



## COVID-19 Survey Summary: March 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](#).*

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

Optimism about the course of the pandemic is up and Americans' support for protective restrictions is down as the outbreak stretches into its second year. New polls also show continued progress in vaccinations, with more than half of seniors now saying they've gotten a shot.

Other pandemic-related survey results released in the past week examine the continued debate about how best to reopen schools safely, find declining perceptions of risk and show broad support for the \$1.9 trillion relief package being considered in Congress.

Additional analyses reveal a rise in methamphetamine and marijuana seizures during the pandemic, describe how working moms have been impacted and suggest that the economic toll of the pandemic, while improved, may have lingering consequences.

### Pandemic Restrictions

With cases and hospitalizations sharply down from their winter peak, support for increased restrictions on public activity has declined – 27 percent now think there should be more such restrictions in their area, down from 44 percent in November. Thirty-one percent favor fewer restrictions, up from 21 percent. (The rest, four in 10, think current restrictions are about right.)

There are sharp partisan divisions: Fifty-six percent of Republicans and independents who lean Republican think there should be fewer restrictions, compared with one in 10 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents. Four in 10 Democrats instead favor more restrictions; just 12 percent of Republicans agree.

There also are differences depending on existing rules: Support for more restrictions is 10 percentage points higher among people in states without a mask mandate than it is among people in states with one, 35 vs. 25 percent.

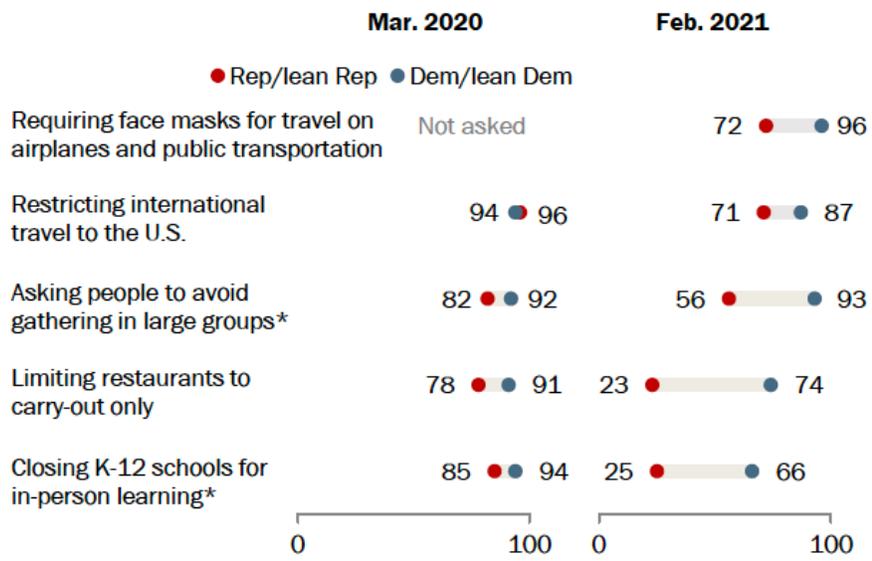
When it comes to views of specific policies in place in some areas to address the outbreak, large majorities overall think it's necessary to require masks for travel on airplanes and public transportation (85 percent), to restrict international travel (79 percent) and to ask people to avoid gathering in large groups (76 percent). This drops to 50 percent for limiting restaurants to carry-

out and 47 percent for closing K-12 schools for in-person learning, both down from similar questions last March.

As with views of restrictions overall, there are partisan gaps on these specific policies, and these divisions have grown since the pandemic began. Democrats and Democratic leaners are more apt than Republicans and GOP leaners to view each item as necessary, by margins ranging from 16 to 51 points. In the widest gap, 74 percent of Democrats think limiting restaurants to carry-out is necessary, compared with 23 percent of Republicans. That's widened from a 13-point margin a year ago, when far more overall supported restaurant restrictions.

### Republicans and Democrats are far more divided on ways to address coronavirus than at start of outbreak

*% of U.S. adults who say each of the following are necessary to address the coronavirus outbreak*



\*See Topline for details on wording differences between Mar. 2020 and Feb. 2021 surveys. Note: Respondents who gave other response or did not give an answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted Feb. 16-21, 2021.

“Growing Share of Americans Say They Plan To Get a COVID-19 Vaccine – or Already Have”  
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Similarly, while 66 percent of Democrats think closing schools to in-person learning is necessary, just 25 percent of Republicans agree. By contrast, last March, 94 percent of Democrats and 85 percent of Republicans alike saw school closures as needed ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

There is little agreement on what one factor would best indicate that the pandemic is ending and major restrictions can be lifted. Given a list of options, 27 percent say it's when 75 percent or more Americans are vaccinated; 14 percent say it's when hospitals across the country are back to normal operations, with no shortages, for at least a month; 13 percent say it's when transmission of COVID-19 has stopped entirely; 9 percent say it's when the country has fewer than 5,000 new cases per day; and 6 percent think it's when the country has fewer than 100 deaths a day. The rest don't know (18 percent), say the pandemic already has ended (7 percent) or think some other indicator is best (5 percent) ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)).

### Vaccines

Fifty-seven percent of Americans say they'll get a shot as soon as the vaccine becomes available to them or already have done so, up 7 points since early February. This includes nearly a quarter

(23 percent) who report already having gotten at least one shot, up from 19 percent last week and 15 percent at the beginning of February. An additional 15 percent say they'll get vaccinated a few weeks or months after a vaccine becomes available to them; 8 percent say they'll wait a year and 18 percent say they won't get it at all ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)).

Asked differently, 69 percent say they've already received at least one dose (19 percent) or definitely or probably will get vaccinated, compared with 60 percent who planned to get vaccinated in November. (Whether to wait and see, and how long if so, isn't included in this measurement.) Intent to get vaccinated is particularly strong among those who trust the vaccine development process, who emphasize the community health aspect of vaccination and who tend to get the seasonal flu vaccine. Concerns about side effects, efficacy and the speedy development process are mentioned as the main reasons by those who say they definitely or probably won't get vaccinated ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

Fifty-three percent of those age 65 and older say they've gotten vaccinated. Disparities in uptake are evident – 25 percent of white adults say they've gotten at least one shot, compared with 19 percent of Black adults and 17 percent of Hispanic adults. People with a college degree and with higher incomes also are more likely to have received at least one shot ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)).

Data from late January and the first half of February suggest that education may play a growing role in uptake intentions. As of mid-February, longitudinal tracking data found that 76 percent of adults with a bachelor's degree had been or planned to be vaccinated, compared with 53 percent of adults with less education. In statistical modeling controlling for other demographic factors, the analysis found that education often played a greater role than race or ethnicity.

Views of vaccine efficacy and risks vary widely by education, with less-educated adults holding more negative views. They're also less likely to know someone who has been vaccinated. In mid-February, seven in 10 of those with a bachelor's degree knew someone who had been vaccinated, compared with 46 percent of those with less education ([USC UAS 1/20-2/16](#)).

Getting the shot is a challenge for some. Two in 10 say they or someone they know who is eligible has had a lot of trouble getting an appointment; an additional quarter report a little trouble ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)).

However, eight in 10 think most people in their area will be able to get a vaccine within the next six months. That includes 12 percent who think it'll happen in the next 30 days, a third who think it'll be one to three months and 35 percent who think it'll be four to six months ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

Seven in 10 continue to be at least somewhat concerned about the government's handling of the vaccine rollout, down from 78 percent in early February ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)). However, when asked specifically about the rollout in their own area, 64 percent say it is going very or somewhat well, and more, 76 percent, think the process has been very or somewhat fair. Fewer, 57 percent, say information about how to get vaccinated in their areas has been easy to find ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

## School Reopening

As debates on how and when to reopen schools continue, three-quarters of Americans say that it is very (41 percent) or somewhat (34 percent) important to them that teachers receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine before returning to teach in person ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)). As noted [last week](#), six in 10 think K-12 schools that are not currently open for in-person instruction should wait to reopen until all teachers who want the vaccine have received it.

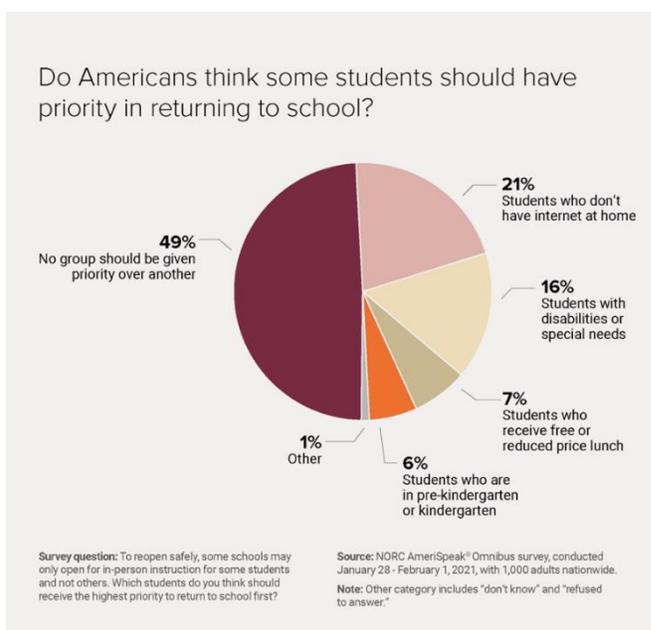
Half of parents of school-age children say their child is currently attending school remotely full time, a third are attending in-person classes full time and 17 percent are in a school taking a hybrid approach. Among those with children in remote or hybrid classes, half think a return to in-person full-time classes is very or somewhat likely immediately after teachers receive COVID-19 vaccinations. More, three-quarters of parents overall, see a likely return to full-time in person learning this fall.

Parents broadly support many “proposals for helping students recover from the impact of COVID-19.” These include in-person tutoring in targeted problem areas (86 percent support); in-person catch-up courses offered to all students (84 percent); additional services for special education students (84 percent); structured social, emotional and mental health support (81 percent); additional research on the impact of the pandemic on educational progress (77 percent); in-person full-time classes as soon as teachers are vaccinated (68 percent); and intensive academic assessments for returning students (64 percent). Fewer, 52 percent, back in-person, full-time summer school. The question says all these “would be provided by the school district or federal government.”

Forty-three percent say their child’s schooling plan has changed since the school year started. Roughly half agree with a statement suggesting that they are worried their child “will be behind” when the pandemic is over. Eight in 10 agree that their child’s school has handled the pandemic well and 82 percent agree that the school has communicated plans clearly. Half say someone in their school district has had COVID-19 and 6 percent report that a student, teacher or faculty member has died from it ([NPR/Ipsos 2/3-2/10](#)).

When schools that are not yet open start to reopen, 49 percent of Americans say no group of students should be given priority over another (in a question that says, “to reopen safely, some schools may only open for in-person instruction for some students.”) The rest divided among priority for students who don’t have internet at home (21 percent), those with disabilities or special needs (16 percent), students who receive free or reduced-price lunch (7 percent) and pre-K or kindergarten pupils (6 percent).

Nearly six in 10 say students who have not met grade level requirements because of the pandemic still should be passed on to the next grade level; this view ranges from 71 percent



among 18- to 29-year-olds to 41 percent of adults age 60+ ([NORC 1/28-2/1](#)).

## Outlook

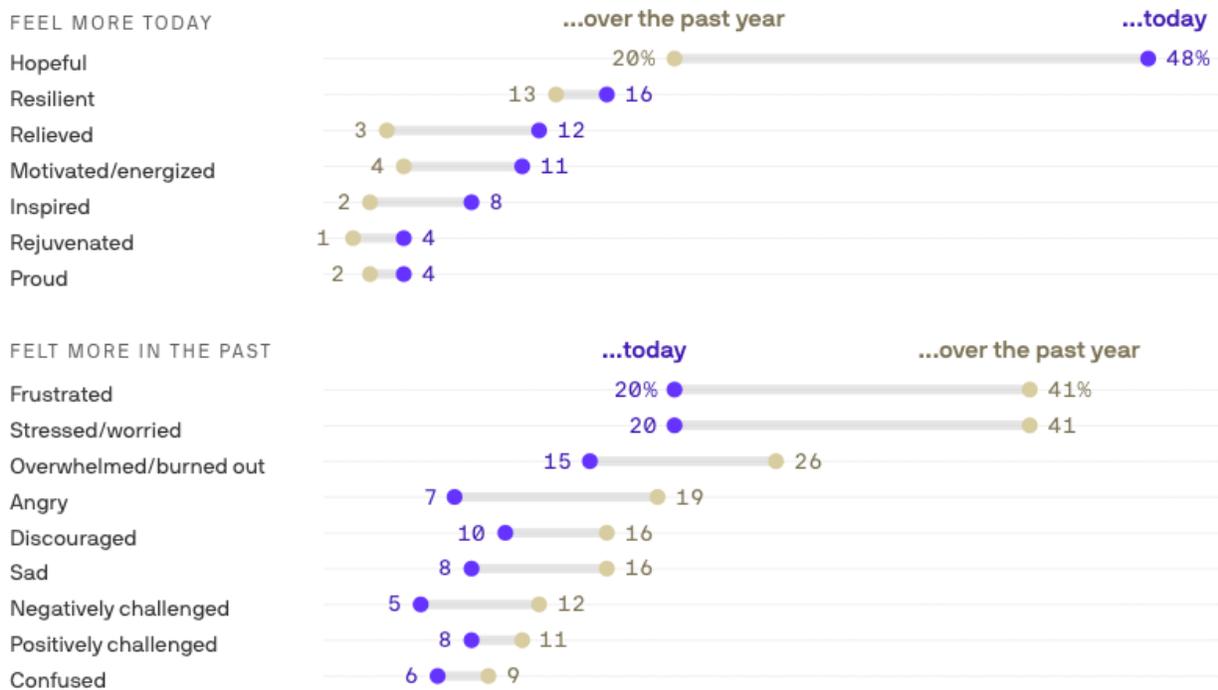
Americans are growing more optimistic. For the first time since the pandemic began, a majority – 60 percent – thinks the coronavirus situation in the United States is getting better, and just 14 percent think it is getting worse ([Gallup 2/14-2/21](#)). And while 65 percent continue to expect it'll be at least six months before they return to something like their normal, pre-COVID life, a quarter now think normality will return in three to six months, up from 19 percent in January.

Asked what words or phrases best describe how they've felt since the pandemic began in the United States, 41 percent apiece say they've been frustrated or stressed/worried. However, when asked how they feel today, half as many say the same. And more than twice as many say they feel hopeful today than say they did over the past year, 48 vs. 20 percent. Among those who've gotten at least one dose of the vaccine, 61 percent feel hopeful.

In general, more Americans selected positive attributes, and fewer selected negative ones, to describe how they are feeling today compared with how they've felt across the past year ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)).

## Which of the following best describes your feelings...

Survey of 1,088 U.S. adults, Feb. 26 to March 1, 2021



Data: Axios/Ipsos Poll; Note: Margin of error for the entire sample is ±3.1%; Chart: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios

## Contact and Concern

Two-thirds of Americans know someone who has been hospitalized or died from the coronavirus and a quarter say they themselves have tested positive or are “pretty sure” they’ve had it. Young and Hispanic adults are more likely than others to say they’ve had COVID-19, while Black and Hispanic adults are particularly apt to know someone who has been hospitalized or died from it. ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

Sixty-nine percent are at least somewhat concerned about the possibility of getting sick from the virus, matching last week as the fewest since early June. More – 78 percent – are concerned about new strains that may be more transmissible or dangerous, essentially unchanged from last week ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)).

The public divides on whether or not new variants will cause a major setback to the country’s efforts to contain the disease, 51-48 percent. Fifty-eight percent think the new variants make it more important for a large majority of Americans to get vaccinated ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

## Risk Perceptions and Protective Behaviors

Fewer than three in 10 (28 percent) now think it’d be a large risk to their health and well-being to return to their normal pre-coronavirus life right now, down 11 points in the past month to the fewest since mid-June. Thirty-one percent view attending an in-person gathering of friends and family outside their household as a large risk, the fewest since October. Twelve percent say the same about shopping at retail stores, a low since data collection started in mid-May. However, perceptions of the risk of other activities (e.g., restaurant dining and going to a grocery store) are essentially unchanged in recent weeks.

The share who say they’ve social distanced in the past week (i.e., stayed home and avoided others as much as possible) dropped to 71 percent, down from 79 percent in early February. However, most continue to report engaging in protective behaviors when outside the house – 73 percent say they wear a mask at all times and 52 percent are maintaining a distance of at least six feet from other people at all times. Most of the rest say they are doing so at least some of the time ([Axios/Ipsos 2/26-3/1](#)).

Similarly, nearly nine in 10 (88 percent) say they’ve worn a mask all or most of the time in stores and businesses during the past month, essentially unchanged since November ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

## Economic Impacts

Eight in 10 Americans continue to view the coronavirus outbreak as a major threat to the U.S. economy. Fifty-one percent think it would help the economy a lot if a large majority of Americans got vaccinated; 25 percent think it would help a little. Even among Republicans, who are more reluctant to get vaccinated, two-thirds think mass vaccine uptake would help the economy at least a little ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

Data from January suggest that the economic fallout eased since the early days of the pandemic. Compared with a year ago, more adults said their financial situation was better than worse, 30 vs. 21 percent. (Half said it was about the same.) Fifty-three percent rated their personal financial situation positively; it was 47 percent last April.

Still there's continued evidence that the pandemic is disproportionately impacting certain groups, and that at least some of the negative economic effects may be long lasting. For example:

- While more report their finances are better than worse overall, among lower-income adults, that flips – 31 worse, 22 percent better. Among upper-income adults, by contrast, 39 percent said their finances had improved while 11 percent said they were worse.
- Lower-income adults, as well as Hispanic and Black people and those younger than 30, continued to be among the most likely to say they or someone in their household had lost a job or wages since the pandemic began. (This remains the case in more recent polling as well; see [KFF 2/15-2/23](#)).
- While 42 percent overall said they were spending less than usual since the pandemic began, that rose to 53 percent of those with higher incomes compared with 34 percent of those with lower incomes. And among those who are spending less, 86 percent of upper income adults said it was mainly because of coronavirus restrictions on their activities, while 55 percent of lower income adults said it was because they were worried about their finances.
- In terms of lingering effects, half of non-retired adults said the economic impact of the outbreak will make achieving their long-term financial goals harder, including 62 percent in households with job or wage loss since the pandemic began.
- Forty-nine percent of workers who personally lost wages during the pandemic still were earning less money than before the pandemic. This rose to 58 percent of workers age 50+ who experienced a pay cut, compared with 45 percent of younger workers.
- Among the two in 10 who said their financial situation had gotten worse over the past year, 44 percent thought it would take them three years or more to get back to where they were a year ago, including one in 10 who did not think their finances ever will recover.

There was no majority consensus on who should be responsible for making sure people can meet their basic needs during the pandemic. Forty-five percent said the federal government should have the greatest responsibility, a third said it should be themselves or their family, 12 percent said state or local governments and the rest picked another source ([Pew 1/19-1/24](#)).

A new report based on December data finds that older Americans were less likely to have suffered pandemic-related job or income losses, had more secure finances and reported less stress amid the pandemic – yet expressed greater concern about the pandemic's economic toll than younger adults. Seven in 10 of those age 65+ were very concerned about the impact of the pandemic on the economy, compared with 53 percent of those age 18 to 44. In another gap,

younger adults were more apt than seniors to be at least somewhat confident that President Biden would be able to manage the pandemic safely, 71 vs. 53 percent ([Rutgers Heldrich Center 12/4-12/14](#)).

### Drug Seizures and the COVID-19 Pandemic

An analysis from the National Institute on Drug Abuse found a rise in methamphetamine and marijuana seizures during the pandemic, with confiscations of these drugs exceeding their levels in pre-COVID-19 months. NIDA analyzed data on seizures of marijuana, methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and cocaine from March 2019 to September 2020, with data from Washington, D.C./Baltimore, Chicago, Ohio, New Mexico and North Florida.

The study found a significant decrease in marijuana and methamphetamine seizures through April 2020, suggesting an initial dip in availability at the onset of the pandemic. Confiscations rebounded in subsequent months, reaching a high in August 2020 and exceeding levels at any time in the year preceding the pandemic.

The authors found that heroin, cocaine and fentanyl seizures were not affected by the pandemic, although provisional data ([released in December](#)) indicates that increased drug mortality seen in 2019 rose further through the first half of 2020, largely driven by an increase in deaths from synthetic opioids. In addition, overdose deaths involving stimulant drugs, including methamphetamine, increased by 39 percent from June 2019 through June 2020 compared with the previous year ([NIDA](#)).

### Impact on Moms

A new report from the U.S. Census Bureau finds that about 10 million mothers living with their own school-age children were not working in January, 1.4 million more than in January last year, before the pandemic. According to [Current Population Survey](#) estimates, that means more than one-third of all mothers living with school-age children were not working.

Normally, around seven in 10 mothers and nine in 10 fathers living with their own children work. At the start of the pandemic (March and April 2020), roughly 3.5 million mothers living with school-age children left active work; that meant 45 percent were not actively working. As of January, that had eased to 35 percent, still more than its pre-pandemic level.

While the report primarily focuses on mothers, it indicates that the gender gap in the pandemic's toll on working parents has narrowed. At the onset of the pandemic, the share of mothers actively working declined 21.1 points while the share of working fathers dropped 14.7 points. However, that gap eased dramatically as the pandemic continued – as of January, the share of mothers actively working was 6.4 points lower than pre-pandemic levels, while the share of fathers actively working was 5.9 points lower.

Still, compared with January 2020, 1.6 million fewer mothers living with their own school-age children were working in January 2021, 1.2 million more were unemployed and 210,000 more were on paid or unpaid leave. More than 700,000 moms have given up on work outside the home

entirely since the pandemic began, and it's unclear whether or when they might return ([U.S. Census Bureau](#)).

### Pandemic Impacts in Their Own Words

In polling conducted in early September but released this week, when asked to describe in their own words how the pandemic has impacted their lives, 89 percent of Americans mentioned at least one negative change, while 73 percent mentioned at least one upside. Two-thirds mentioned at least one negative and one positive alike. Among the topics raised:

- Four in 10 described how the pandemic had negatively impacted their personal relationships (e.g., missing family), while a third mentioned a positive impact on their relationships (e.g., being able to spend more time with spouses).
- Thirty-two percent described negative impacts on how they can spend their free time (e.g., being unable to travel), although 26 percent expressed a positive impact in this domain (e.g., new hobbies).
- Twenty-eight percent mentioned a negative impact on the physical or mental health of themselves or another (e.g., loss of loved ones), double the share who said the pandemic had a positive impact in this area (e.g., eating healthier).
- Twenty-six percent described negative impacts of the pandemic on society, politics and safety precautions (e.g., discontent with the government's response).
- Twenty-three percent mentioned negative impacts on jobs (e.g., job loss, work/life balance) and 22 percent said the same about their finances/the economy. Thirteen percent apiece mentioned positives in these domains.

Additional examples of the pandemic's pitfalls and silver linings, including direct quotes, are provided in the full analysis ([Pew 8/31-9/7](#)).

### Government Response

More than six in 10 Americans approve of the way President Biden is handling the pandemic (62 percent in one poll, [KFF 2/15-2/23](#); 70 percent in another, [AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)), and 56 percent think his policies will make the country's response to the coronavirus better. A similar share – 54 percent – rate his response to the outbreak as excellent or good ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

However, 45 percent think Biden is not doing enough to help people who have lost jobs or income due to the pandemic. Even more – 73 percent – say the same of Congress, including more than seven in 10 Republicans, Democrats and independents alike ([KFF 2/15-2/23](#)).

Sixty-two percent support the COVID-19 stimulus package being considered by Congress, but the public divides on whether its \$1.9 trillion amount should be cut in order to gain bipartisan

support (48 percent) or whether the full plan should remain even if it only gets support from Democratic senators (45 percent).

When it comes to views of specific provisions:

- Two-thirds support increasing additional unemployment benefits from \$300 to \$400 per week and extending them through the summer.
- Fifty-three percent support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour, although this provision is likely to be stripped from the Senate version given a parliamentary ruling.
- Fifty-three percent think the stimulus payment of \$1,400 per person to individuals and families who meet certain income levels is about right. Twenty-eight percent think it should be larger, 14 percent, smaller.
- In a separate question, 68 percent – including 53 percent of Republicans, 65 percent of independents and 85 percent of Democrats – say the full \$1,400 amount should remain even if it means the bill will pass without Republican support.

Twice as many think the stimulus plan will help individual states lift restrictions on business and social activities sooner rather than prolong them, 28 vs. 14 percent. But most (53 percent) don't think it will have any real impact on when restrictions will be lifted ([Monmouth 2/25-3/1](#)).

Despite the outbreak easing in recent weeks, ratings of how top officials have responded to it have declined:

- Forty-nine percent say their state elected officials are doing an excellent or good job responding, down from 54 percent in November and well below the 70 percent in the first month of the pandemic.
- Fifty-five percent say their local elected officials are doing an excellent or good job, a measure that has declined steadily from 69 percent last March.
- Sixty-two percent say public health officials such as those at the CDC are doing a good job, down 5 points since November and 17 points since last March.
- Only hospitals and medical centers have escaped increased criticism – 85 percent say they're doing an excellent or good job responding to the pandemic, essentially unchanged ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

### State Results

In New York, three-quarters of registered voters think Gov. Andrew Cuomo did something wrong in handling the way nursing home deaths during the pandemic were reported, including 51 percent who think he did something unethical but not illegal and a quarter who think he did

something illegal. Voters divide 51-46 percent on whether the state Legislature should or should not remove emergency powers granted to him last year to manage the pandemic. Fifty-six percent approve of his handling of the outbreak overall, down sharply from 81 percent in May, similar to views [reported last week](#) in a different poll. Two-thirds approve of how Biden is handling the response to the pandemic ([Quinnipiac 3/2-3/3](#)).

In Virginia, 18 percent say they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and an additional 54 percent say they plan to get the vaccine when they can. More than three-quarters know someone who has gotten the coronavirus, up from 61 percent in November. Forty-six percent think the measures taken by the state government to slow the spread of the virus have been appropriate, while 31 percent think they haven't gone far enough and 19 percent say they've gone too far. However, 46 percent think the measures taken by the federal government have not gone far enough. Roughly six in 10 apiece think the actions taken by the federal and state government to distribute vaccines have been at least somewhat effective ([Roanoke College 2/14-2/27](#)).

In New Hampshire, one in five reports having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, rising to 44 percent of seniors. Most of the rest intend to get vaccinated, although a quarter continue to say they probably or certainly will not get vaccinated. Majorities continue to be at least somewhat confident the vaccine will stop them from getting sick from COVID-19 (72 percent), will be safe (71 percent), has gone through an appropriate approval process (70 percent), will have few or minimal side effects (62 percent) and will provide long-lasting protection (53 percent). Fewer – 47 percent – are confident it will remain effective against COVID-19 mutations.

Thirty-six percent think it is at least somewhat likely that they or someone in their household has had or currently has COVID-19. Of them, 38 percent say they're unlikely to get vaccinated, compared with 16 percent of those who do not think they or anyone in their household has had the disease ([UNH 2/18-2/22](#)).

### International Results

In Greece, eight in 10 say they certainly or probably will get vaccinated and 61 percent say they will do so as soon as possible. The share who say they will certainly get vaccinated has grown from 37 percent in November to 59 percent now. Nearly seven in 10 are in favor of extending lockdown either for a short period with a review of the data (39 percent) or for as long as necessary (29 percent). Forty-four percent think that when things do start to reopen, schools and retail should do so at the same time; 29 percent think retail should reopen first, 19 percent think it should be schools. Fifty-six percent are highly concerned about coronavirus mutations and an additional 21 percent express moderate concern ([Pulse RC 2/26-2/28](#)).

In Chile, two in 10 say they've been vaccinated, six in 10 say they'll get vaccinated when it is their turn and 10 percent say they'll do it later. An additional one in 10 says they will not get vaccinated, half as many as said so in early February. Sixty-two percent support maintaining the curfew and having it start at 11 p.m., although among those age 18-34, 52 percent favor ending the curfew. Fifty-eight percent approve of how the government is managing the crisis, up sharply

from 33 percent in January to a pandemic high. This likely reflects the popularity of the government's mass vaccination plan – 83 percent evaluate it positively ([Cadem 2/24-2/26](#)).

In Mexico, 46 percent apiece rate the López Obrador administration's handling of the purchase and administration of vaccines positively, up from 39 and 37 percent, respectively, in January. Forty-two percent now rate the administration's handling of health issues positively, up from 34 percent in the same period ([El Financiero 2/12-2/26](#)).

In South Korea, 71 percent say they definitely or probably will get vaccinated, unchanged from last week. However, the share who say they certainly will get vaccinated has increased from 43 to 48 percent, and rises to 65 percent among those age 60+. Sixty-two percent have at least some trust in the Pfizer vaccine, compared with 53 percent for the Moderna vaccine and 44 percent for AstraZeneca's. Just a quarter think daily life will normalize by the end of 2021 ([Gallup Korea 2/23-2/25](#)).

In Russia, just three in 10 say they are ready to be vaccinated with the Sputnik V vaccine, down from 38 percent in December; 4 percent say they already have been vaccinated and 62 percent say they are not ready. Major reasons for not getting vaccinated include the threat of side effects (37 percent) and a desire to wait until the end of tests (23 percent). Half think the lifting of pandemic restrictions is being done in a timely manner; the rest divide on whether it's too early to lift restrictions or they should have been lifted earlier, 22-21 percent.

Fifty-six percent say they're not afraid of contracting the coronavirus, the most since February 2020, even though just 28 percent do not personally know anyone who has had it. Presented with a suggestion that the coronavirus was created artificially as a biological weapon, 64 percent say so, while 23 percent say it arose naturally without human intervention and 13 percent are unsure ([Levada 2/18-2/24](#)).

In Great Britain, 35 percent of adults say they have received at least one vaccine dose, up from 26 percent last week; this includes nearly all adults age 70+ (97 percent). Ninety-four percent overall say they have received the vaccine or are likely to get it if offered, up from 91 percent last week. However, six in 10 say they have not been offered it yet.

The share who say they're always or often maintaining social distance when meeting up with people outside their bubble declined from 91 to 86 percent. However, compliance with other preventive measures (e.g., hand washing, masks) remained high and unchanged. Fifty-four percent say they stayed at home during the past week or only left for work, exercise, essential shopping or medical needs, essentially unchanged from last week, but down from its mid-January peak, when 65 percent were staying at home ([Office for National Statistics 2/17-2/21](#)).

In Israel, a new CDC analysis of the use of ventilators among COVID-19 patients finds preliminary evidence of the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing severe disease in a real-world setting. Israel began its national vaccination campaign Dec. 20, prioritizing adults older than 60 and other high-risk populations. By early February, the country had fully vaccinated 84 percent of adults age 70 and older, compared with 10 percent of those younger than 50.

Those differential vaccination rates allowed for a comparison between age groups. Before the nationwide inoculation effort began, COVID-19 patients age 70 and older were about six times as likely as those younger than 50 to experience severe symptoms requiring the use of a ventilator. By early February, the ratio fell by 67 percent, with those 70 and older only about twice as likely as the largely unvaccinated population of adults younger than 50 to require a ventilator. The report says these findings provide preliminary evidence that COVID-19 vaccines can help limit spread of disease and reduce the incidence of severe cases ([CDC 10/2-2/9](#)).

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

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