



COVID-19 Survey Summary: April 30, 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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Roughly a quarter of Americans remain unconvinced of the need to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, while uptake among others has soared. The fewest in more than a year see the pandemic as the nation's main problem and the number saying it's out of control has plummeted by 37 percentage points since January.

Other surveys released in the past week indicate potential challenges to acceptance of the newly restarted Johnson & Johnson vaccine, find majority support for vaccination certificates but not for business or college mandates and show a relationship between economic losses and damage to personal relationships in the pandemic.

Internationally, a survey of health ministries in 135 countries finds continued disruptions to essential health services. In other studies, fear of catching the virus has more than doubled in India, and, in Russia, vaccine hesitancy is notably high.

Vaccine Uptake & Intentions

Polls this week align in finding that nearly six in 10 adults have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, but about a quarter remain reluctant or outright unwilling to get the shot:

- In one, 56 percent say they have received at least one dose and an additional 18 percent say they definitely or probably will get vaccinated. The combined 74 percent is up from 65 percent in January. However, a quarter remain disinclined to get inoculated, including 16 percent who say they definitely will not ([ABC/Post 4/18-4/21](#)).
- Another poll likewise finds essentially the same level of vaccination, 57 percent, with 16 percent still intending to get vaccinated and, again, a quarter not ([Marist 4/19-4/21](#)). A third finds essentially the same split, finding 55 percent vaccinated, 16 percent intending to do so and 26 percent not ([CNN 4/21-4/26](#)).
- A different poll also finds 57 percent vaccinated; in this one, 8 percent say they will do so as soon as they can, 15 percent plan to wait and see if there are major side effects, 7

percent say they will get a shot only if required to do so and 12 percent say they will not get a shot at all ([NBC News 4/17-4/20](#)).

- In another, among registered voters only, 58 percent say they've been vaccinated and 13 percent plan to do so, while 22 percent do not ([Fox News 4/18-4/21](#)).

Across polls, hesitancy remains highest among groups including rural residents, Republicans, conservatives and those without a college education.

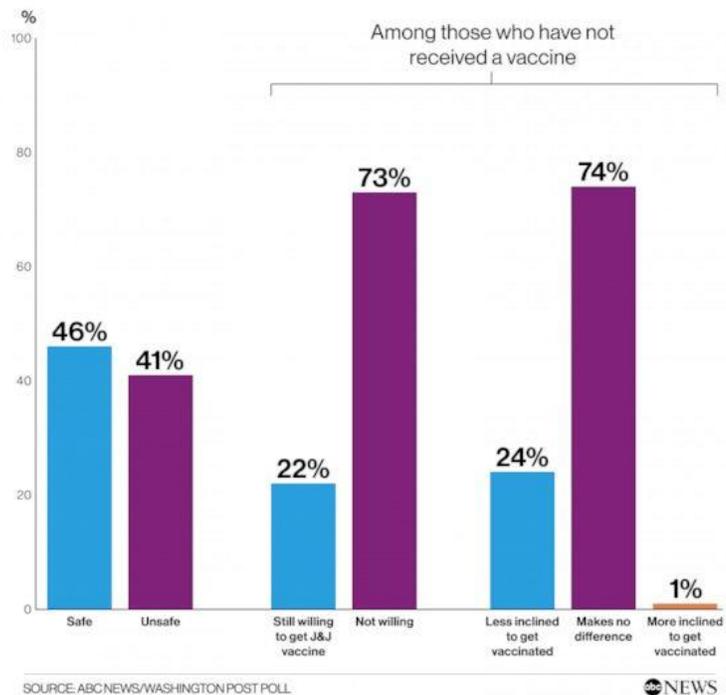
J&J Vaccine

Although the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is back in use after its recent pause, polling conducted just before its return suggests potential challenges ahead. Fewer than half (46 percent) viewed the J&J vaccine as very or somewhat safe, far fewer than then seven in 10 who said the same of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Nearly three-quarters of those who were not yet vaccinated said they would be unwilling to accept a J&J shot, and a quarter said the halt in its distribution made them less inclined to get vaccinated. Even among those likely to get vaccinated, about half said they'd be unwilling to do so with a J&J shot ([ABC/Post 4/18-4/21](#)). (Preference for J&J also fell steeply in a state poll, as reported in that State Results section below.)

Ongoing tracking also suggests the pause may have impacted uptake and intentions, but only briefly. April 13, when the pause was announced, 75 percent said they'd received at least one dose or were very or somewhat likely to get vaccinated. Ten days later that had dropped 5 points to 70 percent. However, since the pause lifted, it's rebounded back to 75 percent ([USC UAS 4/28](#)).

Perceptions of the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine



Certificates & Mandates

Fifty-five percent of Americans support their state issuing printed or digital certificates that people can use to show businesses, employers and schools that they have been vaccinated. However, the public narrowly opposes businesses requiring that employees who come into work get vaccinated, 45-51 percent, support-oppose, and divides on whether colleges and universities

should require that students get vaccinated before being allowed on campus, 50-47 percent ([ABC/Post 4/18-4/21](#)).

Similarly, another poll finds that more oppose than support requiring an office worker to be vaccinated to return to their workplace, 52-46 percent, and an even split on requiring students to be vaccinated to attend classes in person, 49-49 percent. About half (51 percent) oppose requiring vaccinations for those attending a sporting event or concert, while most – 72 percent – oppose requiring a shopper to be vaccinated to enter a grocery store ([CNN 4/21-4/26](#)).

A question about business mandates that specifies customers as well as employees again has generally similar results: Forty-one percent of registered voters think businesses should be allowed to require that their employees or customers provide proof that they've been vaccinated or had a recent negative test. Forty-four percent are opposed, while 6 percent say it depends ([Fox News 4/18-4/21](#)).

Concerns and Expectations

With millions now vaccinated and cases declining, concerns about the pandemic have waned considerably. Just two in 10 cite the coronavirus as the most important problem facing the nation, the fewest since March 2020 ([Gallup 4/1-4/21](#)). And while seven in 10 remain very or somewhat concerned about the spread of the virus in the country, that's down 14 points since December to a pandemic low ([Fox News 4/18-4/21](#)).

Twenty-eight percent view the outbreak in the United States as completely or mostly under control, the most in data since May. Fifty-five percent see it as somewhat under control. Just 15 percent say it's not at all controlled, down sharply from 52 percent in January ([ABC/Post 4/18-4/21](#)).

Six in 10 feel the worst of the coronavirus in the United States is behind us, triple the number who say the worst is yet to come (19 percent) ([NBC News 4/17-4/20](#)). Sixty-three percent say that based on what they know about the outbreak in their area they'd feel comfortable returning to their regular routine today (or already have), up from 50 percent in late October ([CNN 4/21-4/26](#)).

Still, nearly three-quarters don't expect daily life to return to normal for at least six months; two in 10 think it'll be sooner than that (including 5 percent who say it already has). Two percent don't expect a return to normal ever to occur ([Marist 4/19-4/21](#)).

K-12 Schools

Three in 10 people with children in the household say their oldest school-age child has been attending school four or five days a week in person since January. A similar share says they've been in virtual learning only; 20 percent say they've done a combination of in-person and virtual learning. An additional two in 10 say their child does not attend school (in most cases, likely because they are too young) or that their child is homeschooled.

Among those with children in school, seven in 10 think the school system has struck the right balance in terms of re-opening, while 14 percent apiece say it has been too slow or too fast. Just more than half – 52 percent – think their child has fallen behind academically (10 percent), socially or emotionally (13 percent) or in both areas (29 percent), while 46 percent say their child has been able to keep up in both areas ([NBC News 4/17-4/20](#)).

Masks

Nearly eight in 10 say they always wear a mask “to go shopping, to work, or be around other people outside of your house,” about the same as in August. However, this includes about one in 10 who say they forgot to wear a mask in these situations in the past week ([NBC News 4/17-4/20](#)). [As noted last week](#), the share who say they wore a mask at all times when leaving the house in the previous week declined to a new low.

Financial Impacts

Twenty-two percent of Americans say their family’s finances have worsened since the pandemic began; 14 percent say they’ve improved, and the rest report no change. People in lower-income households, Hispanic people, rural residents, women and those without a college degree are more likely than others to report worsening finances.

There are downstream consequences. Among those whose finances have worsened, more say their personal relationships have gotten weaker rather than stronger during the pandemic, 29-17 percent, while those with improved finances say their relationships have gotten stronger rather than weaker, by 29-18 percent. Overall, six in 10 Americans say their personal relationships are about the same as they were before the pandemic, 21 percent weaker and 17 percent stronger ([ABC/Post 4/18-4/21](#)).

Vaccine Knowledge

In newly released results from a mid-February poll, 44 percent of adults thought that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines provide strong protection against COVID-19 a week or two after a second dose (aligning with CDC guidelines). Two in 10 thought they provided strong protection before the second dose and 36 percent were unsure, suggesting greater public outreach may be needed.

Among those who had already received at least one dose of a vaccine, 85 percent said that after receiving their first dose they were informed that they needed a second shot. But far fewer – 54 percent – recalled being told that the protection was strongest after the second dose. Just 31 percent recalled being told that the risk of transmission from vaccinated people to others is unknown. Six in 10 said they were told that public health officials recommended continuing to wear masks even after vaccination, 56 percent were told to continue social distancing and 53 percent were told to continue avoiding crowds ([Goldfarb et al., 2021](#)).

Government Response

A majority approves of the way President Biden is handling the coronavirus pandemic, ranging from 58 percent (in a poll among registered voters only) to 69 percent ([ABC/Post 4/18-4/21](#); [CNN 4/21-4/26](#); [Fox News 4/18-4/21](#); [NBC News 4/17-4/20](#)).

Sixty-five percent support the economic stimulus package that took effect last month in response to the pandemic ([ABC/Post 4/18-4/21](#)), and by a 21 point margin, more call the relief bill a good idea than a bad idea ([NBC News 4/17-4/20](#)).

COVID-19 and Pregnancy

A multinational study of 2,130 pregnant women in 18 countries conducted from March to October 2020 found that those with COVID-19 were at higher risk for a range of ill effects, compared with a control group of pregnant women who were not infected. These included preeclampsia, severe infections, intensive care unit admission, maternal mortality, preterm birth, severe neonatal morbidity and severe perinatal morbidity and mortality. Results controlled for country, month, maternal age and history of morbidity. Having a fever or shortness of breath for any duration was associated with increased risk of severe maternal and neonatal complications. Those with asymptomatic COVID-19 cases were at higher risk only for maternal morbidity and preeclampsia. Thirteen percent of infants of mothers who tested positive also tested positive. Cesarean delivery, but not breastfeeding, was linked to an increased risk of an infant testing positive ([Villar et al., 2021](#)).

State Results

In New Hampshire, two-thirds say they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, up from 35 percent in March; an additional 8 percent have scheduled an appointment and 3 percent say they almost certainly or probably will get vaccinated, while 22 percent say they probably or certainly will not. Among those with a preference of vaccines, nearly two-thirds prefer the Pfizer vaccine, 16 percent prefer Moderna and 12 percent prefer J&J. In March, before the pause in J&J distribution, 43 percent preferred the one-dose J&J vaccine, while about three in 10 apiece preferred either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Still, most (74 percent) continue to say they'll get vaccinated when scheduled even if their preferred vaccine isn't available.

Nearly two-thirds approve of Gov. Chris Sununu's handling of COVID-19, down from 72 percent in March amid concerns about his decision to end the statewide mask mandate (described [last week](#)). Approval has dropped 20 points among Democrats, who are the most apt to oppose his lifting of the mandate. Fifty-eight percent approve of Biden's handling of the outbreak, unchanged since March ([UNH 4/16-4/20](#)).

In Georgia, a new report analyzes health care usage among adults who tested positive for COVID-19 but were not hospitalized in the months after their diagnosis. Using electronic health record data from an integrated health care system, the study found that 69 percent of nonhospitalized COVID-19 patients sought medical care in the 28-180 days following their diagnosis. Among them, about two-thirds had a visit for a new primary diagnosis, nearly 4 in 10 visited a new specialist and 10 percent had COVID-19 listed as an active diagnosis. While direct comparison to adults without COVID-19 was not possible, the authors conclude that health care

providers should be aware that some patients require post-COVID care, and that the long-term effects of the disease require further investigation ([CDC/Kaiser Permanente Georgia 5/20-3/21](#)).

In Idaho, a CDC report looks at the effects of work-release programs on the spread of COVID-19 in five correctional facilities. The investigators identified 382 inmates who tested positive because of outbreaks of COVID-19 as of late November, with two outbreaks linked directly to food processing plants. The CDC advises correctional facilities with work-release programs to implement stricter measures to reduce the spread of the virus, including identifying high-risk work sites and vaccinating inmates who work outside the prison ([CDC 7/14/20-11/30/20](#)).

Multinational Survey of Health Ministries

A World Health Organization survey of ministry of health officials in 135 countries found that as of the first three months of 2021, those in nine in 10 countries continued to report disruptions to essential health services, about the same as in a survey of 159 countries last summer. However, the degree of disruptions generally eased – last summer, on average, countries reported that about half of essential health services were disrupted, while in the first three months of 2021, countries reported disruptions to an average of just more than a third of services.

Primary care, rehabilitative and long-term care were most likely to be disrupted. Still, in one in five countries, potentially lifesaving emergency, critical and operative care services were disrupted. Moreover, officials in more than four in 10 countries reported disruptions to services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders and more than a third continued to report disruptions to immunization services.

Officials in two-thirds of the countries reported health workforce-related reasons as the most common cause of service disruptions. More than half reported patients not seeking care because of mistrust and fears of being infected, 43 percent mentioned financial challenges and supply chain disruptions were a factor in nearly a third of countries ([WHO](#)).

International Results

In India, where cases continue to surge disastrously, half now agree that they are afraid they or someone in their family may catch the virus, more than double the share who said so before the surge. However, 54 percent continue to agree that the threat from the virus is exaggerated. More than one in 10 say they've seen flu-like symptoms in themselves, their household or their neighborhood, a pandemic high. Nearly seven in 10 agree that the Indian government is handling the coronavirus well, though this share has been declining for two weeks ([CVoter 4/28](#)).

In Russia, 11 percent say they've been vaccinated and 46 percent say they'd be likely to get the Sputnik vaccine for themselves or their family members, while four in 10 say they would rather or definitely not get vaccinated. Nearly two-thirds have a positive attitude towards the mass vaccination of Russians against the coronavirus and seven in 10 believe it will prevent the spread of the virus in the country ([VCIOM 4/26](#)).

In Greece, three-quarters of those not yet vaccinated say they definitely or probably will get the shot. In a separate question, 56 percent say they want to be vaccinated as soon as possible, three in 10 want to wait and 13 percent never want to get it. Roughly half say they're satisfied with how vaccinations are progressing in the country; 21 percent are moderately satisfied and a quarter are little or not at all satisfied. Fifty-four percent positively view the ban on travel from county to county during the Orthodox Easter holiday and three-quarters evaluate the decision to open restaurants and schools after the holiday positively ([Pulse RC 4/23-4/25](#)).

In Chile, 53 percent have been vaccinated, three in 10 plan to get a shot as soon as possible, 8 percent intend to wait and 9 percent do not plan to get vaccinated. All are essentially unchanged since last week. A third view the government's handling of the crisis positively, also unchanged after dropping sharply from late February amid a surge in cases ([Cadem 4/21-4/22](#)).

In Turkey, which recently implemented a full lockdown until mid-May, 45 percent rate the government's management of the health dimension of the pandemic positively, down from 60 percent in October. A quarter apiece positively rate the government's management of the education (25 percent) and economic (23 percent) dimensions ([Istanbul Economic Research 4/19-4/21](#)).

In England, a recently released analysis finds that the pandemic may have been particularly tough on adults with physical disabilities. Survey data collected pre-pandemic (in 2018 and 2019) and again last June and July among a representative sample of adults age 52 and older found that those with a physical disability were significantly more likely to have clinically significant symptoms of depression, anxiety and loneliness amid the pandemic than those without a disability. They also had worse sleep quality and poorer quality of life and reported having less frequent real-time and written social contact with family than those without a disability. Results adjusted for pre-pandemic levels of mental health and social interaction, as well as age, sex, wealth, ethnicity, presence of a spouse or partner, number of people in the household and chronic pain ([Steptoe & De Gessa, 2021](#)).

A prospective cohort study of 23,324 staff members working at one of the 104 publicly funded hospitals in the United Kingdom found that that from Dec. 7, 2020 to Feb 5, 2021, there were 977 new COVID-19 infections per 10,000 person-days among those who were unvaccinated, 71 new infections per 10,000 person days among those who were 21 days or more out from their first dose, and just 9 among those who were at least a week out from their second dose. Vaccine effectiveness was calculated to be 70 percent 21 days after first dose and 85 percent seven days after two doses ([Hall et al., 2021](#)).

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

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