



## COVID-19 Survey Summary: October 29, 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.*

With authorization in hand, substantial vaccine hesitancy for children is evident in new surveys, with barely three in 10 parents of children age 5-11 saying they'll have their child vaccinated right away and seven in 10 or more expressing concerns about potential side effects.

One poll finds a 10-point rise in the share of parents of 12- to 17-year-olds who say they definitely won't have their child vaccinated. As to boosters for adults, confusion is apparent: More than four in 10 fully vaccinated adults are unsure whether they're eligible for another shot and a substantial share question the efficacy of the coronavirus vaccines against infection.

More broadly, coronavirus concerns continue to ease as the Delta surge subsides. Fewer see returning to pre-pandemic life as risky. Economic issues now outpace the coronavirus in views of the country's most important problem. And most parents say their child plans to go trick-or-treating, three-quarters while wearing a protective mask

Majorities continue to support Joe Biden's testing/vaccine mandate for large employers, though its effect may be muted: Just one in 10 unvaccinated workers would get a shot if their employer required it, with the rest splitting between quitting or opting for the testing option. Most are skeptical that the Biden administration can convince vaccine refusers to get a shot.

Among other newly released studies, one explores the relationship between the pandemic and perceptions of crime and safety. Another finds that in-person school re-openings accelerated caseloads and deaths in 2020. A third further documents racial and ethnic disparities in severe coronavirus outcomes.

We also include surveys from Mexico, Russia, the United Kingdom and Ukraine this week.

### Vaccines

The [CDC estimates](#) that 80 percent of adults have received at least one vaccine dose, up one percentage point in a week. It's 77 percent in one poll this week, with an additional 3 percent very likely to do so and 2 percent somewhat likely ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)). In another, 72

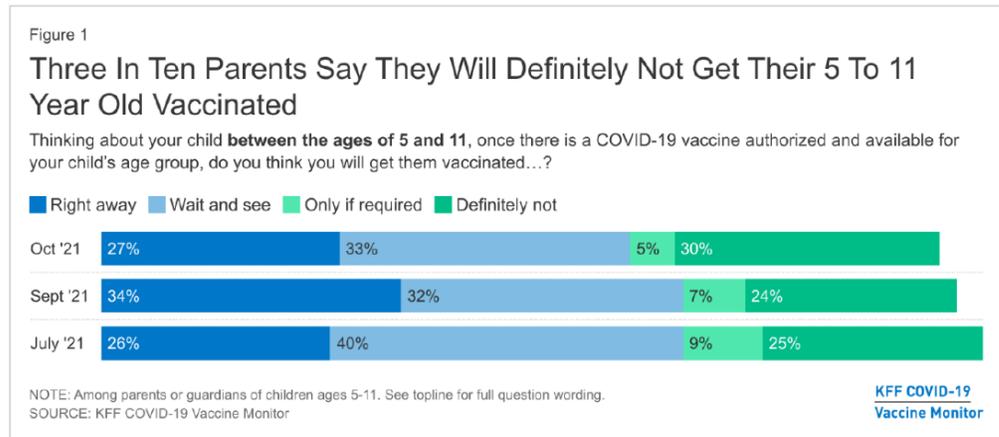
percent say they've gotten a shot, with 2 percent saying they'll act as soon as possible and 5 percent preferring to wait and see ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

Seventeen percent in one poll say they're very or somewhat unlikely to get vaccinated, a numerical low in data since August 2020 ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)). Twenty percent in another survey say they definitely won't get the vaccine or will only do so if required, up 4 points in the last month to regain its level in May ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

According to the [CDC](#), 57 percent of 12- to 15-year-olds have been vaccinated, up 3 points in a month; as have 64 percent of children age 16-17, up 2 points.

Reported uptake among parents with children age 12-17 is lower, at 46 percent, in a survey released this week, steady after a 24-point rise from May to mid-September. An additional 4 percent say they'll act as soon as possible; 11 percent plan to wait and see and 5 percent say they'll act only if required. Thirty-one percent say they definitely will not get their child vaccinated, up 10 points since late September.

Similarly, 30 percent of parents of children age 5-11 say they definitely would not get their child vaccinated; an additional 5 percent say they'd do so only if required. Just 27 percent say they'd act immediately,



while 33 percent prefer to wait and see. Interviews were conducted before an [FDA advisory panel](#) Tuesday recommended emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine among children age 5-11 ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

Given other response options, 63 percent of parents with children younger than 18 say they're likely to get their child vaccinated or have done so, recovering somewhat after dropping 11 points from a high of 68 percent in late August. Just among parents of 5- to 11-year-olds, 57 percent say they're very (31 percent) or somewhat (26 percent) likely to have their child vaccinated as soon as possible, while 40 percent are not likely to do so – again in interviews before the FDA panel voted ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

### Parents' Vaccine Concerns

Parents of children age 5-11 express broad doubts about the vaccines. Seventy-six percent are very or somewhat concerned about the vaccines' long-term effects in children, 71 percent that their child might experience serious side effects and two-thirds that the vaccines may negatively

impact their child's fertility. About half (53 percent) are concerned that their child might be required to get the vaccine against the parents' wishes.

Among lower-level worries, 35 percent are concerned that they might need to take time off work to get their child vaccinated or care for them if they experience side effects, including 51 percent of parents earning less than \$50,000 annually. A quarter apiece are worried they won't be able to get their child vaccinated at a trusted establishment or might have to pay out-of-pocket costs. One in five are concerned about difficulty traveling to a place to get their child a shot ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

Among adults overall, 64 percent are confident the Biden administration can distribute the vaccine to children age 5-11, including 60 percent of parents with children in this age group ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

### Boosters

Per the [CDC](#), 9 percent of fully vaccinated adults have received a booster dose. It's a similar 10 percent in a survey this week (7 percent of adults overall). Among fully vaccinated adults who have yet to receive a booster, 74 percent are likely to do so, while 23 percent are resistant.

There's substantial confusion about eligibility. Forty-four percent of fully vaccinated adults say they are unsure whether they are currently eligible, including 67 percent of adults younger than 30 ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)). ([CDC guidelines](#) say people who are 65 and older, live in long-term facilities, have underlying medical conditions or work or live in high-risk settings are eligible.)

### Vaccine Requirements

Employer-led vaccination requirements are on the rise, with 36 percent of workers in one poll saying they're required to get a shot, up 30 points since June ([Gallup 10/18-10/24](#)). It's 31 percent in a second study, double the number in mid-August; and 25 percent in a third poll, up from 9 percent in June ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#), [KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

Sixty percent of workers in one survey and 56 percent in another support such mandates ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#), [Gallup 10/18-10/24](#)). It's 29 percent among adults who are not currently required to get a shot, corresponding to 21 percent of employed adults overall ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

About six in Americans (63 percent in one poll and 57 percent in another) support the federal rule requiring larger businesses to have their employees get vaccinated or undergo weekly testing, in line with previous estimates ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#), [KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

Americans [remain divided](#) on what should happen to noncompliant employees. A quarter think nothing should happen to them while the rest split between saying they should be fired (14 percent), placed on unpaid leave (23 percent) or required to work from home or an alternate location (20 percent) ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

Among employed adults who are unvaccinated, 11 percent say they'd get a shot if their employer instituted a vaccine/testing mandate. A plurality, 46 percent, would get tested weekly, while 37 percent say they'd leave their job. If weekly testing were not an option, 17 percent would get a shot while 72 percent say they'd leave their job.

Five percent of unvaccinated Americans say they've left a job because an employer required them to get a vaccine, corresponding to 1 percent of adults overall ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

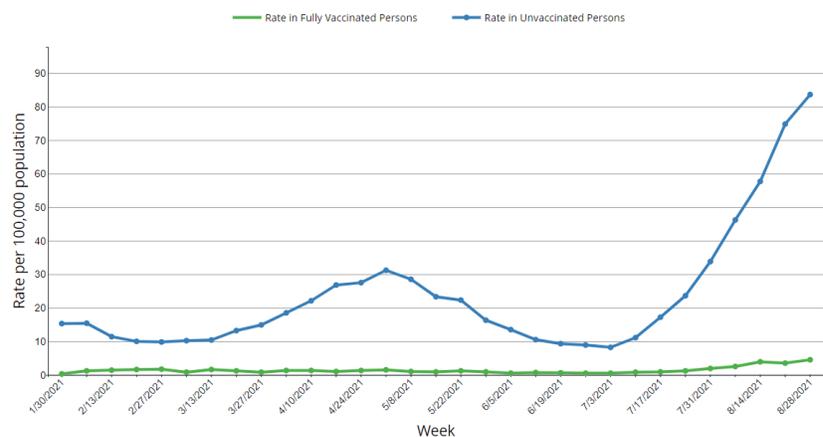
Among other requirements, 69 percent in one poll and 60 percent in another support requiring workers in health care settings to be vaccinated ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#), [KFF 10/14-10/24](#)). Fifty-two percent think the federal government should require vaccinations for its employees; half say the same for state and local governments.

Most, 56 percent, continue to support vaccination requirements for teachers and staff in K-12 schools. Half support requirements for students who are eligible, also steady. There's movement in one measure: Fifty percent support colleges and universities requiring students get vaccinated, down 8 points since June ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

### Vaccine Efficacy and Information

According to the CDC, unvaccinated adults are about [12 times](#) more likely to be hospitalized for the coronavirus than those who have gotten a shot, adjusted for age. [In August](#), unvaccinated people were 6 times more likely to test positive for the coronavirus and 11 times more likely to die from the disease than vaccinated people.

Age-Adjusted Rates of COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations by Vaccine Status in Adults Aged ≥18 Years, January–August 2021



Forty percent of Americans correctly say it's false that "At this time, unvaccinated people and vaccinated people are equally likely to test positive for COVID-10." About as many, 38 percent, say this statement is true, while one in five is unsure.

On other items, six in 10 correctly say it's true that an unvaccinated person is at least 10 times more likely to die of the coronavirus at this time; 14 percent say this is false and 26 percent don't know. Two-thirds say correctly that the vaccine is effective at preventing serious illness among people with breakthrough cases; 11 percent think this is false and 23 percent don't know ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

### Concerns & Outlooks

Fifty-five percent of Americans are worried that someone in their family will get seriously sick from the coronavirus, down 7 points since mid-September. A third are personally worried about this, down 5 points in a month, though still up from 23 percent in June, before the Delta surge.

Forty-five percent of parents with children under 18 are very or somewhat worried their child will get seriously sick, down 12 points in month ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)). Another survey finds 51 percent concerned their child will get sick from the coronavirus ([SSRS 10/12-10/17](#)).

High-level concerns also have eased. Thirty-nine percent are extremely or very concerned about the coronavirus in general, down from about half in mid-September. Thirty-six percent are extremely or very concerned about cases rising this fall and winter, compared with 51 percent a year ago. Forty-four percent are highly concerned about new strains, vs. 56 percent in late January. That said, in each case about three-quarters say they're at least somewhat concerned about these issues, largely in line with previous results ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

Asked to identify the three most worrying topics out of a list of 17, 31 percent include the pandemic. That compares with political extremism or polarization, 32 percent; climate change, 26 percent; and crime/gun violence and health care (24 percent apiece). ([Axios-Ipsos 10/14-10/20](#)).

Newly released data from January highlight psychological impacts. Six in 10 cited fear of loved ones dying, the second-highest fear among Americans, up from fifth place in 2019. Fifty-eight percent said they were afraid of a loved one contracting the coronavirus and 56 percent were afraid of a pandemic or major epidemic – each ranking among the top 10 fears for the first time in seven years of ongoing surveys ([Chapman University 1/5-1/15](#)).

### Daily Life

The share of Americans calling it risky to return to their normal pre-pandemic lives has fallen in tandem with [nationwide declines](#) in cases and deaths. Forty-seven percent now see this as a large or moderate risk to their health and well-being, down 13 points since late August, though still far above its level in late June, 28 percent. Fifty-three percent see only a small risk or no risk at all, up 13 points, also since late August ([Axios-Ipsos 10/14-10/20](#)).

Another survey similarly finds that Americans are split on resuming normal life. Forty-three percent say they've returned to the normal activities they engaged in before the pandemic and an additional 6 percent volunteered that they never changed their activities. Thirty-five percent are doing some but not all the activities they did before the pandemic; 15 percent report doing very few pre-pandemic activities. Fifteen percent say they will not travel for the holidays this year because of the pandemic and 22 percent plan to avoid gatherings with more than 10 people ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

### Schools, Masks & Re-openings

A new analysis finds an association between school openings and county-level coronavirus cases and deaths in data from April to December 2020. The authors found that fully opening K-12 schools with in-person learning was associated with a 5-point increase in county caseloads. The growth in cases was stronger in counties that did not require staff to wear masks in school. Increases in visits to K-12 schools and colleges also were positively associated with increases in subsequent weekly death rates ([Chernozhukov et al. 2021](#)).

## Halloween

Fifty-two percent plan to celebrate Halloween the same as in previous years; three in 10 say they will celebrate less, 8 percent more. One in five says they'll go trick-or-treating, rising to 37 percent of those in households with children ([SSRS 10/12-10/17](#)). Among parents with minors, 56 percent say their child will be trick-or-treating. Of the four in 10 who say their child will not go, 33 percent cite concerns about COVID-19 ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

About a third of parents think it's a large (10 percent) or moderate (22 percent) risk to their health and well-being for their child to go trick-or-treating, down from about half a year ago. An additional 46 percent call it a small risk while 23 percent see no risk at all.

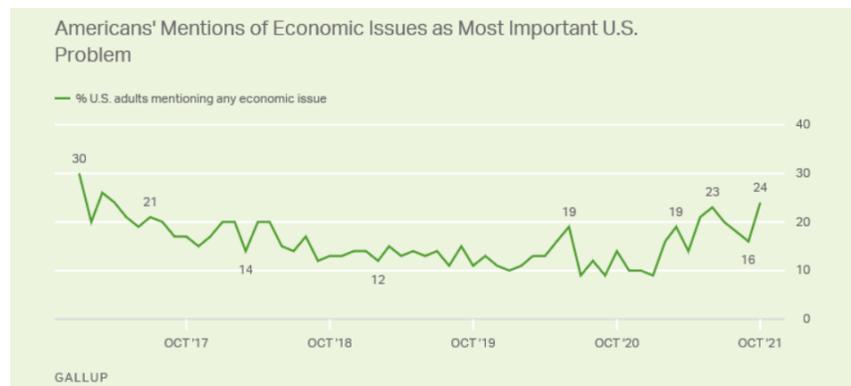
Results are similar among all adults, with 34 percent saying their community allowing trick-or-treating is at least a moderate risk to their health, compared with 55 percent last year; 42 percent think it's a small risk and for 24 percent it's not a risk ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

Most people who plan to engage in Halloween festivities say they'll take protective measures. Seventy-four percent of parents whose child is going trick-or-treating say their child will wear a protective mask. Sixty-seven percent of adults who plan to trick-or-treat say they'll wear a protective mask. Among the 22 percent of adults who will attend or host a Halloween party, 56 percent say they'll wear a protective mask at the event ([SSRS 10/12-10/17](#)).

## Coronavirus & the Economy

In an open-ended question, 15 percent name the pandemic as the most important problem in the United States, down 11 points since August. More mention any of several economic issues (24 percent, up 8 points since September) or government or poor leadership (21 percent, essentially unchanged) ([Gallup 10/1-10/19](#)).

Consumer sentiment is down sharply in the past two months. Positive ratings of the national economy have fallen 12



points from their pandemic peak to 43 percent, a low since late March; the share who assess their

personal finances positively is down 10 points to an eight-month low of 61 percent; and 40 percent say it's a good or excellent time to buy things, down 10 points in six weeks to a low since early February ([CCI 9/28-10/24](#)). Sixty-eight percent think the economy is getting worse, up 18 points since June, including a 5-point increase in the past month ([Gallup 10/1-10/19](#)).

Fifty-seven percent say the spread of COVID-19 is holding back economic growth in their area. About as many, 55 percent, say the same for government restrictions on businesses aimed at slowing the spread of the virus ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

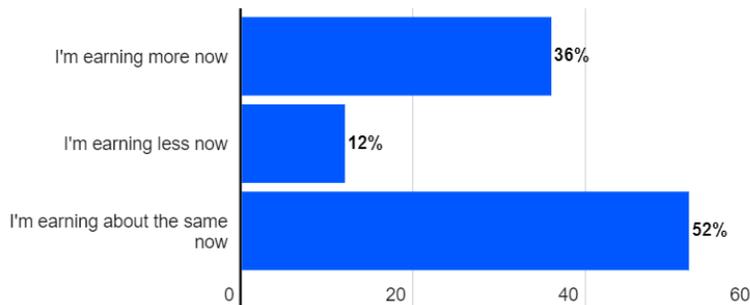
Seventy-one percent of small businesses say the prices they pay for goods and services have increased compared with their typical pre-pandemic levels, including 31 percent who say there's been a large increase in prices. Forty-five percent say they experienced domestic supplier delays in the past week, up from 31 percent in mid-April; and 20 percent experience foreign supplier delays, up from 12 percent. A third report difficulties hiring employees ([U.S. Census Bureau 10/11-10/17](#)).

On the flipside, 74 percent of Americans say now is a good time to find a quality job, up sharply from 27 percent in January to a record in data since 2001 ([Gallup 10/1-10/19](#)).

More workers say they're earning more money now than before the pandemic, 36 vs. 12 percent. (Most, 52 percent, report earning about the same amount of money.) College-educated workers are especially likely to report earning more since the pandemic started, 48 vs. 9 percent. At the same time 56 percent of workers overall say they haven't received a raise or found a better-paying job in the past 12 months, up from 50 percent in 2019 ([Bankrate 9/28-10/3](#)).

### Most workers' pay hasn't changed since the pandemic

We asked: How does your income now compare to prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?



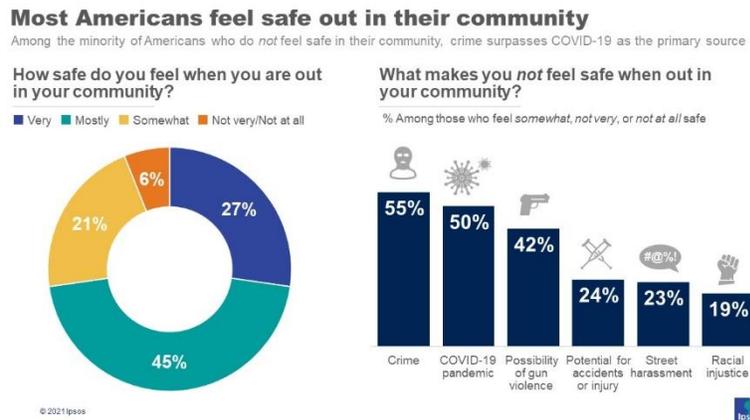
Note: Totals might not total 100 due to rounding.  
Source: Bankrate survey, Sept. 28-Oct. 3, 2021

Just 44 percent are confident in the Biden administration's ability to ensure that the economy recovers quickly after the pandemic, down 8 points since late January. Confidence has fallen most sharply among Black Americans, Democrats, independents, and those younger than 50 ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

### COVID & Crime

Seventy-two percent of Americans feel very or mostly safe in their community; 27 percent feel somewhat, not very or not at all safe. Among those who feel less than mostly safe, 50 percent say the coronavirus is a reason, down from 63 percent in September 2020. More, 55 percent, identify crime, compared with 45 percent roughly a year ago.

Among those who say gun violence has increased in the past year, 41 percent think social isolation or other social effects of the pandemic are most responsible. About as many, 40 percent, mention rising unemployment and economic issues ([Axios-Ipsos 10/14-10/20](#)).

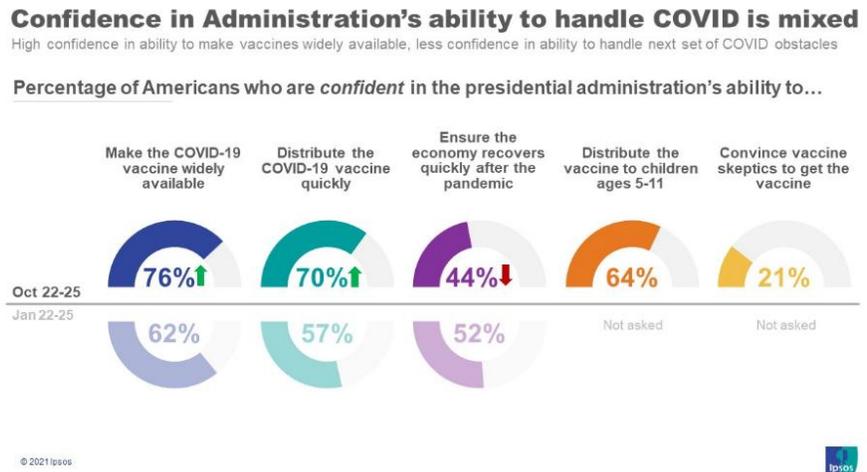


[Updated data](#) from the FBI show that hate crimes against people of Asian descent increased by 73 percent in the pandemic, from 161 incidents in 2019 to 279 in 2020.

Government Response

Fifty-four percent approve of Biden’s handling of the pandemic, matching its mid-August low and down from a high of 73 percent in late March. Forty-five percent disapprove, up from a quarter in late March ([AP-NORC 10/21-10/25](#)).

Most Americans are confident in the Biden administration’s ability to make coronavirus vaccines widely available (76 percent) and distribute them quickly (70 percent). Just 21 percent have confidence in the administration’s ability to sway vaccine skeptics. Forty percent are extremely or very concerned about the government’s response to the pandemic overall, down from six in 10 in mid-May.



After falling for three months, trust in several government entities to provide accurate information about the coronavirus has stabilized. Fifty percent say they have a great deal or fair amount of trust in the federal government to provide accurate information, 53 percent trust their state government and 46 percent trust Biden. Confidence in the CDC and national public health officials have remained largely unchanged since August, at 65 and 60 percent, respectively ([Axios-Ipsos 10/22-10/25](#)).

## Coronavirus Hospitalizations

A new analysis provides further evidence of the disproportionate effect of the coronavirus on racial and ethnic minorities. Using data from 99 counties and 14 states from March 1, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021, the researchers found that people of American Indian or Alaska Native descent and Latino, Black and Asian or Pacific Islander individuals were more likely than white people to have higher rates of hospitalization, ICU admission and death. The authors say vaccinations and more equitable access to health care are needed to minimize the gaps ([Acosta et al 2021](#)).

## State Results

Nineteen percent of Virginia likely voters say COVID-19 is the top issue facing the state's next governor, compared with public schools (20 percent) and the economy (27 percent). More trust former Gov. Terry McAuliffe to better handle COVID-19 than his Republican opponent Glenn Youngkin, 45 vs. 39 percent ([Virginia Commonwealth University 10/9-10/21](#)).

A separate Virginia poll finds likely voters split on trust to better handle the pandemic, with 46 percent selecting Youngkin and 45 percent McAuliffe. That's narrowed from a 12-point advantage for McAuliffe two weeks ago, 48-36 percent ([Fox News 10/24-10/27](#)).

In New Jersey, 15 percent of registered voters say the pandemic is the most important issue in their vote for governor, compared with education and schools (16 percent), jobs and the economy (20 percent) and taxes (27 percent). Gov. Phil Murphy is more trusted to handle the pandemic than his opponent, Jack Ciattarelli, by 19 points, 45 vs. 26 percent ([Monmouth 10/21-10/25](#)).

## International Results

In Russia, where 36 percent of the population is [vaccinated](#), nearly three-quarters support a provision allowing for two days off from work after each dose of a vaccine. The next most-popular measure is mandatory vaccinations for federal employees (68 percent), followed by required proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test for air travel (64 percent) and mandatory vaccinations for medical personnel (also 64 percent). Fifty-six percent support requiring proof of vaccination to enter public places, rising to 74 percent of vaccinated adults ([VCIOM 10/19-10/20](#)).

In recently released August results, 32 percent of Russians listed the coronavirus as the most important issue the country faces. That compares with price increases (61 percent), poverty and impoverishment (36) and corruption and bribery (33 percent) ([Levada 8/19-8/26](#)).

In Great Britain, where 95 percent of adults are vaccinated, 91 percent say they'd be likely to get a booster vaccine if offered one. Six in 10 adults with a child age 12 to 15 in their home say the child likely would get a vaccine. About eight in 10 adults report wearing face coverings outside the home in the past seven days; fewer, four in 10, say they always or often maintain social distancing. As the country faces [shortages](#), 37 percent say they've been unable to buy fuel, 21 percent have noticed differences while buying medicine or filling prescriptions and 16 percent

were unable to buy essential food items because they were unavailable. Forty-seven percent have been able to find everything they needed, down 10 points in two weeks ([Office for National Statistics 10/6-10/17](#)).

In Mexico, eight in 10 are vaccinated, 10 percent want a shot as soon as possible, 5 percent want to wait and see and just 6 percent say they won't get vaccinated. For the first time since May 2020, more feel the country should return to normal than think restrictions should continue, 53-46 percent, a reversal from last month. Sixteen percent see the pandemic as the country's main problem, down 11 points from August. Despite these shifts, the number who say they wear face masks in public at all times has risen 11 points since August, to 64 percent.

As the country begins to look toward normality, 42 percent say the death toll of 280,000 is too high and that something was done wrong to get to that point. A third say this number is to be expected in a pandemic, while 21 percent say the number is low and could've been far worse. Eight in 10 know someone who caught the coronavirus, and 67 percent know someone who died; 46 and 25 percent, respectively, say that person was a family member ([El Financiero 10/15-10/16](#)).

In a July poll, just 12 percent of Ukrainian adults were vaccinated and 63 percent said they would not get a shot if it were available to them. Just 37 percent overall were vaccinated or willing to be, down seven points from October 2020. The July results were gathered before a recent [surge](#) that has overwhelmed the country's healthcare system ([Gallup 7/7-7/19](#)).

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

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