



COVID-19 Survey Summary: May 14, 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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For the first time since the pandemic began, a majority of Americans see minimal risk in returning to their pre-coronavirus life, and it shows: Six in 10 have visited with friends and more than half have gone out to eat in the past week, both pandemic highs.

Surveys released in the past week also find that overall concerns about the pandemic have reached new lows, fewer Americans are self-isolating and mask use has declined, even in advance of the new, relaxed CDC guidance for vaccinated people.

Increased comfort stepping out partly reflects vaccination progress – more than six in 10 have received at least one shot and roughly three-quarters have done so or plan to, a consistent result in the last few months. However, vaccine hesitancy remains substantial and stable, and despite recently expanded eligibility, many parents are reluctant to let their child get the shot.

Additional newly released reports examine barriers to vaccination specifically among Hispanic adults; suggest that greater outreach is needed to vaccinate socially vulnerable seniors, especially those who live alone or lack internet access; and document wide variability in pandemic attitudes across Europe.

Vaccines

Sixty-four percent of Americans say they have gotten at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, up 8 percentage points in three weeks. About one in 10 says they'll get it as soon as they can (4 percent) or within the next few months (7 percent), while 7 percent plan to wait a year or longer and 17 percent say they won't get it at all. The combined 67 percent who have gotten a shot or plan to do so as soon as possible is a numerical high in this data series ([Axios-Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

A different poll also finds that 64 percent are vaccinated, up from 41 percent in late March. An additional 14 percent say they definitely or probably will get vaccinated; 22 percent say they probably (10 percent) or definitely (12 percent) will not ([AP-NORC 4/29-5/3](#)).

Longitudinal tracking results are similar – roughly three-quarters say they've received at least a first dose (63 percent) or are very or somewhat likely to get vaccinated ([USC UAS 5/12](#)).

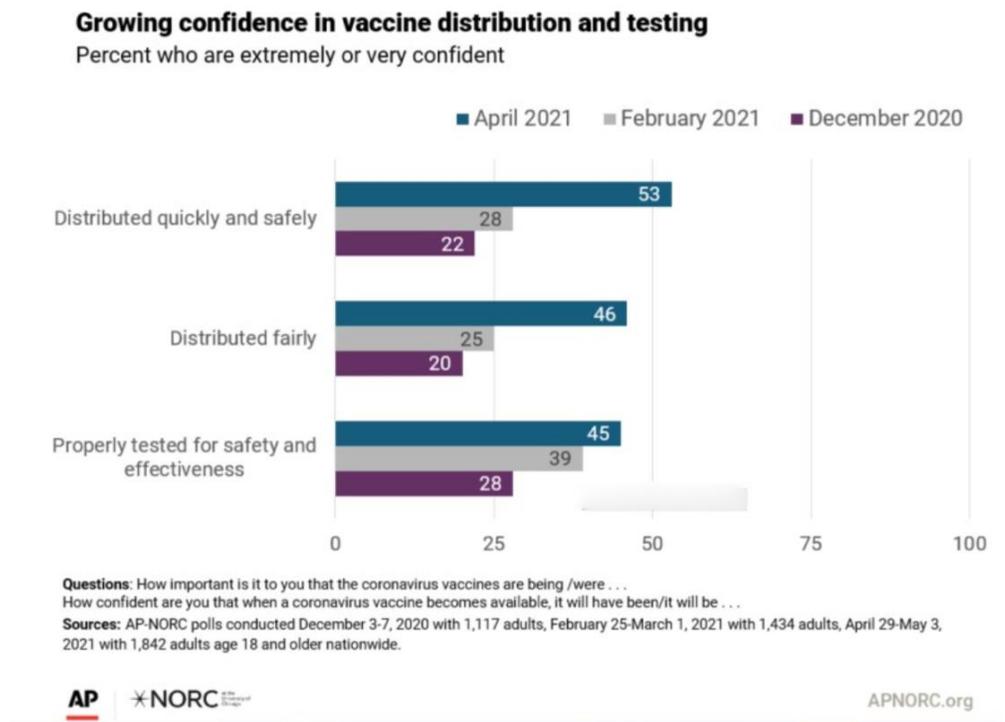
While majorities of adults have received a shot, half of parents say it's at least somewhat likely that they will get their child vaccinated as soon it's available for their age group, including just a quarter who say this is very likely ([Axios-Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)). In a different question [last week](#), three in 10 parents said they would get their child vaccinated right away, 32 percent said they'd wait and see and 15 percent said they'd do so only if their child's school required it. Nineteen percent ruled it out ([KFF 4/15-4/29](#)).

Vaccine Confidence

Confidence in the coronavirus vaccines and the distribution process has increased. Fifty-three percent are extremely or very confident the vaccines are being distributed quickly and safely, nearly double the share who said so in late February, and 46 percent are as confident the vaccines are being distributed fairly, also up sharply, from 25 percent.

Forty-five percent are highly confident the vaccines were tested properly for safety and effectiveness, up 6 points. Most of the rest are at least somewhat confident, although a quarter remain not very or not at all confident in this, unchanged since February.

Vaccine-hesitant adults are far less apt to be highly confident in the testing and distribution process. For example, 62 percent of vaccinated adults think the vaccines were tested properly, but only 5 percent of those who are vaccine hesitant agree. And seven in 10 vaccinated adults, but just 15 percent of those who are hesitant, think the shots are being distributed quickly and safely.



Similarly, while 22 percent overall are very concerned about vaccine side effects, that jumps to 55 percent among those who are vaccine hesitant, vs. 9 percent of those who've gotten a shot ([AP-NORC 4/29-5/3](#)).

Three-quarters think it's true that the vaccines are effective and a similar share say it is safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19. However, among unvaccinated adults, fewer say the

vaccines are effective (60 percent) and that it is safer to get a shot (55 percent).

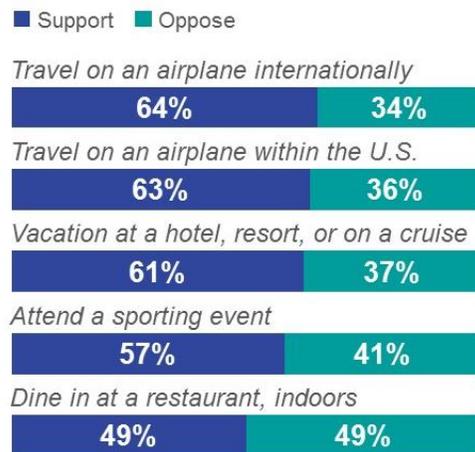
Among those who think the vaccines are not effective, just a third would get one if offered, and among those who think it's no safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19, three in 10 plan to get vaccinated. Those who are unsure about the vaccines' effectiveness or greater safety are more apt than those who doubt these to be open to getting vaccinated, suggesting greater information may be persuasive to this group ([Annenberg Public Policy Center 3/30-4/19](#)).

Vaccine Mandates

Views on requiring proof of vaccination vary depending on the activity, albeit with different results in two studies. In one:

- About six in 10 support having to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccine in order to travel on an airplane or vacation at a hotel, resort or on a cruise ship.
- Majorities also support requiring proof for attending a sporting event (57 percent) and returning to their normal place of employment (55 percent of employed adults).
- The public divides on whether vaccine proof should be required to dine indoors at a restaurant (49-49 percent) or go to a salon, barbershop or spa (49-50 percent).
- Fewer than half think proof should be required to shop at non-grocery retail stores (44 percent) ([Axios-Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

Do you support or oppose having to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccine to do each of the following?



The other poll also finds variability in such views, but with some different preferences. In similar results, majorities favor businesses requiring people to show proof of vaccination to travel by airplane (57 percent) and to attend events with large crowds, such as sporting events or concerts (55 percent). In differing ones, majorities oppose this for staying at a hotel (56 percent) and dining at a restaurant (60 percent), and 55 percent of employed adults oppose businesses requiring proof of vaccination to “go to your worksite to do your job” ([Gallup 4/19-4/25](#)).

About six in 10 say they've asked family or close friends about their vaccine status (62 percent) or been asked by others if they are vaccinated (61 percent). Forty-two percent have asked people outside their close circle whether they are vaccinated. Twenty-eight percent of employed adults say their employer has asked them their vaccine status; 5 percent say their employer has required them to get vaccinated ([Axios-Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

Vaccinating Hispanic Americans

Additional analyses from a poll covered [last week](#) find that a third of unvaccinated Hispanic adults want to get vaccinated as soon as possible, double the share of unvaccinated white or Black adults who say the same. Seventeen percent of unvaccinated Hispanics say they definitely won't get vaccinated, compared with 26 percent of unvaccinated Black people and a third of unvaccinated whites.

However, nearly two-thirds of unvaccinated Hispanic adults are concerned about missing work because of side effects (64 percent) and about half are worried they may have to pay out of pocket (even though vaccines are available for free). Four in 10 are concerned they may have to provide a Social Security number or government-issued identification to get vaccinated and 35 percent are concerned that getting vaccinated might negatively impact their own or a family member's immigration status. These concerns peak among those who lack insurance or are potentially undocumented.

Indeed, although the federal government has made clear that vaccines should be available to people regardless of their immigration or insurance status, more than half (56 percent) of vaccinated Hispanics say they were required to show identification when they received the shot, nearly a quarter were asked for health insurance information and 15 percent say they were asked to provide a Social Security number.

An information deficit is apparent. Fewer than half of Hispanic adults are aware that vaccines are free for all U.S. residents (46 percent) and regardless of immigration status (42 percent). And unvaccinated Hispanics are far more likely than whites to be unsure if they are eligible to receive the vaccine in their state (42 vs. 26 percent).

Reaching this population is critical given the disproportionate impact of the virus on Hispanic people – they're 10 points more likely than whites to say someone in their family has tested positive for COVID-19 (28 vs. 18 percent) and 20 points more likely to say that a family member or close friend has died from it (38 vs. 18 percent) ([KFF 4/15-4/29](#)).

Vaccination Progress

A CDC report indicates that during the first three and a half months of the vaccine rollout, eight in 10 adults over age 65 – close to 43 million individuals – received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Older seniors (age 75+) and women were less apt than younger seniors and men to have received a shot.

Compared with counties with high senior vaccination rates, counties with low rates had higher percentages of older adults without a computer, living in poverty, without internet access and living alone. The report recommends improving vaccine access among more socially vulnerable seniors, e.g., by assisting with scheduling and transportation or providing in-home vaccination ([CDC 12/14-4/10](#)).

Coronavirus Concerns

Concerns about the coronavirus continue to hit new lows. In one poll, 30 percent of Americans say they're very or somewhat worried about contracting COVID-19, down 5 points since March and 19 points since February to a pandemic low ([Gallup 4/19-4/25](#)). In another, a quarter say they're extremely or very worried about someone in their family being infected, the fewest since mid-February 2020, when the pandemic was in its infancy ([AP-NORC 4/29-5/3](#)).

Seventy-two percent remain at least somewhat concerned about the COVID-19 outbreak more broadly, but that's down 6 points since early April, also to a pandemic low ([Axios/Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

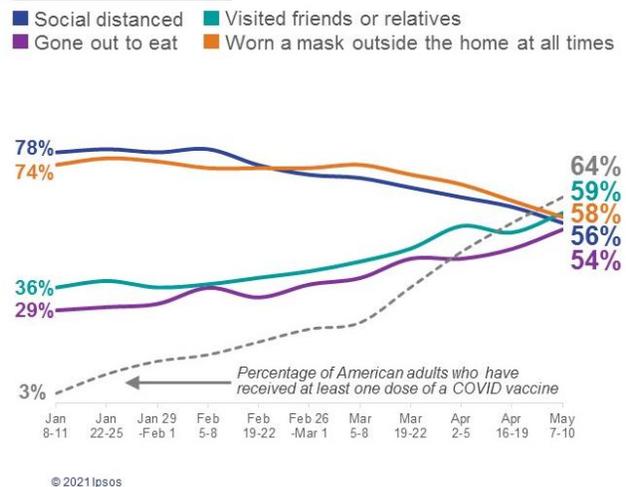
Seven in 10 say the coronavirus situation in the country is getting better. While that's down 8 points from its peak last month, it remains more than double the February level. Eighteen percent say the situation is staying the same and 14 percent say it's worsening ([Gallup 4/19-4/25](#)).

Daily Life

Americans' re-emergence into public life continues to advance:

- For the first time since mid-March 2020, a majority (54 percent) say they have gone out to eat in the past week, up 6 points since mid-April.
- Six in 10 say they've visited friends or relatives in the past week, also up 6 points to a pandemic high.
- Forty-three percent visited a park, beach or other outdoor space, the most in available data since last May.
- In a new question, three in 10 say they've made summer plans, such as booked a trip or vacation rental or a camp or kid's program.
- Although most (56 percent) continue to say they're staying at home and avoiding others as much as possible, that's down 8 points since early last month and 14 points from two months ago to a new low ([Axios/Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

Percentage of Americans who have _____ in the last week



Other polls also show that avoidance of social activities has declined. Sixty-eight percent say they're always or often staying away from large groups, down from 77 percent in late February. Sixty-one percent are frequently avoiding nonessential travel, down from 72 percent, and half are avoiding other people as much as possible, down from 66 percent ([AP-NORC 4/29-5/3](#)).

Six in 10 say they've avoided events with large crowds; 55 percent have avoided travel by airplane, bus, subway or train; 44 percent have avoided public places such as stores and restaurants; and 37 percent have avoided small gatherings. All are at their lowest levels in more than a year. Three in 10 say they're completely or mostly isolating themselves from people outside their home, down 8 points since March to a pandemic low. A year ago, three-quarters of Americans were self-isolating ([Gallup 4/19-4/25](#)).

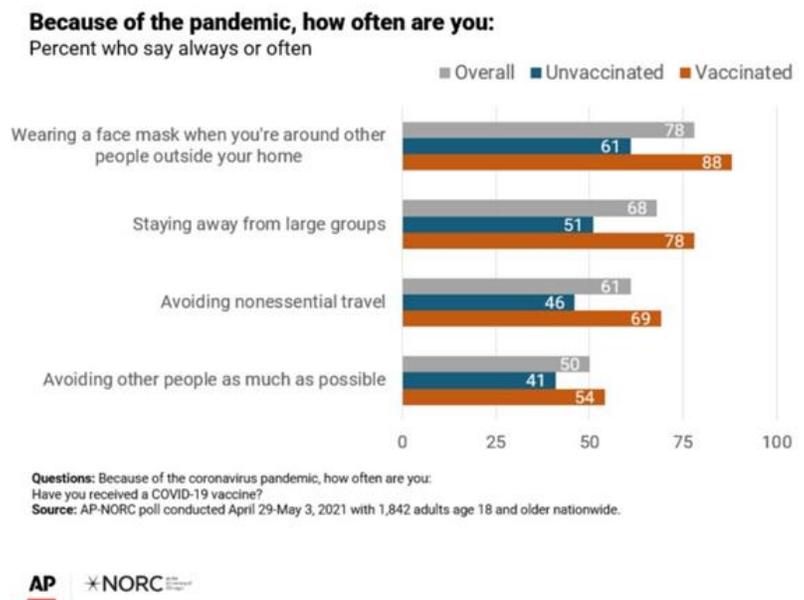
For the first time in available data since last spring, a majority (57 percent) say returning to their normal pre-coronavirus life right now would be only a small or no risk to their health and well-being, up 10 points since mid-April. Majorities also view attending in-person gatherings of friends and family (56 percent) or dining in at a restaurant (57 percent) as minimally risky, new highs.

Roughly six in 10 continue to view attending sporting events (60 percent) and traveling on an airplane or mass transit (63 percent) as a moderate to large risk, but both have declined in the past month to new lows ([Axios/Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

Masks

Seventy-eight percent say they're frequently wearing a face mask when around other people outside their home, little changed from 82 percent in late February. However, the share who say they are always doing so declined by 9 points to 56 percent ([AP-NORC 4/29-5/3](#)).

Similarly, 58 percent say they're wearing a mask at all times when leaving home, down 10 points just since early April. In new questions, 58 percent say they're wearing a mask at all times when indoors in public places, 45 percent say they're doing so when outdoors in a crowded space, three in 10 are always wearing a mask when attending a small indoor gathering of people from multiple households and a quarter are doing so when dining outdoors with people from multiple households. Few say they're always wearing a mask when spending time outdoors with family or people they know (14 percent) or with fully vaccinated family or friends (13 percent) ([Axios/Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).



Those who are unvaccinated are less apt to be taking safety precautions and to view social activities as risky. For example, they're less likely than vaccinated adults to say they're frequently wearing a mask (61 vs. 88 percent) and avoiding large groups (51 vs. 78 percent), nonessential travel (46 vs. 69 percent) and other people (41 vs. 54 percent) ([AP-NORC 4/29-](#)

[5/3](#)). However, vaccinated and unvaccinated adults are similarly likely to say they've gone out to eat or visited friends or relatives in the past week ([Axios/Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

Mental Health Impacts

Echoing results [reported last week](#), 16 percent say their mental health has improved in the past week, the most since the pandemic began, and just 12 percent say it's gotten worse, a pandemic low. (Seven in 10 report no change in the past week.) Similarly, 18 percent say their emotional well-being has improved in the past week and 14 percent say it's declined, a pandemic high and low, respectively. Younger adults (under 30) are the most likely to say their mental and emotional health have improved in the past week ([Axios-Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

Government Response

Seven in 10 Americans approve of how President Biden is handling the pandemic, including nearly all Democrats (96 percent), six in 10 independents and almost half of Republicans (47 percent) ([AP NORC 4/29-5/3](#)).

Fifty-seven percent say they trust the federal government a great deal or fair amount to provide them with accurate information about the coronavirus, the most since March 2020. Trust in state governments (56 percent), the CDC (67 percent) and national public health officials (66 percent) to provide accurate information is little changed in recent months ([Axios-Ipsos 5/7-5/10](#)).

Eurobarometer Results

Polling conducted in the European Union in February and March (including 24 countries with probability-based results), found that, at that time, majorities in most countries said they would like to get vaccinated as soon as possible or that they already had done so, led by Ireland (74 percent), Denmark (73 percent) and Sweden (71 percent). At the other end of the spectrum, a quarter in Cyprus said they'd never get a shot and an additional four in 10 said they planned to wait until 2022 or later. Majorities in Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus, and nearly half in Hungary, also said they would either wait or never get vaccinated.

Views of the European Union's response to the pandemic varied widely. For example:

- Satisfaction with the EU's measures taken to fight the pandemic was highest in Denmark (68 percent) and Portugal (66 percent). Majorities in Romania, Ireland, Bulgaria, Malta, Poland, Sweden, Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia also were satisfied, compared with just a third in France and Germany.
- Since the summer, satisfaction with the EU's response dropped the most in Germany (-16 points to 33 percent), Ireland (-15 points to 56 percent), Estonia (-13 points to 42 percent) and Slovakia (-13 points to 39 percent).
- A majority in most countries thought the EU's €750 billion recovery plan to support the economy would be effective in responding to the economic effects of the pandemic, with

the most saying so in Malta (83 percent) and Ireland (77 percent). Half or more in Finland (57 percent), Latvia (52 percent) and Portugal (50 percent) did not think the recovery plan would be effective.

- Nine in 10 in Portugal said they trust the EU to make the right decisions about the pandemic in the future, as did roughly eight in 10 in Malta (79 percent) and Hungary (77 percent). About half in Czechia (53 percent), Austria (50 percent), Luxembourg (48 percent) and Germany (48 percent) did not trust the EU going forward.

Satisfaction with measures taken by national governments also varied substantially. Seven in 10 or more in Denmark (79 percent), Luxembourg (73 percent) and Finland (69 percent) were satisfied with their government's response, as were six in 10 in Sweden. Slim majorities in Malta, Ireland, Cyprus, Germany and Hungary also were satisfied. However, seven in 10 or more were not satisfied with the measures taken by their government in Slovenia (69 percent), Spain (69 percent), Slovakia (75 percent), Czechia (76 percent) and Latvia (79 percent).

In addition, while more than six in 10 in Italy (63 percent) said the confinement measures taken by their country to fight the pandemic were difficult to cope with, majorities in Finland (66 percent) and Estonia (55 percent) found these measures easy to deal with. However, in all but one of the countries polled (Portugal), the share having difficulty coping with isolation measures had increased since the summer.

When asked when they think their nation's economy will recover from the impact of the pandemic, the most frequently given answer in all countries was "in 2023 or later," ranging from 82 percent in Portugal to 44 percent in Romania. One in 10 or more in Latvia, Croatia, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, France, Slovenia, Austria, Czechia and Hungary thought their country's economy never would recover.

In most countries, ensuring rapid access to safe and effective vaccines to all EU citizens was mentioned most frequently as what the EU should prioritize now in its pandemic response. In Bulgaria, this shared first place with two other priorities – investing money in the economy for a sustainable and fair recovery in all EU member states (also a top priority in Latvia) and enabling EU member states to support businesses and workers affected by the pandemic.

In France, vaccine access and "establishing a European strategy for facing a similar crisis in the future" shared top billing. This priority was mentioned in the top three in many countries, including Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta and Sweden. Developing a European health policy was top priority in Cyprus and Romania, and investing more money to develop treatments and vaccines was mentioned most frequently in Spain and Croatia ([Eurobarometer 2/12-3/11](#))

Other International Results

In Chile, six in 10 say they have been vaccinated, up 5 points in the past week. A quarter plan to be vaccinated as soon as possible, down 6 points. Nine percent plan to wait to be vaccinated and 8 percent do not intend to get vaccinated, unchanged in recent weeks. Forty-one percent approve

of the government's handling of the crisis, up 10 points since mid-April, but still well below the peak of 58 percent in February when the vaccination campaign began ([Cadem 5/5-5/7](#)).

In South Korea, more than seven in 10 say they will definitely (49 percent) or probably (23 percent) get vaccinated, 16 percent say they probably will not and 7 percent say they never will. Trust is highest for the Pfizer vaccine (75 percent); fewer than half trust the Moderna (49 percent) and AstraZeneca (40 percent) vaccines and just 15 percent trust the Sputnik V vaccine ([Gallup Korea 5/4-5/6](#)).

In Canada, the share who say they are coping very well with self-isolation has declined from 41 to 31 percent in the past year; 15 percent now say their mental health today is worse than it was before the pandemic, up 5 points in the same period. An additional three in 10 say their mental health is somewhat worse, essentially unchanged. Younger Canadians (18-34) are particularly apt to report dealing poorly with self-isolation (29 percent) and to say their mental health is worse than it was before the pandemic ([Nanos 4/29-5/3](#)).

In Great Britain, while 82 percent still are avoiding physical contact when outside their home, that's the fewest since mid-September. The number who stayed home or only left for work, exercise, essential shopping or medical needs continues to decline, from nearly two-thirds in January to 21 percent now. Fifty-six percent met up with someone outdoors not in their household or support bubble, essentially unchanged since last week but up sharply from 19 percent in mid-March. However, the share who have met up indoors has remained relatively stable (10 percent now, 13 percent in mid-March). More than nine in 10 continue to say they've received the vaccine (65 percent) or are likely to get it if offered ([Office for National Statistics 4/28-5/3](#)).

In Mexico, 53 percent rate the way the López Obrador government is handling vaccinations positively, up 10 points in the past month. Views that the coronavirus is the main problem in the country fell from 27 to 14 percent, a pandemic low. Fifty-three percent say they're satisfied with the government's actions in response to the pandemic; 46 percent are satisfied with the economic support from the government ([El Financiero 4/17-5/2](#)).

In Ukraine, 27 percent support the introduction of vaccine passports, a third are opposed and three in 10 are indifferent. Roughly six in 10 apiece negatively evaluate the actions taken by the central government (61 percent) and the local government (58 percent) in response to the pandemic ([R&B Group 4/23-4/30](#)).

In Russia, one in 10 has been vaccinated, up from 4 percent in February. Twenty-six percent say they're ready to be vaccinated with the Sputnik V vaccine, down slightly from 30 percent in February, while 62 percent say they are not ready, unchanged. Fifty-six percent say they are not afraid of contracting the coronavirus, unchanged since February. Those who are afraid of catching the virus and older adults are more vaccine-willing than others ([Levada 4/22-4/28](#)).

In Australia, a poll conducted in March found that four in 10 agreed with the current border policy allowing only Australians with special exemptions to leave; about as many thought vaccinated Australians should be able to leave and 18 percent said all Australians should be free

to leave. Six in 10 said the government has done the right amount in helping Australians overseas return home. Eighty-three percent said Australia should help Pacific island countries to pay for COVID-19 vaccines; six in 10 said the same about helping Southeast Asian countries.

Nearly all – 95 percent – said Australia has handled COVID-19 well, including 65 percent who said it’s handled it very well. By contrast, just 7 percent said the United States has handled it well, 19 percent for the United Kingdom, 27 percent for India (again, in March) and 45 percent for China ([Lowy Institute 3/15-3/29](#)).

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

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