



COVID-19 Survey Summary: November 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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Nearly two-thirds of parents oppose vaccine requirements for children age 5-11 and more than half of children in this age group themselves say they're unlikely to get vaccinated or are uncertain about it. Vaccine acceptance is higher among older children, at almost seven in 10.

Other pandemic-related polls this week find Americans continuing gradually to resume everyday activities, with worries and risk perceptions subsiding since September. Still, concerns remain elevated compared with before the Delta surge.

About six in 10 continue to support the federal vaccine/testing requirement for larger employers, while support for employer vaccine mandates has eased somewhat among employed adults. Other new results check the spread of coronavirus misinformation, delve into teenagers' perceptions of the pandemic's influence on their lives, measure crime fears in the pandemic and look at the effect of the vaccine rollout on severe coronavirus outcomes among older adults.

International results from Chile, Germany, Great Britain, the Philippines and Ukraine also are included in this week's summary.

Vaccines

In a survey conducted among children and teens, 57 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds say they've received a coronavirus vaccine and 11 percent say they'd be likely to get one if it were up to them, leaving 27 percent saying they would not be likely to get a shot.

Among children 5-11, in interviews before the CDC's Nov. 2 approval of the Pfizer vaccine for this age group, 39 percent said they would be very or somewhat likely to get the vaccine, 32 percent unlikely. Twenty-three percent were unsure and 5 percent said they already had received a shot. (Parents were asked to administer the survey to the child.)

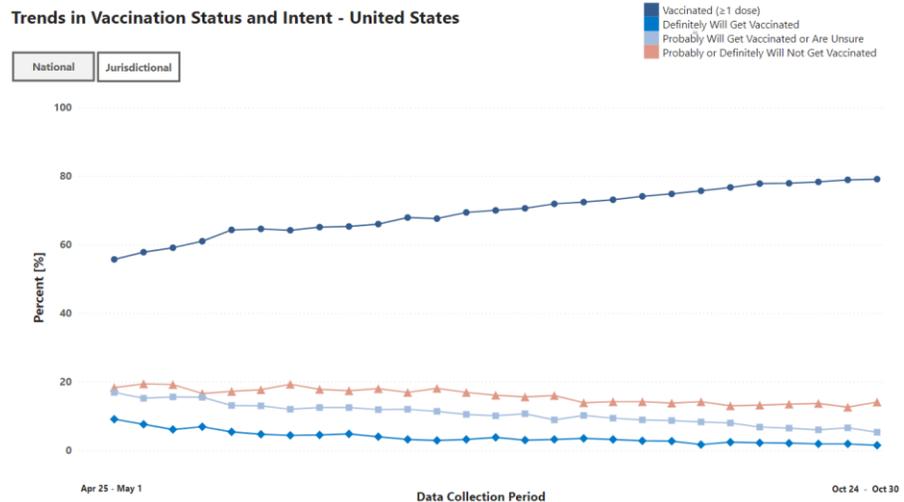
Among unvaccinated 12- to 17-year-olds who were less than very likely to get vaccinated, 45 percent cited a lack of sufficient testing, about a quarter apiece said their parents didn't want

them to get a shot or they had concerns about its safety and 18 percent said it was because the coronavirus doesn't seriously harm children. Among vaccine-hesitant children age 5-11, about a quarter each cited concerns that the vaccine hasn't been tested enough and lack of approval from their parents ([FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 10/25-11/2](#)).

As for adults, the [CDC](#) says 81 percent have received at least one dose, up 1 percentage point the past week. Fourteen percent of fully vaccinated adults have received a booster, up 3 points, including 32 percent of these age 65 and older, up 4 points.

Eighty percent of adults in one poll and 79 percent in another say they've received at least one vaccine dose. Thirteen or 14 percent rule it out – a new low in one survey, the same as in August in another ([Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#), [CDC 10/24-10/30](#)).

Fewer adults, 73 percent, report being vaccinated in a third poll, with one in five unlikely, largely steady since early August ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).



Concerns & Outlooks

As with polls covered in [late October](#), the economy now surpasses the coronavirus in ratings of the most important issue facing the country, 36 vs. 20 percent. Both exceed other issues listed in the survey, such as immigration (14 percent), climate change (11 percent) and national security (8 percent). ([CNN 11/1-11/4](#))

Forty-four percent are very or moderately concerned about the coronavirus in general, down from 51 percent in mid-August but still higher than before the Delta surge, 30 percent in early to mid-June ([CDC 10/24-10/30](#)). More, 61 percent, are very or somewhat concerned about a family member becoming seriously ill, down from 69 percent in mid-September, though still 19 points higher than in June ([Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)).

Risk perceptions follow a similar trajectory. Forty-four percent think returning to their normal pre-coronavirus life poses a large or moderate risk to their health and well-being, down from 60 percent in late August, albeit still 16 points higher than in late June.

On specific activities:

- Fifty-eight percent think traveling on an airplane or mass transit is at least moderately risky, down 14 points since late August and near its level in late June, 54 percent.
- Thirty-nine percent see dining at a restaurant as risky, down from 53 percent in late August; it was 31 percent in late June.
- About as many, 38 percent, think it's a large or moderate risk to visit friends and family in person, down from 53 percent in mid-September. It hit a low of 28 percent in late June.
- Thirty-six percent think going to retail stores is risky, down from 48 percent in late August, but still higher than in early June, 26 percent.

Half of Americans think their risk of contracting the virus is lower now than it was in April 2020, up from just 9 percent in December. Forty-three percent say it's about the same; just 6 percent think they're at a greater risk of infection, down from 35 percent in December.

Naturally, responses vary by vaccination status: Fifty-eight percent of vaccinated adults consider themselves to be at a lower risk of infection, vs. 31 percent of unvaccinated people. Most unvaccinated people, 59 percent, think they have the same risk as early in the pandemic.

Looking ahead, 62 percent think it will take six months or more before they're able to return to their normal pre-COVID life, if ever; that's eased from 70 percent two weeks ago. Just 4 percent expect to return to normality within the next three months, 8 percent within the next six months. Twenty-three percent say they've already done so ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).

Daily Life

As concerns have declined, so has mask use, albeit to a lesser extent. Sixty-six percent say they wear a mask at least some of the time when leaving their home, down 5 points from its peak in mid-September but still up from 52 percent in mid-July.

Other gauges show more Americans gradually resuming some activities. Sixty-two percent say they've visited a retail store in the past week, up 5 points since mid-September to nearly match its pandemic high in late June. Sixty percent have gone out to eat, up 9 points since mid-September and just 5 points below its late June peak. Forty-four percent are staying home and avoiding human contact as much as possible, down 6 points since mid-September.

Among other activities, six in 10 have visited friends and family in the past week, largely steady since early August and 8 points off its high in late June ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).

Community & Government Response

Americans give broadly positive ratings to their community's response to the pandemic. Eight in 10 say businesses in their area have done a good job balancing health and safety with other priorities; about seven in 10 say the same for people in their community (72 percent), their local schools (71 percent) and their local government (68 percent). Sixty-three percent say their state's

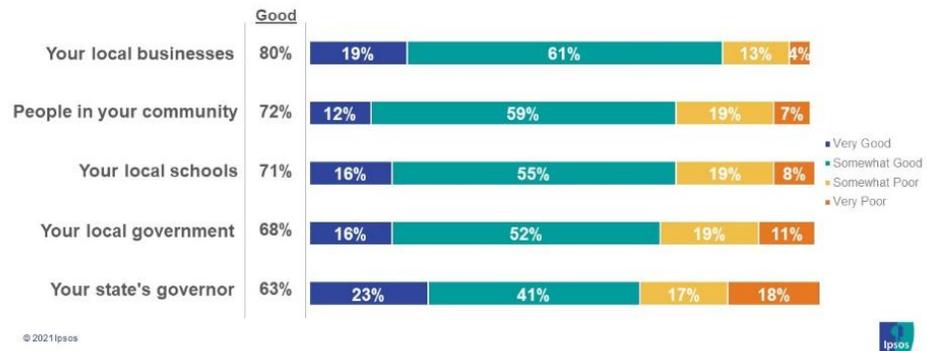
governor has done a good job balancing public safety with other priorities. That said, relatively few (12 to 23 percent) say each of these has done a very good job ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).

A smaller majority, 53 percent, says Joe Biden has done a good job dealing with the pandemic, steady since July but down from a peak of 62 percent in April; 41 percent say he’s done a bad job ([Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)).

Americans find priorities were generally balanced well locally

However, these sentiments are not strong, with fewer saying these institutions have done a very good job

How Americans believe each of the following has done in balancing their health and safety with other priorities across the entire COVID-19 pandemic...



Overall, 74 percent are at least somewhat concerned about the government’s response to the coronavirus outbreak, unchanged in the past two weeks. Fewer than half are confident the Biden administration can ensure the economy recovers quickly after the pandemic; just 21 percent think it can convince vaccine skeptics to get vaccinated.

Vaccine distribution is a bright spot for the administration. Two-thirds are very or somewhat confident in its ability to distribute vaccines quickly and 61 percent are confident in its ability to distribute vaccines specifically to children age 5-11 ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).

In another study, 51 percent think the U.S. government is doing enough to help provide vaccines to other countries; 29 percent don’t think so and 18 percent are unsure. Sixty-two percent say the United States should take a major role in this effort. This increases, to 71 to 75 percent, given arguments in favor – that providing vaccines to other countries would not reduce the U.S. supply, would help achieve herd immunity and would reduce the risk of new variants ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

Vaccine Mandates

Sixty-four percent in one poll and 61 percent in another support vaccine mandates for health care workers, each largely steady ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#), [Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)). About six in 10 (58 percent) also continue to support the federal rule that larger businesses require all staff to be vaccinated or undergo regular testing ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).

Workers narrowly support their own employer instituting a vaccine mandate, down a slight 7 points in two weeks to 53 percent ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).

In another poll, 51 percent of adults overall support vaccine requirements to work in an office setting, unchanged since September. Among other proposed requirements, 57 percent continue to support vaccine requirements to fly on a plane, unchanged in the past two months. Fewer, 39 percent, support vaccine requirements to dine in a restaurant, down 7 points since September ([Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)).

K-12 Education

Forty-four percent of parents of school-age children think it’s a large or moderate risk to send their child to school. That includes 10 percent who see it as a large risk, down 9 points since late September and far below its peak, 43 percent in July 2020 ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)).

Among children themselves, 83 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds and 91 percent of those age 5-11 say their teachers and school administrators are doing a good job keeping them safe from COVID-19. Eight in 10 say their teachers and administrators wear masks at least some of the time. That includes 58 percent of children age 5-11 and 53 percent of those age 12-17 who report that their teachers and administrators always wear masks. There’s substantial regional variation: Seventy-nine percent of 12- to 17-year-olds in the Northeast say their teachers always wear masks, vs. 60 percent in the West and fewer than half in the South or Midwest

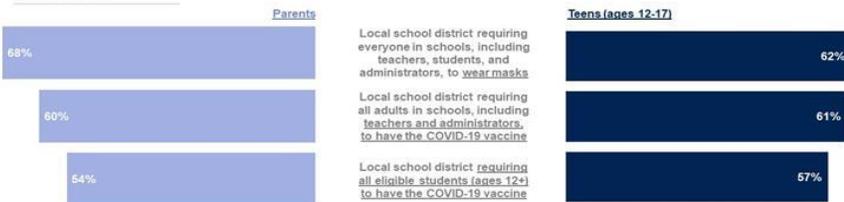
Mask wearing is less prevalent among students. While 71 percent of those age 12-17 say their classmates wear masks at least sometimes, just 34 percent say they do so all the time. Results are largely similar among children age 5-11.

Sixty-two percent of teenagers support their local school district requiring everyone in schools to wear masks; 68 percent of parents of children younger than 17 say the same ([FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 10/25-11/2](#)). Among all adults, 61 percent support requiring students, teachers and staff to wear masks in schools, down a slight 5 points since September ([Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)).

Parents and teens aligned on views towards COVID requirements in schools

Teens (ages 12-17) generally support mask and vaccine requirements in schools as do their parents

Percent of parents and teens that support...



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One poll finds that six in 10 teenagers and parents alike support their school district requiring all adults in schools to be vaccinated. Another finds lower support among parents for vaccine mandates specifically for teachers, 52 percent. It’s 59 percent among adults overall, steady since September ([FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 10/25-11/2](#), [Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)).

While 57 percent of teenagers and 54 percent of parents support requiring vaccinations for eligible students age 12 and older in one poll, support for this is lower among parents in another, 40 percent. (It's 53 percent among all adults, not just parents.) ([FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 10/25-11/2](#), [Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)). Thirty-four percent of parents and 44 percent of adults overall support requiring vaccines for newly eligible students age 5-11 ([Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)).

Pandemic Impacts Among Children

Four in 10 parents of school-age children say the pandemic has negatively impacted their children's education, surpassing the share who say it's had a mixed positive and negative effect (34 percent) or a strictly positive impact (4 percent). The rest, 22 percent, say it's had no effect. Parents answer similarly when asked about their children's emotional or mental well-being.

Twelve- to 17-year-olds' assessments of the pandemic's influence on their life are far more positive. They are more apt to say the pandemic has improved rather than worsened their relationship with their parents (30 vs. 7 percent), their "home and home-life" (27 vs. 9 percent) and their physical health (27 vs. 15 percent). (Majorities in each case say there's been no change.) More than nine in 10 describe each of these aspects of their life as good.

About as many say their "friends and social life" have gotten better since the start of the pandemic (27 percent) as worse (29 percent), with 43 percent reporting no change. Eighty-nine percent describe their friends and social life as good. Results are similar for feeling connected with others and not lonely.

Twenty-four percent in this age group say their mental health has gotten worse since March 2020; 20 percent say it's gotten better and 54 percent say there's been no change. Nine in 10 describe their mental health as very or somewhat good.

Some concerns are moderately higher compared with recalled pre-pandemic levels. Twenty-five percent of children age 12-17 are very or somewhat concerned about their ability to do well in school, compared with 17 percent who say this was the case before the pandemic. Twenty percent are concerned about their safety outside the home, vs. 12 percent who recall being concerned about this before March 2020. Eighteen percent are worried about their mental health, vs. 9 percent who say this was so in pre-coronavirus times; and 17 percent are concerned about their friend group, vs. 10 percent in recall ([FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 10/25-11/2](#)).

Information sources

No single media source is relied upon and trusted for coronavirus information by a majority of Americans. Forty-seven percent place a great deal or fair amount of trust in their local TV news station and 45 percent say the same for network news such as ABC, CBS and NBC. Fewer, 29 to 36 percent, rely on and place at least a fair amount of trust in CNN, MSNBC, NPR or Fox News. Thirteen percent apiece trust One America News, Newsmax and YouTube for coronavirus information. Confidence and use of social media sites is in the single digits ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).

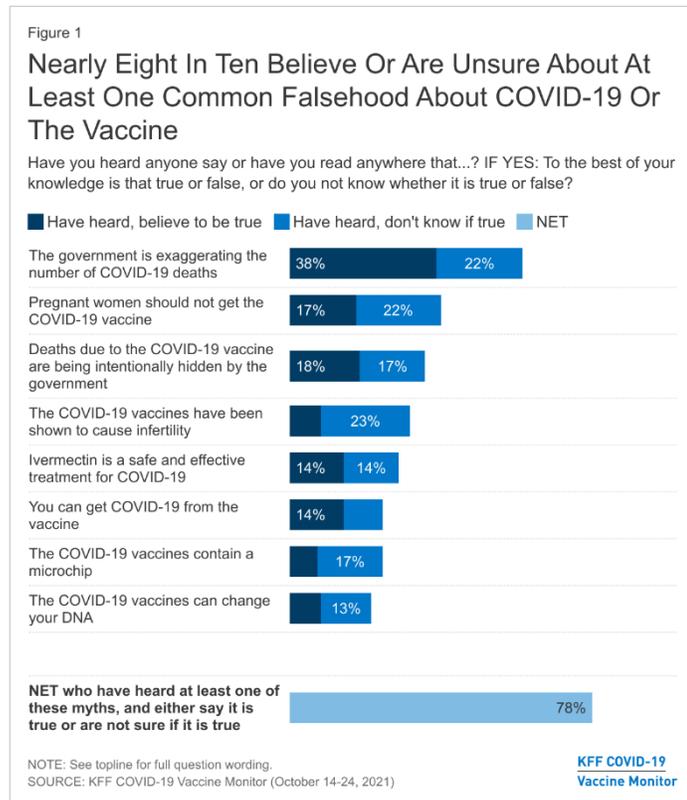
Media and Misinformation

Seventy-eight percent of adults have heard at least one of eight pieces of misinformation about the pandemic and either say it's true or express uncertainty. Fewer say any one is true: At the most, 38 percent have heard and think it's true that the government is exaggerating the number of COVID-19 deaths.

Many fewer, 18 percent, have heard and think it's true that deaths due to coronavirus vaccines are being hidden by the government. Seventeen percent have heard and think it's true that pregnant women should not get vaccinated. Fourteen percent have heard and think it's true that Ivermectin is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19. As many have heard and think it's true that someone can contract the coronavirus from a vaccine.

Seven or 8 percent have heard and think it's true that COVID-19 vaccines contain a microchip; that vaccines have been shown to cause infertility; or that the vaccines can change someone's DNA.

Republicans, rural residents, those without a college degree and those who trust Newsmax, One America News or Fox News for coronavirus information are more apt than others to have heard and express openness to these statements ([KFF 10/14-10/24](#)).



Crime Perceptions

An early October survey finds that Americans' concerns about falling victim to some crimes has rebounded after falling in 2020, with 8- or 9-point increases in those who report being frequently or occasionally worried about having their car stolen or broken into (43 percent), having their home burglarized while they're not there (also 43 percent), getting mugged (33 percent) or having their home burglarized while they are present (28 percent). Worry about being murdered or victimized by terrorism are up 5 points each, to 22 and 30 percent. Each now essentially matches its 2019 level ([Gallup 10/1-10/19](#)).

Twenty-three percent say they or a member of their household has been a victim of a crime in the past year, compared with 20 percent in 2020. It nearly matches its 2019 level, 24 percent ([Gallup 10/1-10/19](#)).

Long COVID

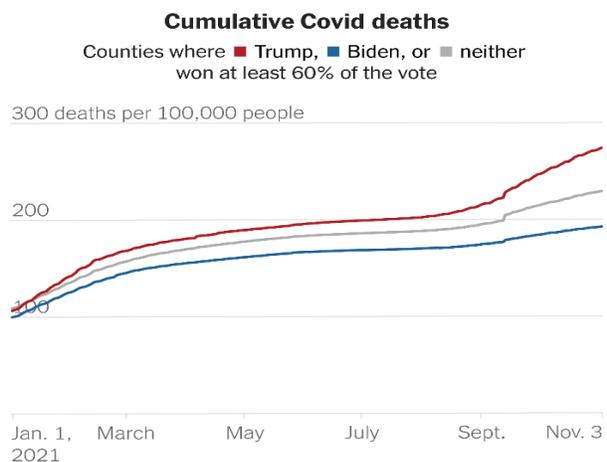
Seventeen percent of adults say they've tested positive for COVID-19 and 16 percent think they had it but never tested positive. Among them, 60 percent experienced symptoms that lasted two weeks or fewer, 15 percent three to four weeks and 14 percent longer than that – including 4 percent who experienced symptoms three to six months after infection and another 4 percent for more than six months ([Axios-Ipsos 11/5-11/8](#)). (Symptoms that last for four or more weeks after infection are considered “post-COVID conditions” by the [CDC](#).)

Vaccine Efficacy

A newly released study finds that in the early months of the vaccine rollout, rates of COVID-19 cases, emergency department visits and hospital admissions declined faster among older adults than among the middle-aged. In the pre-vaccine period, the incidence of each was higher among older adults. In the early months of the rollout, the gap in the incidence of COVID-19 cases between those age 75 and older and those 50-64 shrank by 62 percent; for those age 65 to 74, by 53 percent. For emergency department visits, those gaps shrank by 77 percent and 61 percent. On hospital admissions, the incidence gap between those 80 and older and those in their fifties shrank by 68 percent; those in their seventies, by 60 percent; and those in their sixties, by 39 percent. The authors analyzed data from 31 states from November 2020 to April 2021 ([McNamara et al., 2021](#)).

Coronavirus deaths

The October death rate in counties that voted heavily for Donald Trump was more than three times the rate in counties that voted broadly for Joe Biden (25 vs. 7.8 per 100,000). The disproportionate death toll in Trump counties emerged at the onset of the vaccine rollout, with the gap widening last month ([New York Times 11/8](#)).



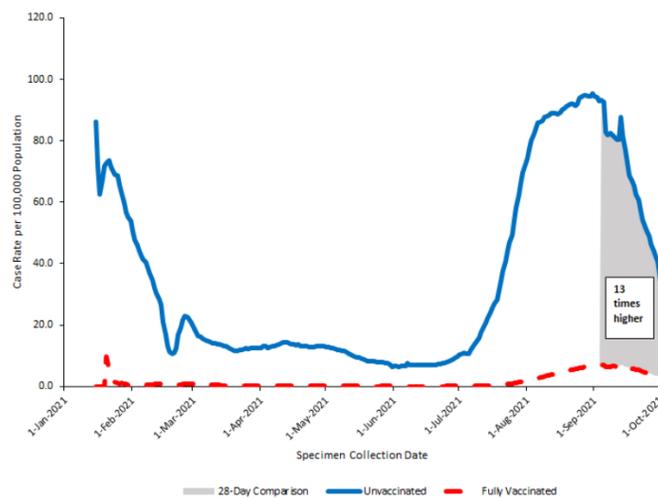
State Results

In California, 45 percent of adults say their work life has been disrupted by the pandemic in recent months, including 19 percent who say it's been disrupted a lot. Among employed Californians, 85 percent think their employer cares about their health and safety at work as it relates to the coronavirus.

Sixty-one percent of employed adults in the state are working outside the home, 15 percent work a hybrid model and 22 percent are fully remote. Seventy-three percent of those working remotely at least some of the time say they started doing so because of the pandemic. Looking ahead, a plurality would prefer to work outside their home (42 percent), though substantial shares prefer a hybrid model (33 percent) or fully remote work (24 percent). ([PPIC 10/12-10/31](#))

A report from the Texas Department of State Health Services finds that from Sept. 4 through Oct. 1, unvaccinated people in the state were 13 times more likely to become infected with the coronavirus than fully vaccinated people and 20 times more likely to die from the virus. Vaccination was effective at preventing infections and deaths across age groups, including adolescents age 12-17 ([Texas Department of State Health Services 11/8](#)).

Graph 1: Overall crude case rate (daily 7-day moving average) by vaccination status, January 15, 2021 to October 1, 2021



International Results

Half of Chileans are very or somewhat worried about the coronavirus, down 2 points in the past week after a sharp 12-point rise at the end of October. Cases have been [rising](#) since early September, but with a slight dip last week. While just 16 percent approve of President Sebastian Pinera overall, 63 percent approve of his handling of the pandemic ([Cadem 11/2-11/4](#)).

In Germany, where cases also have been [rising](#), a quarter of voters are concerned about catching the coronavirus themselves, 57 percent are worried about unvaccinated children getting sick and 58 percent are worried about the health care system reaching its limits. Three-quarters say they're vaccinated and 57 percent say they'd support a vaccine mandate for all eligible people, up 11 points since August.

The number who feel existing coronavirus restrictions are not enough has doubled since the beginning of October, to 29 percent. Forty-six percent say current restrictions are appropriate, while 57 percent worry that the rise in cases will bring about increased restrictions ([Infratest Dimap 11/2-11/3](#)).

In Great Britain, 95 percent have gotten at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Among those who have received two doses, 92 percent say they would be very or fairly likely to get a booster if offered. Among those with a child age 12-15 at home, 28 percent say their child has been vaccinated and another 50 percent say it's very or fairly likely their child age 12-15 will be vaccinated. Most, 83 percent, say they wear a face covering when outside their home, relatively steady.

Shortages continue, though with some improvement in the past two weeks. Eighteen percent say they were unable to buy fuel because it wasn't available, down from 37 percent; 57 percent say everything they needed was available, up 10 points. Seventeen percent couldn't find essential food items, steady ([Office for National Statistics, 10/20-10/31](#)).

In Ukraine, which hit a [record](#) for coronavirus deaths in a single day Nov. 6, just a third of adults say they are vaccinated, peaking among older adults, those who live in regional centers and those in the central region. Among the unvaccinated, two in 10 say they don't trust the vaccines, 15 percent apiece believe the vaccines are experimental or say that they're unable to receive a shot because of a medical condition and 14 percent say they don't have enough information on the vaccines ([R&B Group 10/14-10/25](#)).

A late September poll in the Philippines found 64 percent of adults willing to get vaccinated. Among them, a quarter had gotten two shots and one in 10 had gotten one dose. Nineteen percent were unsure, 18 percent unwilling to get vaccinated. Willingness was up 9 points from June and nearly doubled from May. It was highest among college graduates, 83 percent, declining with less education to a low of 37 percent of non-elementary school graduates ([SWS 9/27-9/30](#)).

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

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