as possible and 64 percent said they were not going to invite family members who had not been taking COVID-19 precautions ([CS Mott Children's Hospital](#)).

(See [last week's summary](#) for additional results regarding the holiday season.)

### State and Local Results

In New Hampshire, two-thirds do not plan to travel or host anyone for the December holidays. Fifteen percent say they will host in-state friends, 12 percent plan to travel within the state and fewer than one in 10 apiece plan on hosting out-of-state visitors or traveling out of state. Half plan to do most of their holiday shopping online, vs. 9 percent who plan to do most in person and 22 percent who intend to do an equal mix of the two. (The rest don't plan to shop for the holidays, 12 percent, or are unsure, 7 percent.) ([UNH 11/19-11/23](#)).

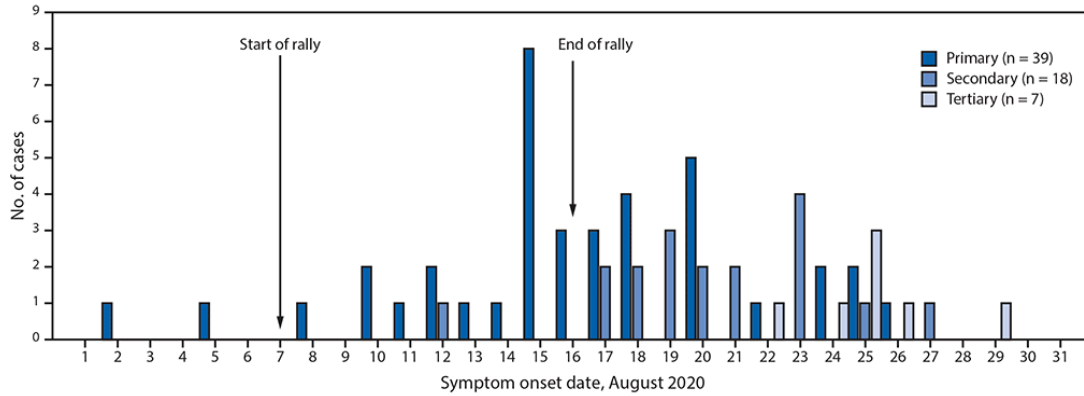
In Virginia, 48 percent think measures taken by the state government to slow the spread of the virus have been appropriate, while 27 percent think they haven't gone far enough and 21 percent say they've gone too far. By contrast, 52 percent say measures taken by the federal government have not gone far enough. (Thirty-two percent think they're appropriate and 11 percent say they've gone too far). Virginians split between concerns that the federal government will spend too little money to boost the economy effectively (44 percent) or too much money and increase the deficit (42 percent).

Sixty-eight percent in the commonwealth are at least somewhat concerned that they or someone in their household will contract the coronavirus, and six in 10 know someone who has had it or have had it themselves, up from 42 percent in August. Forty-two percent think the virus will be contained sufficiently in the United States to return to normal sometime next year, while 27 percent think it'll take longer than that. Half in the state think the media coverage has made the virus seem worse than it really is; a third think the coverage has been accurate ([Roanoke College 11/8-11/19](#)).

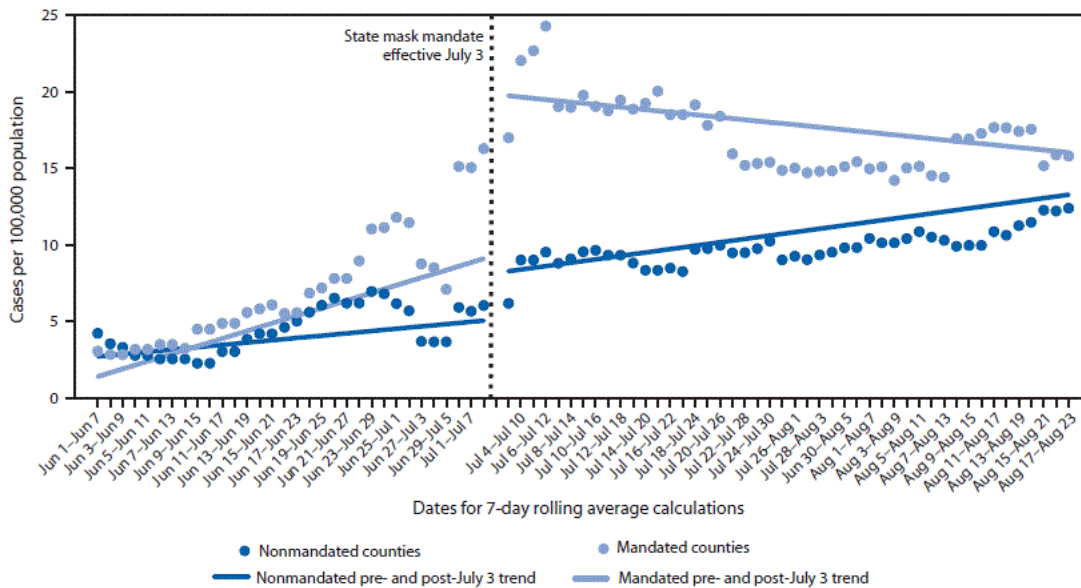
A new CDC report shows that following a 10-day motorcycle rally in South Dakota in August, at least 86 Minnesota residents developed COVID-19. Fifty-one primary cases occurred among Minnesotans who attended the rally, with three hospitalizations and one death.

An additional 26 cases occurred among those who did not attend the rally, but who received a positive test result after having contact with a person who had a primary case (21 secondary cases) or who tested positive after having contact with a person who had a secondary case (5 cases). An additional nine cases were deemed "likely" to be associated with the rally, and the authors indicated that the overall count was an underestimate because contact tracing interviews and testing were voluntary. The analysis was limited to Minnesotans and did not investigate the impact of the rally on residents of other states ([CDC 8/8-8/31](#)).

**FIGURE 1. Date of symptom onset among symptomatic patients with primary,\* secondary,† and tertiary<sup>§</sup> COVID-19 (N = 64) associated with a motorcycle rally in a neighboring state — Minnesota, August 2020**



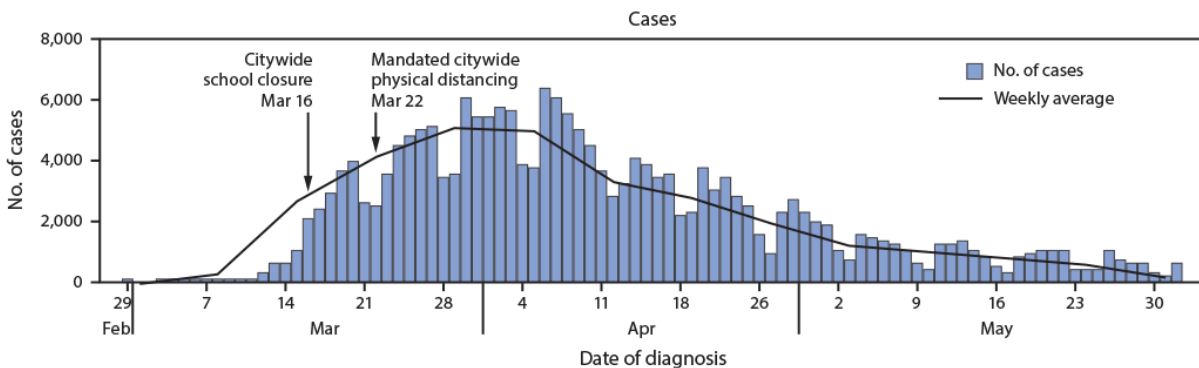
In Kansas, Gov. Laura Kelly issued an executive order on July 3 that required masks in public places; in accordance with state law, counties were able to opt out. A CDC report finds that a rise in COVID-19 cases was reversed in the counties that implemented a mask mandate but continued in counties that did not do so. Comparing the rate of infection the week of July 3-9 to Aug. 17-23, cases per 100,000 people decreased 6 percent in the 24 counties with a mask mandate, but increased 100 percent in the 81 counties without a mandate ([CDC 6/1-8/23](#)).



Another CDC report provides details of the outbreak that turned New York City into an early epicenter of the pandemic. It finds that from Feb. 29 to June 1 there were 203,792 laboratory-confirmed cases among NYC residents reported to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. More than a quarter (26.6 percent) of those cases resulted in hospitalization, with a median duration of hospitalization of six days. The fatality rate during this period was 9.2 percent overall and 32.1 percent among those hospitalized with the virus. However, given strict testing restrictions and the limited availability of testing early in the pandemic, these rates are overestimates, because many less severe cases of COVID-19 likely went undiagnosed.



Cases in New York City increased rapidly from a weekly average of 274 cases per day during the week of March 8 to a peak weekly average of 5,132 cases per day during the week of March 29. Hospital admissions also peaked during the week of March 29 at 1,566 per day. Deaths peaked the following week at 566 per day. The proportion of hospitalized patients who died was highest among those admitted during March 22-April 5, when cases were at their peak, suggesting capacity constraints may have impacted outcomes.



Although demographic information was missing for a large proportion of cases, particularly less-severe cases, available data suggests that those aged 45-64 had the highest rate of infection, while those aged 75 and older were most apt to be hospitalized or die from the virus. Adjusting for age, the incidence of cases, hospitalizations and deaths were higher among men than women and among those with underlying health conditions. Incidence, hospitalization and deaths also rose with higher levels of neighborhood poverty, and were highest in the Bronx and lowest in Manhattan. By race/ethnicity, incidence was highest among Black people, and hospitalization and death rates were highest among Blacks and Hispanics alike ([CDC 2/29-6/1](#)).

### International Results

In South Korea, which has seen a recent rise in cases, eight in 10 are at least somewhat worried about being infected with the coronavirus, up from 72 percent in October. This includes 44 percent who are very worried about infection, up from 30 percent. Sixty-two percent think there is at least some chance they will be infected, up from 57 percent. Seventy-two percent think the government is doing well in its response to the virus, about the same as last month, but down from 85 percent in May ([Gallup Korea 11/17-11/19](#)).

In Russia, nearly nine in 10 say that in the case of a serious worsening of the situation they would support a requirement to wear masks in public places (89 percent) and to maintain a distance of 1.5-2 meters from others in public (87 percent) ([VCIOM 11/16](#)).

In the Netherlands, willingness to vaccinate has declined. In June, almost three-quarters said they would certainly or probably be vaccinated this fall if a vaccine were available. That dropped to 65 percent in September and now stands at 60 percent. Just three in 10 say they certainly would get vaccinated, down from 43 percent in June. Dutch seniors are the most apt to say they'd get vaccinated, while people aged 25-50 are least likely – but willingness has declined since June

across age groups. Objections cited by those who do not plan to get vaccinated include views that it is too soon, lack of trust, fear of side effects and doubts about its effectiveness.

Seventy-two percent agree that face coverings should be compulsory in public, double its level in September. Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) support the government’s coronavirus policy, up from 65 percent before the “partial lockdown” that began in October. Six in 10, however, say the regulations and enforcement should be stricter, although this is down from 66 percent in October. ([I&O Research 11/13-11/16](#)).

In Great Britain, many seem to be hunkering down amid new restrictions. Forty-three percent say that in the past week they stayed home entirely or left only for work, exercise, essential shopping or medical needs. That’s up from 32 percent last week, and the share of working adults who traveled to work declined from 58 to 51 percent ([Office for National Statistics 11/11-11/15](#)).

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

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