



COVID-19 Survey Summary: February 5, 2021

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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Polls this week find that seven in 10 Americans or more intend to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, up from about two-thirds last month – though many still intend to wait, at least a bit. Concerns about becoming seriously ill hit a new high, as did the number saying the pandemic has had a major impact on their daily lives. Eight in 10 express concern about new, more transmissible strains of the virus.

Among other studies released this week, one suggests that unemployment insurance helped stave off food insecurity among less well-off Americans during the pandemic. Another finds that while emergency room visits declined overall, rates of some types of visits rose, including those for mental health conditions, suicide attempts, drug overdoses, intimate partner violence and suspected child abuse and neglect. Additional studies delve into the sociodemographic elements of infection and death rates.

We also report pandemic-related survey results released in the past week from four states and nine other countries – Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Greece, India, Mexico, Pakistan and the United Kingdom – largely focused on vaccine uptake intentions.

Vaccination Intentions

Seven in 10 Americans or more intend to get vaccinated at some point, though many still plan to wait – from a few weeks or months up to a year – before getting the shot:

- In one poll, half say they will get the vaccine as soon as they can (or already have gotten it – 13 percent, up from 9 percent last week). Twenty-two percent plan to wait a few weeks or months, one in 10 says they'll wait a year or more and 16 percent say they won't get it at all ([Axios/Ipsos 1/29-2/1](#)).
- In another, half say they plan to get the vaccine as soon as they are allowed and an additional 6 percent (as of Jan. 24) already received it. Two in 10 would prefer to let other people get it first to see how it goes and a quarter say it's likely they'll never get it if they can avoid it.

There continue to be demographic differences in vaccine intentions, including a sharp age gap among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. Among people in this group age 65 and older, 63 percent have received the vaccine or want to as soon as they can. while just 18 percent intend to avoid getting it. Among younger Republicans and GOP leaners, by contrast, only a third say they'll get it as soon as possible and 45 percent never want to get it. There are no significant age differences among Democrats and Democratic leaners – about seven in 10 want to get the vaccine as soon as possible regardless of their age ([Monmouth 1/21-1/24](#)).

For other demographic differences in vaccine intentions, see [last week's summary](#).

Vaccine Preparations

Twelve percent of those who've yet to get vaccinated say they've made an appointment to get one, same as last week. Nine percent say the vaccine already has been made available to them and an additional 13 percent expect it will be within the next month. Twenty-one percent expect it to be made available to them in the next three months, a quarter in the next six months and 18 percent think it'll take longer than that.

The public splits evenly on whether it's been easy or difficult to find information on how or when to be vaccinated, 50-50 percent. But relatively few continue to report having sought out such information from their state health department website (30 percent), social media (26 percent), their doctor or healthcare provider (19 percent), the CDC (17 percent), a local pharmacy or clinic (13 percent) or their local health department (10 percent). More, six in 10, have watched or read news coverage about vaccination efforts in their community ([Axios/Ipsos 1/29-2/1](#)).

Additional analysis from a mid-January poll (other results reported [last week](#)) finds that people who are more reluctant or resistant to getting a vaccine are more apt to get information about it from social media, while those with more enthusiasm get more information from cable or network TV news. This reflects higher enthusiasm among older adults, who are less likely to use social media ([KFF 1/11-1/18](#)).

Vaccine Rollout

A new CDC report estimates that roughly 13 million people received at least one dose during the first month of the vaccine rollout. Health care personnel and residents of long-term care facility residents were prioritized. Based on available data, 63 percent of vaccine recipients were women, 55 percent were 50 years or older, 17 percent were age 40-49 and 28 percent were 18-39.

By race/ethnicity, 60 percent of recipients were white, 14 percent were categorized as multiple or other race/ethnicity, 12 percent were Hispanic/Latino, 6 percent Asian, 5 percent Black, 2 percent American Indian/Alaska Native and fewer than 1 percent Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. Age and sex data were available for nearly all recipients, but race/ethnicity was unknown or not reported for about half ([CDC 12/14-1/14](#)).

Another CDC report looked specifically at vaccinations at 11,460 skilled nursing long-term care

facilities that held at least one vaccination clinic during the first month of the CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. It estimates that a median of 78 percent of residents received at least one vaccine through the clinic, compared with 38 percent of staff members, indicating that greater outreach to staff may be necessary to increase uptake among this higher-risk group ([CDC 12/18-1/17](#)).

Vaccine Views Among Black People

A poll conducted in December explored vaccination attitudes among Black people, finding that 49 percent of Black adults overall planned to get vaccinated against COVID-19 once the vaccine was available to them, three in 10 did not and 20 percent were unsure. Just 19 percent planned to get vaccinated as soon as possible, even though 55 percent worried about themselves or someone in their family getting COVID-19.

Younger Black adults and Black women expressed the greatest vaccine hesitancy. Among those age 18-44, four in 10 did not plan to get vaccinated and 21 percent were unsure. A third of Black women (of all ages) did not plan to get vaccinated, with 22 percent unsure. By contrast, among Black adults age 60+, 68 percent planned to get vaccinated.

Among those who did not plan to get vaccinated or were unsure, top reasons included concern about the development and approval of safe and effective vaccines in a short time frame (66 percent), concern that the vaccines would hurt or be harmful (45 percent), concern about catching the virus from the vaccines (39 percent) and skepticism that the vaccines would work very well (23 percent).

More broadly, just a quarter of Black people were extremely or very confident in COVID-19 vaccine efficacy (24 percent) and safety (23 percent), and only two in 10 were as confident adequate testing had been done specifically among Black adults in the United States. Just 16 percent were highly confident that the vaccines would be distributed fairly; nearly half were not very or at all confident in this.

At least part of vaccine hesitancy in the Black population reflects distrust in the healthcare system more broadly. Fifty-two percent said the U.S. healthcare system always or often treats people unfairly based on their race or ethnicity, including 60 percent of those younger than 30. Results overall were similar to those in a study of vaccine hesitancy among Black people last [fall](#) ([NFID 12/10-12/21](#)).

Contact and Concern

Eighty-two percent of Americans personally know someone in the United States who has tested positive for COVID-19 and 37 percent know someone who has died from it, both new highs.

Eighty-three percent say they're at least somewhat concerned about new strains of the virus that may be more transmissible or dangerous. That matches the share who say they're at least somewhat concerned about the outbreak in general, largely unchanged in recent weeks. Three-quarters are as concerned about the possibility of getting sick, also essentially unchanged.

Concern about local schools reopening too soon has eased from 74 percent in late August to six in 10 now. The share who are extremely concerned about this has dropped from 26 to 14 percent ([Axios/Ipsos 1/29-2/1](#)).

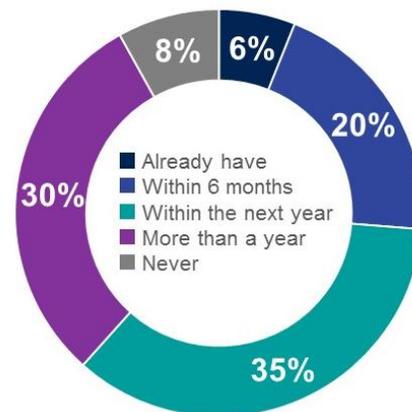
However, six in 10 are very concerned about someone in their family becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus, up from 50 percent in November and 37 percent in June to the most since the pandemic began. Although strong concern remains highest among Democrats, it's risen from summertime lows among Democrats (+21 percentage points to 79 percent), independents (+23 points to 55 percent) and Republicans (+19 points to 41 percent) alike ([Monmouth 1/21-1/24](#)).

Daily Life

Sixty-five percent of Americans say the pandemic has had a major impact on their daily lives, up from 54 percent in November to a pandemic high. Thirty-nine percent think the country will get the outbreak under control and be able to return to normal after the end of summer but before the end of the year; 24 percent think it will be longer than that ([Monmouth 1/21-1/24](#)).

More personally, nearly three-quarters do not expect to be able to return to something like their normal, pre-COVID lives for more than six months. That includes 30 percent who think it'll be more than a year and 8 percent who don't think it'll ever happen.

When do you expect to be able to return to something like your normal, pre-COVID life?



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That said, the “new normal” seems to have settled into something of a routine, with tracking data showing little change in many behaviors in recent weeks:

- Three in 10 say they've gone out to eat in the past week, essentially the same since mid-November.
- Thirty-six percent have visited friends or relatives, steady since early December.
- Seventy-eight percent say they've stayed at home and avoided others as much as possible, unchanged since mid-November.
- Three-quarters say they're wearing a mask at all times when leaving their house, essentially unchanged since late November.
- Fifty-three percent are maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others when leaving the house, also relatively steady since November ([Axios/Ipsos 1/29-2/1](#)).

Unemployment Insurance and Food Insecurity

Using longitudinal data collected from April to mid-November ([USC UAS 4/1-11/11](#)), a new analysis suggests that people who received unemployment insurance (UI) were less apt than others to face food insecurity.

The study focused on adults with annual household incomes less than \$75,000 who lost work during the pandemic. Thirty-seven percent in this group reported being concerned about running out of food because of a lack of money or other resources and 39 percent said they ate less due to financial constraints in at least one wave of the study. Receipt of UI was associated with a 4.3-point decline in food insecurity (a 35 percent relative reduction) and a 5.7-point decline in eating less due to financial constraints (a 48 percent relative reduction). Secondary analyses indicated that larger UI payments were associated with greater reductions in food insecurity and that reductions were greatest immediately after receipt of UI ([Raifman et al., 2021](#)).

Government Response

About six in 10 Americans approve of President Biden's handling of the federal response to the coronavirus ([Quinnipiac 1/28-2/1](#), [Monmouth 1/21-1/24](#)). Seven in 10 are at least somewhat confident he can put the country on the road to recovery, up from 52 percent in September, before his election ([Monmouth 1/21-1/24](#)). In another measure, 74 percent express confidence in Biden's ability to deal with the pandemic ([AP-NORC 1/28-2/1](#)),

Majorities continue to say their state's governor (57 percent) and federal health agencies (52 percent) have done a good job handling the outbreak. However, just a third say the American public has done a good job ([Monmouth 1/21-1/24](#)).

Nearly eight in 10 are in favor of \$1,400 stimulus payments to Americans and 68 percent support the Biden administration's proposed \$1.9 trillion stimulus relief bill in response to the pandemic. Nearly all Democrats (97 percent) support the stimulus bill, as do 68 percent of independents, compared with 37 percent of Republicans ([Quinnipiac 1/28-2/1](#)).

Americans split on whether it's likely or unlikely the Biden Administration will reach its goal of vaccinating 100 million Americans in its first 100 days, 49-50 percent ([Axios/Ipsos 1/29-2/1](#)).

Emergency Department Visits

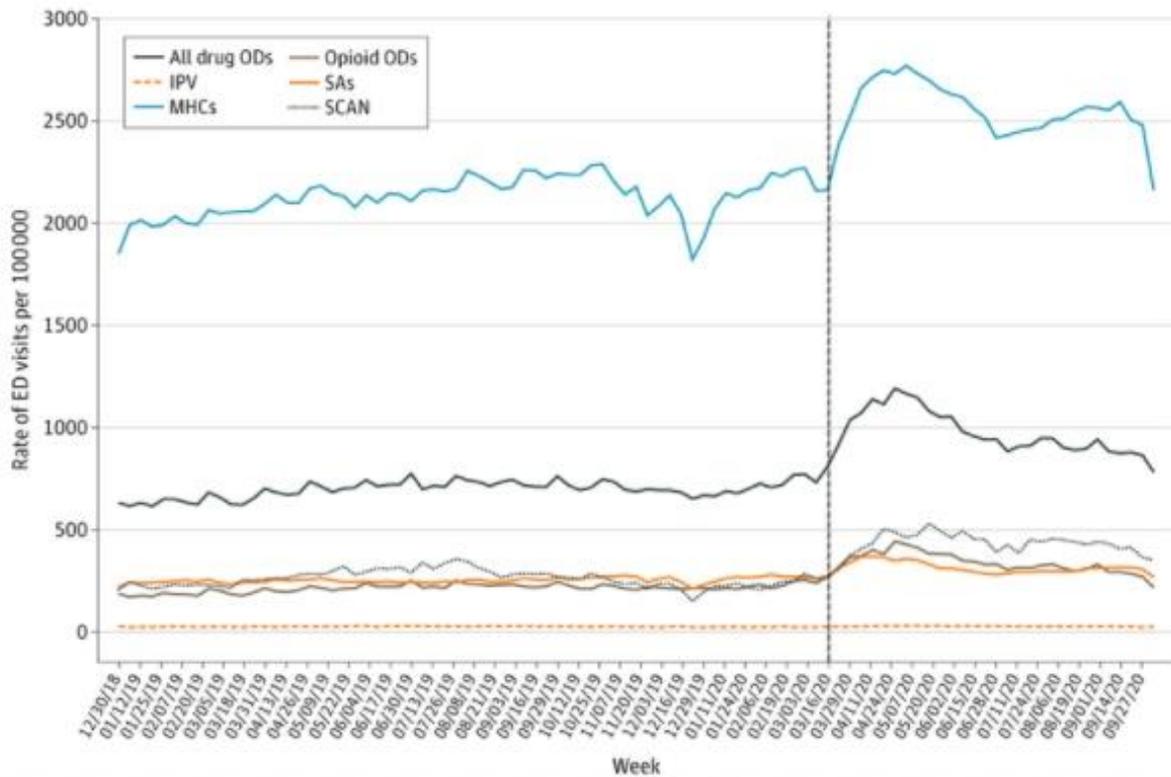
A new study finds that emergency room visits declined overall during the pandemic, but rates of some types of visits (per 100,000 visits overall) rose, including for mental health conditions, suicide attempts, drug (including opioid) overdoses, intimate partner violence and suspected child abuse and neglect.

This is based on an analysis of almost 190 million emergency department visits (approximately 70 percent of such visits across 48 states and D.C.), comparing data from mid-March to October

2020 with the same period in 2019.

The results indicate a shift in the reasons Americans sought emergency care, with the outcomes under investigation taking on increasing importance during the pandemic. Of note, weekly counts (as opposed to rates) of drug overdose cases did not decline compared with 2019 in a similar manner to other emergency department visits, aligning with other analyses showing an increase in overdose burden during the pandemic ([Holland et al., 2021](#)).

Figure 2. Rate of Emergency Department (ED) Visits for All Drug and Opioid Overdoses (ODs), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Suicide Attempts (SAs), Mental Health Conditions (MHCs), and Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) per 100 000 ED Visits in the US, December 30, 2018, to October 10, 2020



Sociodemographic Risk Factors

Another new analysis finds a relationship between the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and COVID-19 incidence and mortality. Using data from Jan. 30 to July 29, the study finds that every 0.1 point increase in the SVI (scored on a 0-1 scale) was associated with a 14.3 percent increase in disease incidence and a 13.7 percent increase in mortality. In serial analyses, the SVI also was associated greater rates of increase in weekly incidence and mortality rates over time.

The SVI is a composite measure of community susceptibility to adversity based on U.S. Census Bureau data. It includes subindices assessing socioeconomic status, household composition,

racial/ethnic minority status and language proficiency and housing type/transportation.

At the subindex level, a 0.1-point increase in racial/ethnic minority status and limited English proficiency was associated with a 21.7 percent increase in COVID-19 incidence and a 16.9 percent increase in mortality.

Among individual sociodemographic factors, COVID-19 incidence and mortality rates were higher in counties with more racial/ethnic minority residents, more people living in crowded housing, with limited English proficiency and in single-parent households, as well as with higher rates of obesity ([Karmaker et al., 2021](#)).

An additional study found that county-level COVID-19 mortality was significantly related to a greater proportion of Black residents, as well as to several adverse social determinants of health. These include the share of uninsured adults, low birthweight cases, adults without a high school diploma, incarceration rates and households without internet. When these factors were included in a statistical model, the proportion of Black residents in a county no longer was a significant predictor, suggesting that these factors help explain the racial disparity in COVID-19 mortality.

In the full model, the share of adults without a diploma and without internet were particularly strong predictors, highlighting the importance of educational disparities and online access (an essential factor in remote work) in pandemic outcomes.

This analysis was done using publicly available data on COVID-19 death rates through Oct. 28 in the 2,026 counties with at least five COVID-19 deaths ([Dalsania et al., 2021](#)).

State Results

In California, two-thirds say they would definitely or probably get the coronavirus vaccine when it is available to them, up from 57 percent in October; an additional 5 percent say they've already gotten it. However, as is the case nationally, racial disparities persist – just four in 10 Black Californians say they'll get vaccinated, compared with two-thirds or more of white (66 percent), Latino (74 percent) and Asian (80 percent) residents. Just 36 percent overall think the state is doing an excellent (8 percent) or good (29 percent) job distributing the vaccine.

Fifty-eight percent think the worst of the coronavirus is behind us nationally, up from 51 percent in September. However, six in 10 continue to be at least somewhat concerned that they will get the virus and need hospitalization. Fifty-three percent approve of how Gov. Gavin Newsom is handling the outbreak, down from 61 percent in October. Seven in 10 approve of how President Biden is handling it ([PPIC 1/21-1/31](#)).

In a separate poll, conducted from mid-November to mid-January, 71 percent said that if the state of California determined that a safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent COVID-19 today, they would probably or definitely get it. Six in 10 said that if they tested positive for COVID-19 they'd be extremely or very likely to give contact tracing officials a list of all the people they'd recently been in contact with, but fewer said they'd be willing to give contact tracing officials access to cell phone location data (40 percent) or to volunteer for weekly testing

to help track the progression of the pandemic (37 percent).

Fifty-four percent said that in the past three months they or someone in their household had been negatively impacted in at least one way by worry or stress caused by the pandemic. Fifty-two percent said they skipped or delayed health care in the past year, with most citing reasons related to the pandemic, including closed doctor's offices or feeling unsafe.

Four in 10 said they had been tested for COVID-19 and nearly one in four said they knew someone who has died from the virus. Black Californians were the most apt to say they'd been tested (56 percent) and to know someone who had died from COVID-19 (32 percent).

Sixty-three percent said it was extremely important for California's governor and legislature to work on addressing COVID-19 in 2021. Nearly as many – 59 percent – said the same of making sure state and county public health departments have the resources they need to control the spread of COVID-19 ([CHCF 11/19-1/12](#)).

In New Hampshire, three quarters say they almost certainly or probably will get a COVID-19 vaccine or have already been vaccinated. That's up from December, when 61 percent said they were likely to get vaccinated. Intention to get vaccinated has increased across demographic and partisan groups, though it remains higher among Democrats, older adults and whites than others.

Majorities express confidence that the vaccine will stop them from getting sick (74 percent), will be safe (73 percent), has gone through an appropriate approval process (71 percent), will have few or minimal side effects (64 percent), will provide long-lasting protection (58 percent) and will remain effective against COVID-19 mutations (51 percent). Confidence in all of these has grown since December ([UNH 1/21-1/25](#)).

In Wisconsin, a CDC analysis examined the rapid proliferation of cases in the state last fall. It identified 5,757 outbreaks comprising a total of 57,991 confirmed cases from March 4 to Nov. 17, accounting for 18.3 percent of confirmed cases in Wisconsin during the period. Overall, outbreaks at long-term care facilities (26.8 percent), colleges or universities (15 percent) and correctional facilities (14.9 percent) accounted for the largest number of outbreak-associated cases.

The pattern of outbreaks shifted during this period. During and immediately after Wisconsin's stay-at-home order, outbreaks were concentrated in manufacturing and food processing facilities and long-term care facilities. In early summer, they continued to occur in these settings, but also in restaurants and bars, workplaces and other public establishments. In late August, there was a rapid increase in cases associated with outbreaks at colleges and universities. This aligned with a period of exponential growth in cases in the state, though it is unclear from the analysis whether there is a causal relationship ([CDC 3/4-11/16](#)).

In Massachusetts, a newly released poll of high school students conducted in November and December found that just 6 percent were currently attending school in person full-time, four in 10 were fully remote and most – 55 percent – reported a hybrid arrangement. This contrasts with preferences – half of high-schoolers said they would prefer to attend school in person, a third

preferred a hybrid arrangement and 16 percent preferred to attend school remotely.

Notably, students in lower-income household were far more likely than those in middle and higher-income households to report they were learning remotely full time (57 vs. 37 and 31 percent, respectively). However, according to parents' reports, lower-income households also were less apt to have broadband or high-speed service and a reliable internet connection. And while 85 percent of students said there was someone at home they could ask for help if they had trouble accessing schoolwork or using technology, that fell to 71 percent among those in lower-income households ([Barr Foundation/Gallup 11/18-12/9](#)).

International Results

A study in the United States, Germany, France and the United Kingdom in November and December found increases in the number of people saying the pandemic was affecting their lives. In the United States, 74 percent said their life had changed a great deal or fair amount, up from 67 percent in June. In France, 67 percent said the same, up from 46 percent, as did 47 percent in Germany, up from 39 percent. It was 70 percent in the United Kingdom, a slight 4-point bump.

Germans were the most positive about their country's response to the pandemic – 77 percent said it had done a good job. That dropped to 54 percent in France, 48 percent in the United Kingdom and 41 percent in the United States. Since June, these ratings were down by 11 points in Germany, 6 points in the United States and 5 points in France, while essentially unchanged in the United Kingdom.

Views of vaccine mandates varied widely. In France, 75 percent said it would be unacceptable for the national government to require people to get vaccinated, even if a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine were developed. Majorities in Germany (62 percent) and the United States (57 percent) said the same. In the United Kingdom, 62 percent said such a requirement would be acceptable ([Pew 11/10-12/23](#)).

In Mexico, about half say they want to get vaccinated as soon as possible (48 percent) or already have been (1 percent); 39 percent would prefer to wait and 12 percent decline. However, just 19 percent think it's likely that they will be able to get vaccinated soon and only 7 percent say they have been contacted by the government about the vaccine.

Six in 10 think the pandemic in the country is getting worse and 57 percent view the way the government has handled it as a failure, up from 49 percent in August. Fifty-five percent think the number of deaths in the country is overly high, and that somewhat was done wrong, up from 43 percent in mid-November. Three in 10 instead say the number of deaths is expected for a pandemic like this, down from 39 percent.

Perceptions of how the López Obrador government is handling the vaccine rollout are mixed, with Mexicans divided on whether the government has done a good or bad job handling the purchase of vaccines and administering them. Regardless, just two in 10 think the supply of vaccines in the country is adequate.

Sixty-two percent personally know someone who has been infected with the virus, including a quarter who say it was a family member. Forty-six percent know someone who has died from it, up 7 points since last month to a new high. Sixty-four percent are very concerned about the virus, up 15 points in the past month to a numerical high. Seven in 10 think restrictions and isolation measures should be maintained rather than resuming normal activities, the most since May.

In questions asked after President López Obrador revealed on Jan. 24 that he had tested positive for COVID-19, 83 percent say they had heard the news, 63 percent are at least somewhat concerned about it and seven in 10 say they think the government should keep the public informed about his health. Half think the government is working properly while the president is recovering while 42 percent do not ([El Financiero 1/15-1/30](#)).

In Chile, half say they would immediately seek to be vaccinated if a vaccine were available, while 29 percent would wait a while and two in 10 say they would not get vaccinated at all, essentially unchanged since last week. Fewer than half are confident that vaccines will reach Chile in sufficient quantities for everyone (49 percent) and fewer, 40 percent, are confident they themselves will have timely access. Confidence also is low that the vaccine will effectively immunize the recipient (40 percent), will stop the pandemic (35 percent) and will not bring negative consequences (30 percent).

More than nine in 10 say they personally are taking the crisis seriously enough or more than enough, while 85 percent think Chileans in general have not taken it seriously enough. Sixty-two percent say they're very or quite concerned about the possibility of being infected, down 7 points in the past week. Eighty-two percent think it is probable that there will be a resurgence of the virus like there has been in Europe, up 8 points since November ([Cadem 1/27-1/29](#)).

In India, where coronavirus cases have declined steadily since September, concern is down: Sixty-four percent disagree that they are afraid that they or someone in their family may catch the virus, a new high in daily tracking since mid-March. Fifty-three percent agree that the threat is exaggerated, essentially unchanged in recent months. Eighty-one percent agree the Indian government is handling the virus well, the most since late June ([CVoter 1/28](#)).

In Greece, 74 percent say they'll at least probably get vaccinated, up from 67 percent in December. Half say they definitely will get the vaccine, up from 40 percent. In a separate question, 63 percent say they'll get vaccinated as soon as possible or in the next several months, up from 57 percent. Fifty-five percent think that based on current data, restrictions in the country should be relaxed and activities should resume ([Pulse RC 1/25-1/27](#)).

In Great Britain, 12 percent say they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination, up from 7 percent last week. Nearly nine in 10 of those who've yet to be offered a vaccine say it is at least fairly likely that they will get vaccinated if offered, essentially the same as last week. Twenty-eight percent think it'll take more than a year for life to return to normal, up from 20 percent just before the implementation of national lockdowns in England and Scotland ([Office for National Statistics 1/20-1/24](#)).

In data collected from Dec. 10 to Jan. 10, just half of Black adults said they were likely to get the

vaccine, compared with 85 percent of whites and eight in 10 of those in mixed ethnicity groups. Older adults were more apt to say they were likely to get vaccinated. Among those younger than 50, men were more likely than women to say they'd get vaccinated; the gender gap disappeared among older adults ([Office for National Statistics 12/10-1/10](#)).

In Germany, a sense of burden from coronavirus restrictions has grown. Forty-nine percent feel strongly or very strongly burdened, vs. 36 percent the week before Christmas. Younger Germans are particularly likely to report feeling burdened. Overall, 54 percent of Germans are less satisfied or not at all satisfied with the country's coronavirus crisis management, up from 42 percent in mid-December, before the new lockdown was announced ([ARD/Infratest Dimap 1/18-1/20](#)).

In Pakistan, just three in 10 say they are very likely to get vaccinated once the vaccine is available; an additional 8 percent say they're somewhat likely to get it, with half somewhat or very unlikely. Fifty-seven percent agree that the threat of COVID-19 is exaggerated, though that's declined from 66 percent in September. The share who agree that they're afraid that they or someone in their household will be infected by the virus has grown from 42 to 50 percent. Sixty-three percent say (incorrectly) that those with no symptoms cannot spread the virus, down from 69 percent in May.

Still, 78 percent say they're wearing a medical mask at most times; fewer, 57 percent, report that their neighbors generally wear masks. Half say they're not worried when people around them do not wear masks. Two in 10 say they know someone in their social circle who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 11 percent know someone who has died from it ([Gallup Pakistan 12/24-1/15](#)).

In a poll in Canada in late December (when U.S. cases were higher), eight in 10 supported keeping the Canada-U.S. border closed to non-essential travel until the number of new coronavirus cases in the United States dropped significantly, even if it took several months or longer. An additional 11 percent were somewhat supportive of keeping the border closed, with fewer than one in 10 opposed. Views were similar in April ([Nanos/CTV News 12/27-12/30](#)).

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

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