



COVID-19 Survey Summary: March 12, 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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A year into the coronavirus pandemic, numerous surveys released this week explore its vast toll, in health, social and economic impacts alike, from lives lost to lives deeply disrupted. Yet they also show progress, with vaccination uptake climbing, optimism rising, strong concern easing and more Americans venturing out.

Still, most think the loosening of mask mandates is happening too quickly, and a vast majority intend to continue safety precautions even after they get vaccinated.

New studies also examine the uneven economic toll of the pandemic, find broad support for the stimulus package just passed by Congress and investigate the impact of mask mandates and the lifting of in-person dining restrictions on COVID-19 cases and deaths. Others document racial disparities in COVID-19 incidence among children and young adults, describe the relationship between body mass index and coronavirus outcomes and examine the pandemic's impact on the economy and mortality compared with historical trends.

Contact and Concern

At the one-year anniversary of the WHO's pandemic declaration, 77 percent of Americans say they or someone they personally know has gotten sick with the coronavirus, up from 72 percent in January ([NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/38](#)). Fifty-five say they or a close friend or relative has been diagnosed with the virus by a health care provider, up 5 points since December ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)). Thirty-six percent personally know someone who has died from the virus ([NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/38](#)); 19 percent say a close friend or relative has died ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)).

Despite the toll, the public is feeling optimistic about the pandemic's trajectory. More than three-quarters (77 percent) feel the worst of the pandemic is behind us, a vast 28 percentage point jump since mid-January to a pandemic high ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)). And while eight in 10 continue to say they're at least somewhat concerned about the outbreak, just 21 percent now say they're "extremely" concerned, the fewest since early June. Similarly, while seven in 10 are at least somewhat concerned about the possibility of getting sick, just 14 percent are extremely concerned, matching last week for the fewest since early June ([Axios/Ipsos 3/5-3/8](#)).

In another measure, 31 percent are extremely or very worried about themselves or someone in their family being infected with the coronavirus, down from 43 percent in December and January ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)), and four in 10 are very concerned about someone in their family becoming seriously ill from it, down sharply from 60 percent in January to the fewest since summer ([Monmouth 2/25-3/1](#)).

Black people continue to express the greatest concern about the virus. In a newly released analysis based on mid-February data, eight in 10 considered the outbreak to be a major threat to public health and half viewed it as a major threat to their personal health. Forty-two percent were very concerned they might inadvertently spread COVID-19 to others and 35 percent were as concerned that they will get the virus and require hospitalization.

Despite these concerns, and the fact that 78 percent personally knew someone who had been hospitalized or died from COVID-19, Black adults remain more hesitant about getting a COVID-19 vaccine, reflecting – at least in part – their greater concern about the research and development process for the vaccines and distrust of the medical care system more broadly ([Pew 2/16-2/21](#)).

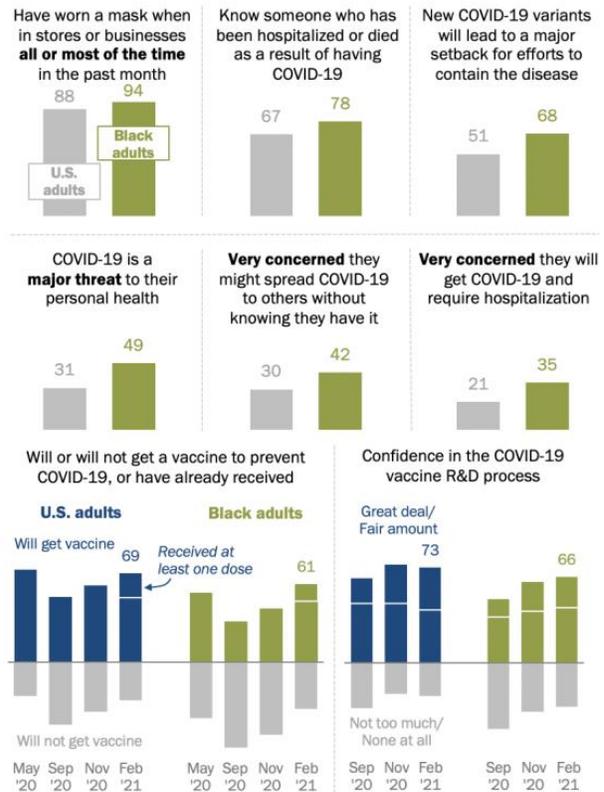
Daily Life

With case rates and deaths sharply down, more Americans are beginning to venture out and fewer see risks in doing so:

- Half say they've visited a non-grocery retail store, numerically the most since in data since late May. Half now say that doing so poses only a small or no risk to their health or well-being, the most in available data since May.
- Forty-four percent say they've visited friends or family in the past week, up 7 points from a month ago. Twenty-nine percent view attending in-person gatherings of friends and family as posing a large risk to their health, down 9 points in two weeks.

Black adults express heightened concern about COVID-19, lower trust in vaccine R&D process

% of U.S. adults who say ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Surveys conducted in November 2020 and earlier asked respondents if they would get a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 if one "were available today," and if they were confident that the research and development process "will produce" a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Source: Survey conducted Feb. 16-21, 2021. "Growing Share of Americans Say They Plan To Get a COVID-19 Vaccine – or Already Have"

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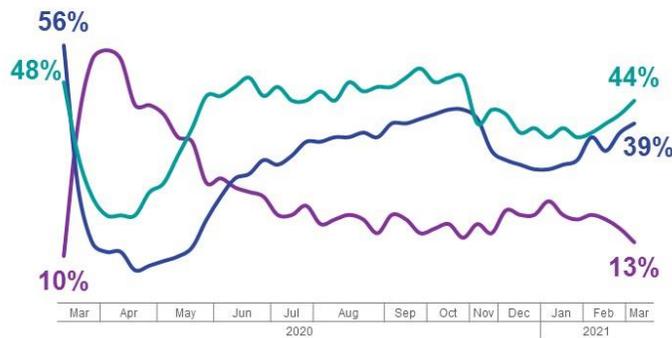
- Thirty-nine percent say they've gone out to eat in the past week, essentially unchanged since last week, but up from three in 10 in December and January. Four in 10 view dining in at a restaurant as posing little to no risk, numerically the most since mid-May.
- Just three in 10 employed adults say they worked remotely instead of at their normal workplace in the last few weeks, matching the pandemic low hit in mid-August.
- Thirteen percent say they've self-quarantined in the past week, down 6 points in the past month to the fewest since mid-March last year ([Axios/Ipsos 3/5-3/8](#)).

Americans beginning to re-emerge into society

Optimism is on the rise as an increasing number expects to return to normal within six months

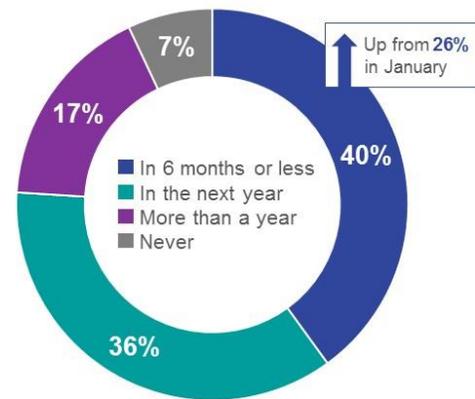
Percentage of Americans who have _____ in the last week

- Gone out to eat
- Visited friends or relatives
- Self-quarantined/Stayed home and avoided contact with others



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



At the same time, mid-February data suggest there's still a long way to go before the public fully re-emerges. Nearly half (47 percent) said that in the past 24 hours they'd completely or mostly isolated themselves from those outside their household, essentially unchanged from November and December, when cases were surging, and more than the 38 percent who said so just before the winter surge. Moreover, seven in 10 said that in the past week they'd avoided large crowds because of concerns about contracting COVID-19; two-thirds were avoiding travel by airplane, bus, subway or train; and more than half were avoiding public places (56 percent) and small gatherings (54 percent) ([Gallup 2/14-2/21](#)).

All told, four in 10 expect they'll be able to return to something like their normal, pre-COVID life in six months or fewer (including 7 percent who already have), up from 26 percent in late January. The share who think it will take more than a year has dropped from 30 to 17 percent in the same period. Moreover, four in 10 now say returning to their normal pre-coronavirus life right now would be a small or no risk, the most since early June ([Axios/Ipsos 3/5-3/8](#)).

However, in other measures, just one in 10 thinks most businesses, schools, places of worship and other public activities will be operating as they were before the outbreak in fewer than six months. A third think it'll be in six months to a year, but most think it'll be a year or longer ([Pew 3/1-3/7](#)). Moreover, just 21 percent think “the country will be able to get the outbreak under control and be able to return to normal” by the summer, down from 29 percent in late January. An additional four in 10 expect it'll happen by the end of the year; 27 percent think it'll take longer and one in 10 don't think we'll ever return to normal ([Monmouth 2/25-3/1](#)).

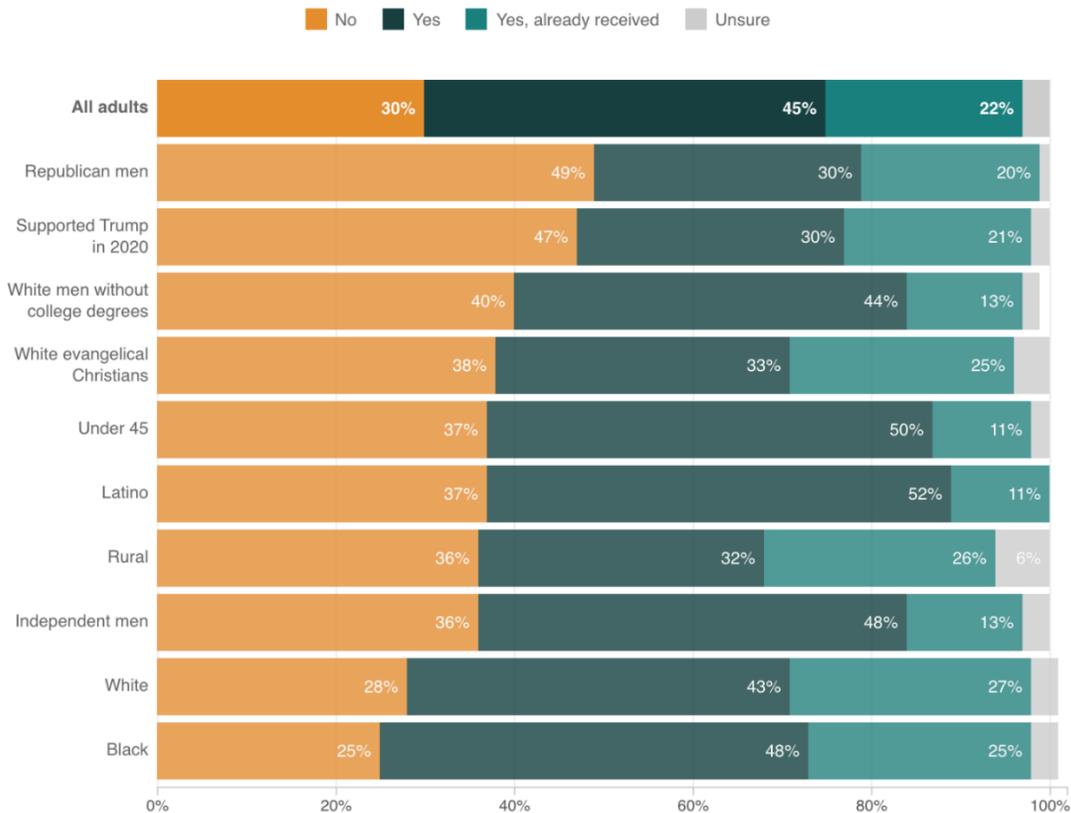
Vaccines

The share of Americans who've already gotten at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine continues to grow, albeit with continued questions about how many others will line up for a shot, and continued differences based on how uptake intentions are measured.

- In one poll, a quarter of Americans report having received the vaccine, up from 19 percent two weeks ago, and an additional three in 10 say they'll get it as soon as it's available to them. Still, 17 percent plan to wait a few weeks or months after it's available, 7 percent will wait a year or more and two in 10 continue to say they won't get it at all ([Axios/Ipsos 3/5-3/8](#)).
- In another, a similar 26 percent say they have gotten a shot, up from 20 percent in the first half of February. An additional 53 percent of those not yet vaccinated say they definitely will once it's available, essentially unchanged ([U.S. Census Bureau 2/17-3/1](#)).
- In a third, 22 percent say they've already received the vaccine and 45 percent say they will choose to be vaccinated once it is made available to them. Three in 10 say they will not, essentially unchanged since December ([NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/8](#)).
- Another poll finds virtually identical results – 23 percent say they've received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and an additional 45 percent say they personally will try to get vaccinated ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)).
- In another approach, 54 percent say they either have gotten vaccinated or plan to get the shot as soon as they're allowed. Of the rest, 21 percent say they will let other people go first to see how it goes and 24 percent say it's likely they'll never get vaccinated if they can avoid it, essentially unchanged from January ([Monmouth 2/25-3/1](#)).
- Similarly, in a sixth measurement released this week, 52 percent say they've received a vaccine or definitely will once it's available. Seventeen percent say they'll probably get vaccinated, 15 percent probably won't, and an additional 15 percent say they definitely won't ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)).

Among the groups most apt to say they will not get vaccinated are Republican men, those who voted for President Trump in 2020, white men without college degrees, white evangelical Christians, Latinos, those younger than 45 and rural Americans.

If a vaccine for the coronavirus is made available to you, will you choose to be vaccinated?



Source: NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll of 1,227 U.S. adults conducted between March 3 and March 8. The margin of error for the overall sample is 3.4 percentage points. Totals may not add up to 100% because of rounding.
Credit: Thomas Wilburn/NPR

Two in 10 say they or someone they know who is eligible to receive the vaccine has had a lot of trouble getting an appointment, and an additional quarter have faced a little trouble, essentially unchanged since last week ([Axios/Ipsos 3/5-3/8](#)). Asked differently, 29 percent say it’s been very difficult or difficult for them or someone they know who is eligible to get vaccinated; 35 percent say it’s not been difficult and 35 percent haven’t tried to get an appointment ([NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/8](#)).

In a different poll, 15 percent say they’ve tried but been unable get a vaccine appointment for themselves. Among those who have either received the vaccine or tried to schedule an appointment, 48 percent say the process of finding and registering for the appointment was at least somewhat difficult ([ABC/Ipsos 3/5-3/6](#)).

In mid-February data, 16 percent of seniors said they had tried but been unable to make an appointment. Half of seniors who had gotten vaccinated or tried to get an appointment said the process was easy, while four in 10 found it difficult. Among those who had gotten at least one shot, four in 10 (across age groups) said someone else helped them get the appointment.

Sixty-three percent of those not yet vaccinated said they don't have enough information about when they'll be able to get vaccinated and 45 percent didn't have enough information about where they can go to get their shot. Forty-four percent tried to look for this information. Of them, 57 percent said it was easy to find; 42 percent found it difficult ([KFF 2/15-2/23](#)).

More broadly, a quarter overall say it's been very or somewhat difficult to find factual information about COVID-19 vaccines. Half say it's been easy and 24 percent say it's been neither easy or difficult. Three in 10 say it's been difficult to know if the information about the vaccines is true or not and a quarter report difficulty understanding the difference between fact and opinion about the vaccines.

Overall, just a quarter think their local community is doing a good job in handling the sign-up process for vaccines. Thirty-seven percent say they're doing a poor job, and an identical share view it as neither good nor poor. Just 36 percent are extremely or very confident that vaccines are being given first to the people who need them most, 28 percent are highly confident they're being distributed quickly and safely and a quarter are highly confident they're being distributed fairly. Most of the rest, however, are at least somewhat confident in these ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)).

Despite the difficulties and concerns, six in 10 are at least somewhat satisfied with how the COVID-19 vaccines have been rolled out, although just 18 percent are very satisfied ([Monmouth 2/25-3/1](#)). Moreover, despite discontent with the sign-up process, two-thirds say the distribution plan in place where they live is working at least somewhat well ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)). Fifty-seven percent say the rollout has been about what they expected, and the rest divide between viewing it as going better (21 percent) or worse (18 percent) than anticipated.

Regardless, vaccine distribution remains top of the list in terms of coronavirus priorities. Forty-three percent say it's their top priority, double the share that say it's reopening schools (21 percent). Fifteen percent say it's financial relief to small businesses, 13 percent pick direct payments to individuals and 5 percent say prioritize extending unemployment benefits ([NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/8](#)).

Attitudes and Behavior by Vaccination Status

Combining data from January and February for a larger sample size, a new analysis shows some differences in attitudes and behaviors among those who have been fully vaccinated. Among the results:

- Thirty-eight percent of fully vaccinated adults said they completely or mostly isolated themselves from people outside their household in the past 24 hours compared with more than half of those who'd been partially vaccinated (51 percent) or who had not yet been vaccinated but planned to be (57 percent). Those who did not plan to get vaccinated were the least apt to say they'd mostly or completely isolated themselves (28 percent).
- Fully vaccinated adults also were less likely to say they avoided going to public places in the last week because of coronavirus concerns – 60 percent had done so, compared with 73 percent of partially vaccinated adults and 69 percent of those who planned to get

vaccinated. Those who were fully vaccinated also were less apt to have avoided small gatherings (59 vs. 69 and 67 percent, respectively). Again, those who did not plan to get vaccinated were the least apt to have avoided public places (29 percent) and small gatherings (26 percent).

- However, vaccine recipients were no more likely than those who'd been partially vaccinated or who intended to get vaccinated to say they avoided going to events with large crowds or avoided traveling in the previous week. Roughly eight in 10 across these three vaccination groups had done either. About half as many in the “do not plan to vaccinate” group had avoided crowds or travel.
- Fully vaccinated adults also were just as likely to wear a face mask when outside their home as partially vaccinated adults and those who planned to get vaccinated, with nearly all (97 to 98 percent) in the three groups saying they'd done this. This fell to seven in 10 among those who did not plan to get vaccinated.
- Not surprisingly, fully vaccinated adults expressed less concern about getting COVID-19. Thirty-five percent were at least somewhat worried about this, compared with six in 10 who were partially vaccinated and two-thirds of those with plans to get a shot. Just two in 10 of vaccine refusers expressed concerns about getting COVID-19 ([Gallup 1/25-2/21](#)).

Policies and Precautions

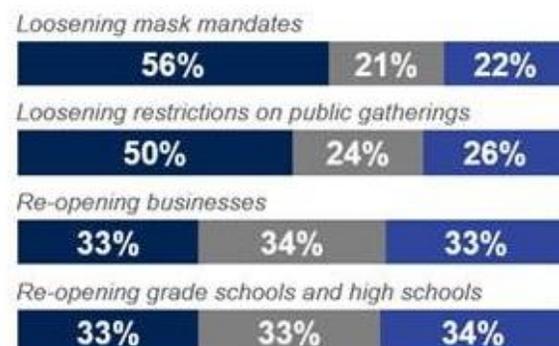
About half (51 percent) say it's more important for their state to prioritize controlling the spread of the coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy, as opposed to restarting the economy, even if it hurts efforts to contain the spread (43 percent) ([NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/8](#)). But there's a divide on whether re-opening businesses is happening too quickly (33 percent), too slowly (33 percent) or at about the right pace (34 percent). There's a virtually identical split on views of re-opening grade and high schools.

However, most – 56 percent – say the loosening of mask mandates is happening too quickly, and half say the same of loosening restrictions on public gatherings. In both cases, the rest divide on whether these are happening too slowly or at about the right pace ([ABC/Ipsos 3/5-3/6](#)).

Seven in 10 favor requiring Americans to wear face masks when they're around other people outside their homes, and 82 percent say they themselves always or often do so. Most are staying away from large groups (77 percent), avoiding nonessential travel (72 percent) and avoiding other people as much as possible (66 percent) ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)).

Do you think each of the following is happening too quickly, too slowly, or at about the right pace?

■ Too quickly ■ At about the right pace ■ Too slowly



Broad majorities plan to continue to take safety precautions even after they get vaccinated. For example, eight in 10 say they'll continue to wear a face mask in public until the pandemic ends, compared with 7 percent who plan to stop once they get vaccinated, 7 percent who already have stopped and 5 percent who say they don't do this. Two-thirds plan to continue social distancing until the pandemic ends and 87 percent plan to continue frequently washing or sanitizing their hands ([Axios/Ipsos 3/5-3/8](#)).

Parents' Views of In-Person Schooling

Eight in 10 parents of K-12 students support "providing in-person schooling for elementary and secondary students for your community right now." Support for in-person schooling is especially high among Republican parents (94 percent) and those living in the Northeast (90 percent).

Working parents are more apt to support in-person schooling than non-working parents, 82 to 71 percent. This likely reflects the challenges of balancing work with virtual learning – 13 percent of working parents say they've reduced their work hours to help children with at-home learning and 7 percent say they quit or took a leave from their job to do the same ([Gallup 2/14-2/21](#)).

Economic Impacts

Views that the national economy is still in an economic downturn have eased since October – three in 10 now say so, down from 40 percent. Forty-two percent instead think conditions have stabilized, but that an economic recovery has not yet started, up from 29 percent. A quarter say the economy is starting to recover ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)).

In another gauge, consumer confidence is at a three-month high ([CCI 3/7](#)) and two-thirds of Americans describe the financial situation in their own household positively, about the same as in January last year, before the pandemic began.

That said, more than half of households – 53 percent – have experienced income loss of some kind because of the pandemic ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)). Eight in 10 think it'll be a year or more before the jobs situation recovers to about where it was before the outbreak, including 35 percent who think it'll take more than two years ([Pew 3/1-3/7](#)). And while 68 percent say they've been able to reduce their spending, pay down debt or save more because of the pandemic, a quarter say they've been unable to pay at least some bills in the last month because of it.

A third of those who've experienced employment changes in the past year say the impact on their household's financial situation has been major; 52 percent say it's been minor. Of those who describe a major impact, 72 percent say their current household income is lower than it was March 1, 2020, and six in 10 think it'll take more than a year before their household will recover financially.

Overall, 15 percent say they've started a new job since March 1, 2020, and 12 percent have changed the type of work they do. Seventeen percent have received unemployment benefits in the past month ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)).

A new analysis of [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS) data shows that, when compared with their employment levels before the pandemic, significantly fewer Black and Hispanic women are working now than any other demographic group. And, echoing results [described last week](#), employment levels among women lag those of men regardless of race or ethnicity.

Among results described in the analysis:

- Employment among Hispanic women dropped 24 percent at the beginning of the pandemic, from 12.4 million workers in February 2020 to 9.4 million in April.
- No demographic group has returned to pre-pandemic levels of employment. But while there are nearly 10 percent fewer employed Black women than a year ago, the rate is half that for white men (5 percent).
- Younger workers (age 20-24) were the most likely to lose work early in the pandemic, and while they have regained jobs more rapidly than the oldest workers, they are still among the farthest from their pre-pandemic level of employment.
- Those with a bachelor's degree or higher were less likely to lose their jobs initially and have come closer than any other demographic group to their pre-pandemic level of employment ([New York Times](#)).

A different analysis of BLS data shows that four in 10 unemployed workers have been out of work for more than six months, double the share of long-term unemployed in February 2020. During the Great Recession, long-term unemployment reached similar levels, but it took far longer to get there. The number of discouraged workers – unemployed workers who are not currently looking for a job because they believe none is available or there is none for which they qualify – also has risen in recent months ([Pew](#)).

An analysis of early February polling data finds that, even with unemployment insurance (UI), many households struggle to make ends meet. Overall, one in 10 households reported using UI to meet their spending needs in the previous week. Of them, 31 percent reported having a very difficult time paying for usual household expenses, compared with 12 percent in households that did not rely on UI. And 16 percent in UI households reported having no confidence in their ability to meet their next month's rent or mortgage payment, vs. 6 percent of others.

Those relying on UI to meet spending needs also were twice as likely to say that they often or sometimes did not have enough food to eat because of a lack of funds, 16 vs. 8 percent. Among households that used UI to meet needs and reported receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, a quarter still reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat ([U.S. Census Bureau 2/3-2/15](#)).

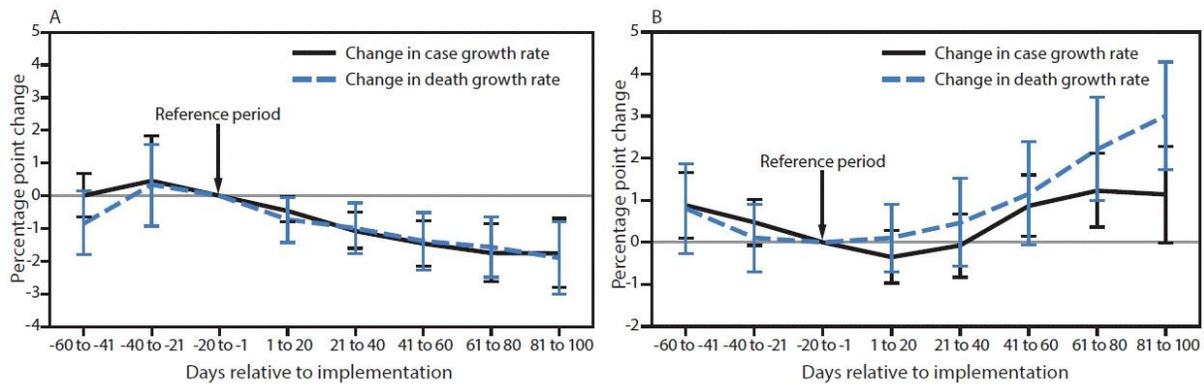
Mask Mandates and Restaurant Dining

A new CDC analysis investigated county-level changes in COVID-19 case and mortality growth rates 1-20, 21-40, 41-60, 61-80 and 81-100 days after implementation of mask mandates and

lifting of restrictions on in-person dining. Using statistical modeling, the analysis found that mask mandates were associated with decreases in daily COVID-19 case and death growth rates at all five time periods, while allowing on-site dining at restaurants (either indoor or outdoor) was associated with increased daily COVID-19 case growth rates 41-60, 61-80 and 81-100 days after reopening, and increased mortality growth rates 61-80 and 81-100 days after reopening.

Specifically, lifting restrictions on on-site dining was associated with a 3-point increase in daily death growth rates 81-100 days later and a 1.1-point increase in case growth rate. By contrast, the death growth rate was 1.9 points lower 81 to 100 days after implementation of a mask mandate, and case growth rates were 1.8 points lower ([CDC 3/1-12/31](#)).

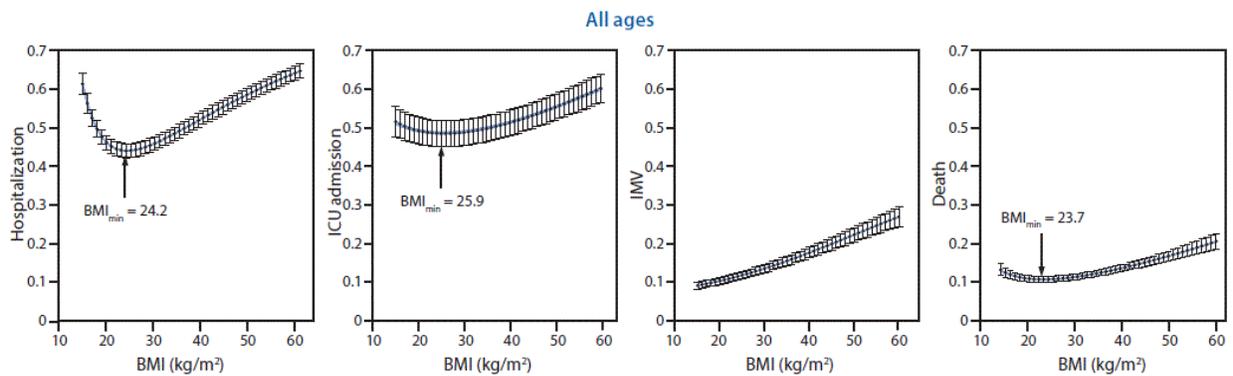
FIGURE. Association between changes in COVID-19 case and death growth rates* and implementation of state mask mandates[†] (A) and states allowing any on-premises restaurant dining[§] (B) — United States, March 1–December 31, 2020



Coronavirus and BMI

Another CDC report investigates the relationship between body mass index (BMI) and COVID-19 outcomes using data from 238 hospitals that recorded patient height and weight information. Of the 148,494 adults who received a COVID-19 diagnosis between March and December 2020 at these hospitals, 51 percent were classified as obese and 28 percent as overweight. Statistical modeling found that being overweight or obese increased the risk of mechanical ventilation, and that obesity increased the risk of hospitalization and death, particularly among those age 65 and older. COVID-19 patients who were underweight also had a higher risk of hospitalization than those with a healthy weight.

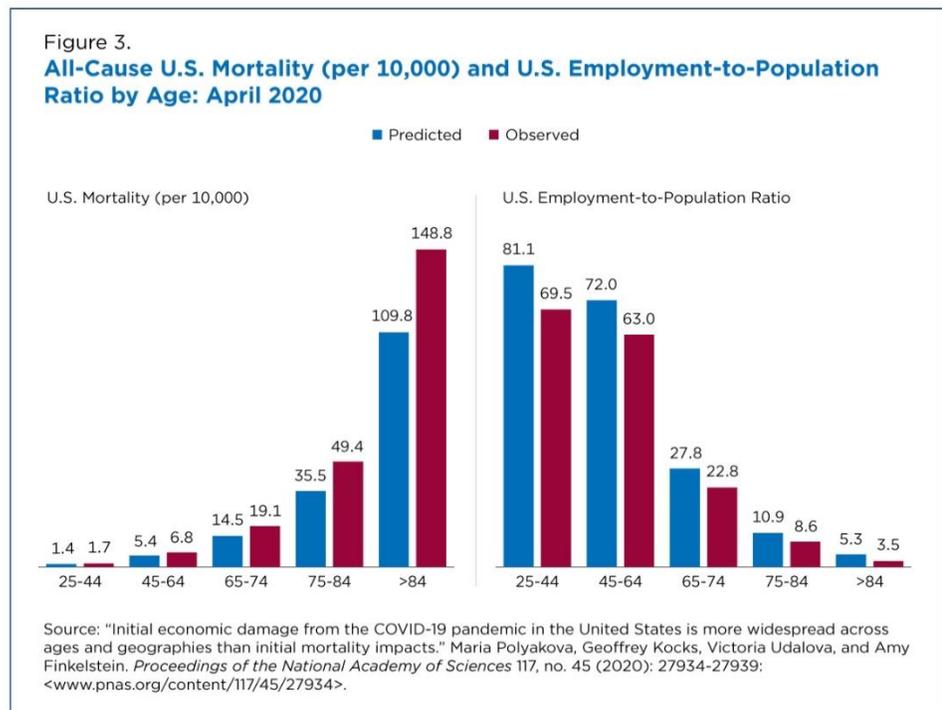
For hospitalization, ICU admission and death, there was a J-shaped relationship with BMI, with the lowest risk occurring for those near the threshold between healthy weight and overweight. However, risk of invasive mechanical ventilation increased linearly over the full range of BMI ([CDC 3/1-12/31](#)).



Initial Impact on Mortality and the Economy

A new analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau investigated the impact of the coronavirus on mortality and the economy during the first full month of the pandemic. It shows that all-cause mortality increased 33 percent in April 2020, meaning there were an additional 2.4 deaths per 10,000 individuals beyond what would be expected. These deaths were highly concentrated in older age groups and in a few states (e.g., New York and New Jersey).

Using a concept similar to excess mortality, the analysis examined economic impacts beyond what would be expected based on historical trends. Looking at the ratio of employment to population (which shows the share of population 16 years and older working full or part time), the analysis found that in April 2020, the ratio was 51.5 percent, compared to an expected 61.3 percent based on trends.



Unlike excess mortality, the economic impact was geographically widespread. Every state except Wyoming experienced a significant decline in the employment-to-population ratio, with the largest displacement occurring in Nevada and Michigan. The correlation between excess

mortality and employment displacement was weak, meaning that the states where mortality spiked did not necessarily experience the greatest employment disruptions, and vice versa.

Not surprisingly, employment displacement also impacted a broader swath of age groups than excess mortality, and unlike mortality, younger age groups were harder hit. Displacement was greatest among those age 25 to 44 – they make up 39 percent of the U.S. population age 25+, but accounted for about half of the job losses ([U.S. Census Bureau](#)).

Racial Disparities Among Children and Young Adults

Another newly released CDC report investigates racial disparities in COVID-19 incidence among children and adults age 25 and younger. Based on 689,672 cases reported to 16 jurisdictions (15 states and the District of Columbia) in 2020, it found that from January to April, COVID-19 incidence was substantially higher among most racial and ethnic minority groups compared with whites. From May to August, the gap narrowed for most groups except Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. Additional decreases in disparities occurred from September to December, largely because of an increase in incidence among whites rather than a decline in incidence among racial and ethnic minorities.

Across the entire time period, the largest persistent disparities occurred among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, American Indian or Alaska Native and Hispanic or Latino people. The report notes that incomplete racial and ethnicity data continues to pose a problem in tracking these disparities in COVID-19 incidence and outcomes ([CDC 1/1-12/31](#)).

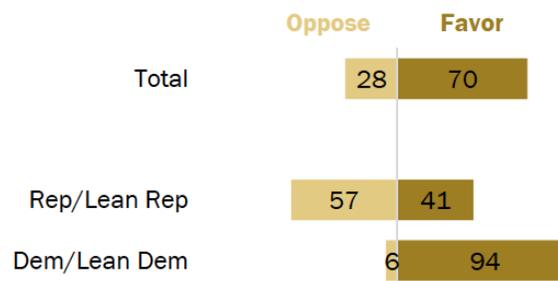
Coronavirus Stimulus Package

The coronavirus aid package just passed by Congress is broadly popular, although the specific share in favor of it depends on question wording. In one poll, seven in 10 favor the “bill proposed by the Biden administration that would provide \$1.9 trillion in economic aid to businesses, individuals and state and local governments” including nearly all Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (94 percent) compared with 41 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaners ([Pew 3/1-3/7](#)).

In a lengthier question, 61 percent favor a bill that “would attempt to provide economic relief by sending another round of stimulus checks, extending the availability of unemployment assistance and nutrition assistance, offering additional loans for small businesses, providing funding to K-

Sizable majority of public favors Biden’s \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic aid bill

% who say they ___ the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic aid package proposed by the Biden administration



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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12 schools to help a return to the classroom, and increasing federal spending on coronavirus vaccine distribution and development” and has a total estimated cost of around \$1.9 trillion.

When it comes to specific provisions:

- Eighty-five percent favor providing larger tax credits for families and making them easier for low-income households to claim.
- Roughly three-quarters favor providing nearly \$130 billion to K-12 schools to help students return to the classroom (77 percent) and sending \$1,400 stimulus checks per person to most families and individuals (76 percent).
- Six in 10 favor providing \$350 billion in aid to state, local, tribal and territorial governments.
- Although no longer part of the bill, a majority – 55 percent – also favored raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)).

Based on what they’ve read or heard, 37 percent think the \$1.9 trillion relief package strikes the right balance, while 34 percent think it goes too far and 21 percent say it doesn’t go far enough ([NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/8](#)). Similarly, four in 10 view the proposed spending in the aid package as about right, while a third think it is too much and a quarter say it is too little ([Pew 3/1-3/7](#)). Two-thirds think it will help the economy at least some and 55 percent think it will help “people like you” ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)).

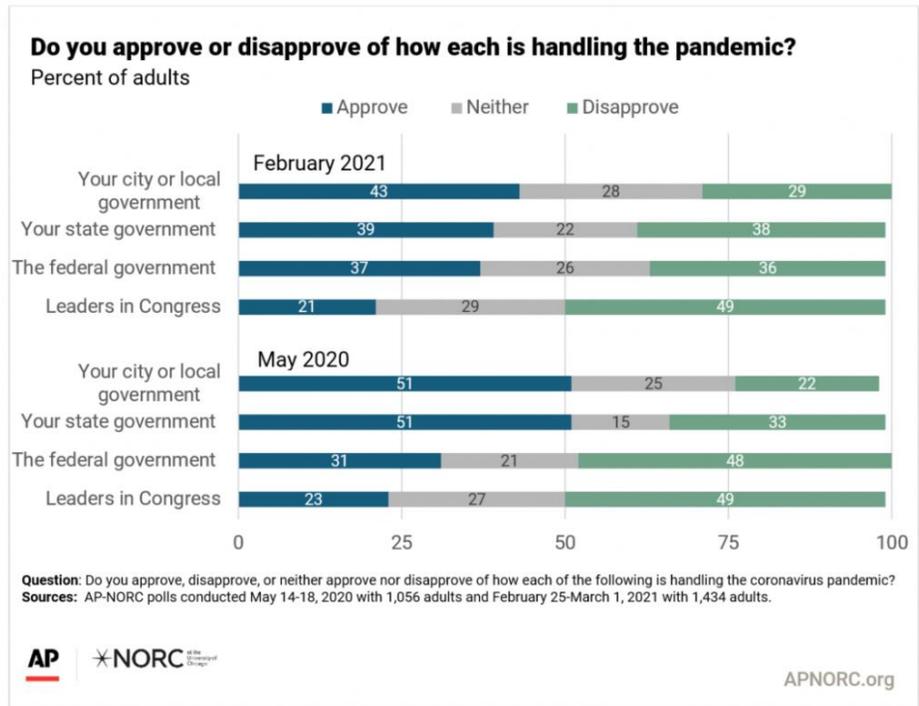
Fifty-seven percent think the Biden administration was making a good faith effort to work with Republican congressional leaders on the aid package. Fewer, 42 percent, think GOP congressional leaders were making a good faith effort to work with the Biden administration ([Pew 3/1-3/7](#)).

Government Response

President Biden’s pandemic response remains broadly popular: Six in 10 or more approve of how he’s handling the coronavirus ([ABC/Ipsos 3/5-3/6](#); [AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#); [CNN 3/3-3/8](#); [NPR/PBS/Marist 3/3-3/8](#)). In another study, 57 percent say he has done a good job dealing with the outbreak, essentially unchanged since January, although the share who say he’s done a bad job has grown from 23 to 31 percent in that period ([Monmouth 2/25-3/1](#)).

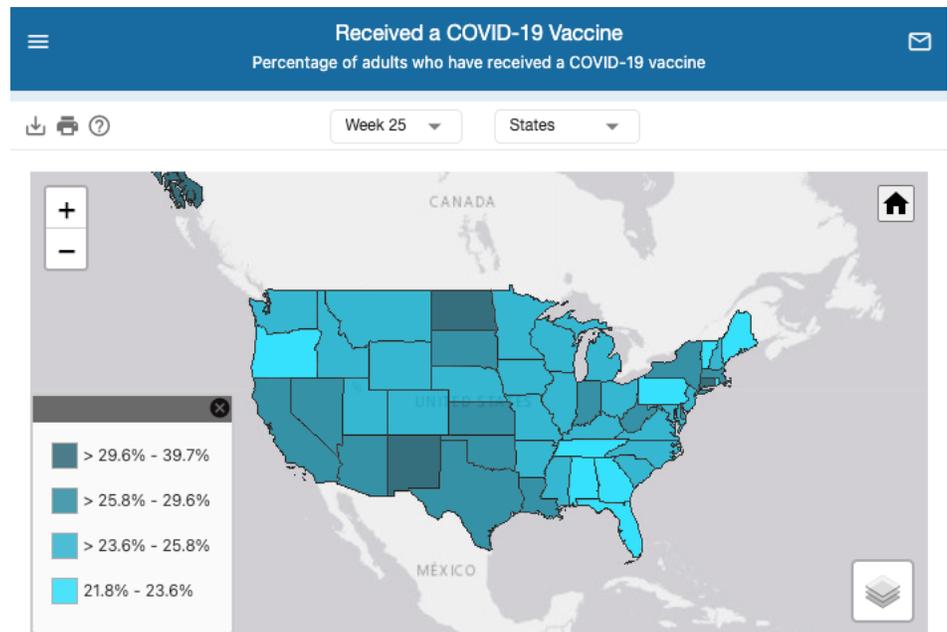
Two-thirds have a lot or some confidence that Biden can lead the country out of the pandemic ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)), and nearly as many are at least somewhat confident he can handle the public health impact of the outbreak, up from 52 percent in June ([Pew 3/1-3/7](#)). Sixty-three percent think he has a clear plan for vaccinating a large enough share of the population to achieve herd immunity. However, most (55 percent) do not think he has a clear plan for restoring the economy to the way it was before the pandemic and about as many (53 percent) think he lacks a clear plan for getting children back to in-person learning in schools ([CNN 3/3-3/8](#)).

Fifty-six percent say their state’s governor has done a good job handling the pandemic and half say the same of federal health agencies. Both are largely unchanged since January, but down from earlier in the pandemic ([Monmouth 2/25-3/1](#)). Similarly, the share who approve of how their city or local government (43 percent) and their state government (39 percent) is handling the crisis has dropped since May. However, approval of leaders in Congress has remained about the same, while approval of the federal government has increased ([AP-NORC 2/25-3/1](#)).



State and Local Results

Alaska continues to lead the way in vaccine uptake, with four in 10 now saying they’ve gotten a shot, up from 32 percent in the first half of February. North Dakota (33 percent), Hawaii, New Mexico and Connecticut (31 percent) also are at the top of the pack. By contrast, in Tennessee, Oregon and Georgia, just 22 percent apiece say they have been vaccinated.



Intention to get vaccinated among those not yet vaccinated is highest in the District of Columbia and Rhode Island – 69 percent in both areas say they’ll definitely get vaccinated when it’s available, as do two-thirds in Massachusetts. By contrast, just three in 10 in Wyoming and 35

percent in Mississippi say they'll definitely do so ([U.S. Census Bureau 2/17-3/1](#)).

Another new CDC report looks at deaths with opioid involvement between Jan. 1, 2018, and Oct. 6, 2020, in Cook County, Illinois, which includes the city of Chicago. It found that from Jan. 1, 2018, to mid-December 2019, there was an average of 22.6 deaths per week, with relatively little variation. In the subsequent 16 weeks, beginning in mid-December 2019, the average number of deaths increased to 35.1 per week. This increase became more pronounced during the 11-week stay-at-home order, which ran from March 21 to May 30, 2020. During this time, there was an average of 43.4 deaths per week. In the 18 weeks after the stay-at-home order was lifted, average weekly deaths declined to 31.2 ([CDC 1/1/18-10/6/20](#)).

An analysis of COVID-19 cases associated with New York City public schools finds little evidence that in-person learning increased the prevalence or incidence of COVID-19 infection overall relative to the general community. There was some evidence that staff had an elevated risk of infection, although it was not clear if it was attributable to in-school transmission.

To examine prevalence, the analysis used data from 234,132 asymptomatic people who underwent in-school testing for COVID-19 in 1,594 public schools from Oct. 9 to Dec. 18 as part of the school system's random testing protocol. Of them, 986 people (0.4 percent) tested positive. In all weeks, COVID-19 prevalence in schools was similar to or less than estimates of prevalence in the community.

To examine incidence, the analysis looked at two separate time periods due to a change in policy regarding schools and testing:

- From Oct. 9 to Nov. 19, there were 1,259 COVID-19 cases in people associated with the schools (including 458 diagnosed from in-school testing), an incidence of 341.1 cases per 100,000 population, compared with an incidence of 528.9 cases per 100,000 in the general community. For people age 5-17, incidence was 168.6 per 100,000 in schools vs. 383.7 per 100,000 in the community. However, for those 18 and older, it was 955.8 in the school population vs. 581.5 in the community.
- From Dec. 7-18, there were 972 school-associated cases (including 529 from in-school testing), an incidence of 464.4 cases per 100,000 population. In the general community, the incidence was 509.6 cases per 100,000. Again, incidence was lower in the schools than in the community for those age 5-17 (244.7 vs. 367.3 per 100,000), but higher for those age 18 and up (1,274.8 vs. 560.1 per 100,000).

The analysis suggests that the higher incidence among staff, despite a similar prevalence in random testing, may be at least partially attributable to the fact that school staff were tested at far higher rates (up to 10 times) than adults in the general community ([Varma et al., 2021](#)).

International Results

In Chile, 26 percent say they've been vaccinated, up from two in 10 last week. An additional 51 percent say they will get a shot as soon as it's available; 12 percent plan to do it later and 11

percent not at all. Two-thirds now think there will be a sufficient supply of vaccines, up 18 points since January, and 63 percent trust that they will have timely access to the vaccine, up 23 points. Fewer believe the vaccine effectively immunizes those who receive it (47 percent), that it will stop the pandemic (42 percent) and that it will not have negative consequences (39 percent), but those, too, have risen since January. Eight in 10 continue to evaluate the country's mass vaccination plan positively, essentially unchanged in recent weeks ([Cadem 3/3-3/5](#)).

In Canada, just more than a quarter think the country will meet its goal of vaccinating everyone who wants it by September. Instead, 43 percent think it'll take until the end of 2021 and an additional 22 percent think it'll happen sometime in 2022 ([Nanos/CTV News 2/28-3/4](#)).

In Brazil, 85 percent now say they'll get vaccinated, up from 71 percent a month ago; one in 10 says they will not, down from 21 percent. Nearly all (95 percent) say they wear a mask when leaving home ([PoderData 3/1-3/3](#)).

In Germany, 47 percent view the current coronavirus restrictions as appropriate, while three in 10 think they go too far and two in 10 not far enough. However, 53 percent think politicians should partially lift the restrictions and one in 10 would like them completely lifted. When it comes to specific measures, more than eight in 10 are in favor of a partial or complete lifting of restrictions on shops and stores, and nearly as many say the same of restaurants. Roughly three-quarters favor at least a partial lifting of restrictions on hotels and overnight accommodations; about seven in 10 apiece say the same of schools and cinemas, museums and theatres; and about two-thirds back lifting restrictions on fitness studios and sports facilities. However, in each case, more back a partial rather than a complete lifting of restrictions.

Germans are broadly dissatisfied with the management of the pandemic. Roughly three-quarters are dissatisfied with the procurement of vaccines (74 percent) and the organization of the vaccine rollout (73 percent), seven in 10 are dissatisfied with the help provided for businesses and the self-employed (69 percent) and two-thirds are dissatisfied with the organization of school operations and daycare during lockdown (67 percent) and the provision and use of rapid tests (66 percent) ([ARD/Infratest Dimap 3/1-3/2](#)).

In the Netherlands, 62 percent support the way in which the cabinet generally deals with coronavirus measures, down from 68 percent in February to a new low. Six in 10 want the lockdown to be eased or lifted entirely, up from 45 percent in February. Six in 10 agree that it is safe enough to allow outdoor dining at cafes and restaurants, but just 34 percent agree that it is safe for them to fully reopen ([I&O Research 3/1-3/2](#)).

In Bulgaria, vaccine uptake intentions have increased – 36 percent now say they want to get vaccinated, up from 27 percent in February (and 3 percent say they've been vaccinated). The share who definitely do not want to get inoculated has declined from 48 to 41 percent in the same period; two in 10 are unsure. Fifty-five percent think current restrictions should be eased, while 32 percent think they should be tightened. Forty-six percent think Bulgaria is doing well in dealing with the coronavirus, while 42 percent think it's doing badly ([Gallup Bulgaria 2/22-3/1](#)).

In Great Britain, four in 10 say they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, up from 35 percent last week, and nearly all (94 percent) have either received the vaccine or say that they're likely to get it if offered, unchanged since last week. Four in 10 working adults say they exclusively traveled to work in the past week, up from 34 percent in mid-February, while the share who have worked exclusively from home decreased from 37 to 32 percent in the same period.

Two-thirds are at least somewhat worried about the impact of the coronavirus on their life right now, down from 71 percent a week ago, and a third now believe that life will return to normal in six months or less, up from 22 percent last week. Measures of personal well-being – including happiness, anxiety, life satisfaction and feeling that things done in life are worthwhile – also all improved slightly compared with last week ([Office for National Statistics 2/24-2/28](#)).

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

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