



## COVID-19 Survey Summary: February 4, 2022

*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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New polling underscores the extent of pandemic fatigue in the United States, with seven in 10 Americans agreeing it's time to accept that the coronavirus is here to stay and nearly three in 10 doubting the country ever will get the outbreak under control and return to normal, up sharply in the past year.

While surveys indicate that vaccine uptake among adults has hardly budged in the past few months, vaccinations have risen among children, with fewer parents preferring to wait and see. That said, few parents say the Omicron variant makes them likelier to get their child vaccinated, and as the FDA assesses vaccines for children younger than five, only a third of parents say they'll get their child that age vaccinated right away once eligible.

In education impacts, four in 10 parents report having a coronavirus-related school disruption since the beginning of January, with Black or Hispanic parents four times as likely as white parents to say they kept their child home from school because of the risks. Most parents say their child's school did not provide them with coronavirus tests before returning to school.

In employment terms, while the economy added 467,000 jobs, the number of people unable to work at some point in the previous month because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic doubled in January, to six million. Teleworking increased, to more than one in seven employed people, and job searches by the unemployed were curtailed.

Surveys released this week also find a rise in opposition to employer-led vaccine mandates and continued declines in positive assessments of federal health agencies and Joe Biden's handling of the outbreak. Other new studies investigate shifts in employee engagement, pandemic attitudes among college students, the effect of a campaign to promote vaccine uptake at nursing homes and differing coronavirus outcomes among countries.

State results from California, Florida, Texas and Rhode Island are included this week, as are international polls from Canada, Chile, Greece, the Philippines and South Korea.

[Concerns & Outlooks](#)

The Omicron surge is abating, with average new daily cases in the past week down by more than 50 percent from their peak in mid-January. Deaths, a lagging indicator, continue to rise, averaging [2,400](#) in the past week, a high since last winter's Delta surge.

In an [agree/disagree](#) question, seven in 10 Americans agree "it's time we accept that COVID is here to stay and we just need to get on with our lives." Nine in 10 Republicans and conservatives agree, compared with about seven in 10 independents and moderates, 47 percent of Democrats and 44 percent of liberals ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#)). One factor: Sixty-four percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents think the coronavirus has been made a bigger deal than it really is, compared with 16 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents ([Pew 1/10-1/17](#)).

A growing proportion is pessimistic: Twenty-eight percent think the country will never get the outbreak under control and return to normal, up from 22 percent in September and 6 percent a year ago. Just 34 percent think the country will return to normality by the end of the year, down from nearly seven in 10 in January 2021 ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#)).

Fifty-seven percent do not think the United States has controlled the outbreak as much as it could ([Pew 1/10-1/17](#)). Negativity is apparent in other areas. Just 17 percent are satisfied with the way things are going in the United States, up 6 percentage points since 2021 but still far below its pre-pandemic level in early 2020, 41 percent ([Gallup 1/3-1/16](#)). Satisfaction with items such as quality of life, opportunities to get ahead and the moral/ethical climate also remain subdued after falling during the pandemic ([Gallup 1/3-1/16](#)).

Half of adults are at least somewhat concerned about catching one of the new coronavirus variants, including 23 percent very concerned, the latter up 9 points since December. Just more than six in 10 are very (38 percent) or somewhat (24 percent) concerned about a family member becoming seriously sick from the virus, with high-level concern similarly up 8 points. That said, worry was higher both during the height of the Delta wave and before vaccines were widely available ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#)). Other January [surveys](#) have had similar results.

Among parents, half are very (25 percent) or somewhat (25 percent) worried that their child will become seriously sick from the coronavirus, similar to October ([KFF 1/11-1/23](#)).

### Vaccines

The only poll to estimate uptake this week finds 77 percent of adults at least partially vaccinated, in line with survey estimates [last week](#) and largely steady since September. (The CDC's estimate remains far higher than survey results, [87 percent](#).) An additional 1 percent say they'll get a shot as soon as possible and 3 percent say they'll "see how it goes," the latter down gradually from 21 percent in March to a new low.

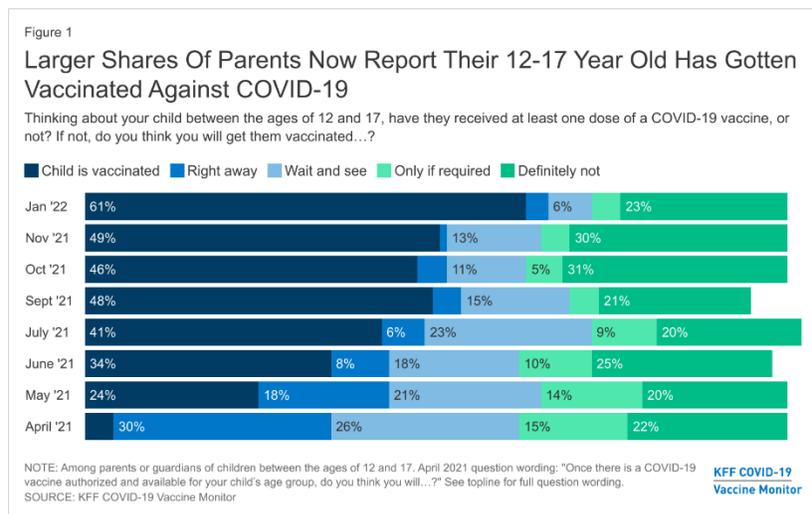
Nearly two in 10 Americans remain outright resistant: Seventeen percent say they likely never will get vaccinated – up slightly from a low of 13 percent in November to match its level in July.

Booster uptake has risen sharply. Forty-five percent of all adults say they've gotten a booster (corresponding to about six in 10 vaccinated adults), up from 24 percent in December and 10 percent in November. An additional 18 percent of adults overall (or about a quarter of vaccinated adults) say they're likely to get a booster shot ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#)). The CDC reports much lower booster uptake among fully vaccinated adults, [45 percent](#); it's reported challenges differentiating between initial shots and boosters in its vaccine uptake estimates.

### Child Vaccinations

While uptake among all adults has held largely steady in the past few months, vaccinations among children age 5-17 have risen.

Sixty-one percent of parents of 12- to 17-year-olds say their child has been vaccinated, up from 49 percent in November; an additional 3 percent plan to act right away. Six percent prefer to wait and see, down from about a quarter last summer to a new low. Still, more than a quarter say they definitely will not get their child vaccinated (23 percent) or will only do so if required (4 percent).



The CDC expanded booster eligibility for adolescents age 12-17 on [Jan. 5](#). Twenty-one percent of parents with a child in this age group say they have received a booster shot. An additional two-thirds say their child definitely (41 percent) or probably (24 percent) will do so.

Uptake is lower among children age 5-11, with 33 percent of parents saying their child this age has received at least one dose, but that's double the share in November. Thirteen percent say they'll get their child vaccinated right away; 19 percent prefer to wait and see, down from 32 percent in November. A third say they definitely will not have their child vaccinated (24 percent) or will only do so if required (9 percent).

These uptake results largely align with official estimates. According to [CDC data](#), 66 percent of children age 12-17 have received at least one dose, as have 31 percent of children age 5-11.

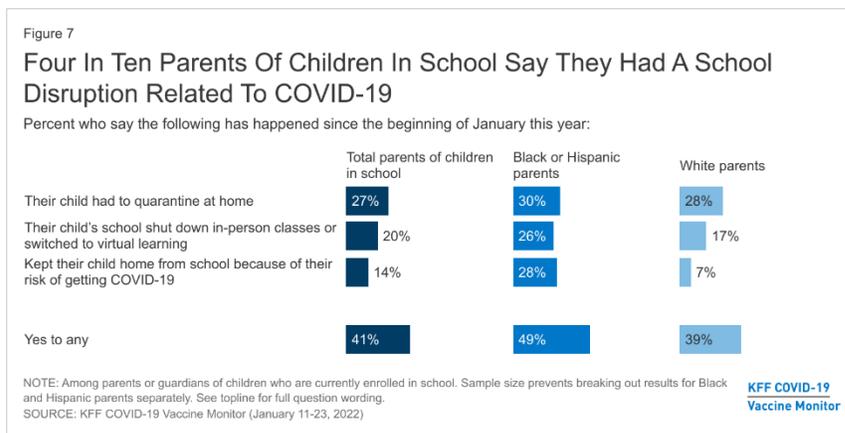
The Omicron variant seems unlikely to sway many more parents. Just 14 percent of parents with unvaccinated children age 5-17 say the new variant makes them more likely get their child vaccinated. Eight in 10 say it doesn't make a difference.

Pfizer [recently](#) asked for authorization of its two-dose vaccine for children under five. Once authorized, 31 percent of parents with children in this age group say they'll have their child

vaccinated right away, up from two in 10 in July. Twenty-nine percent prefer to wait and see, while nearly four in 10 lean against it ([KFF 1/11-1/23](#)).

### K-12 Education

Since returning to school in January, 27 percent of parents say their child has had to quarantine at home and one in five says their child’s school shut down in-person classes or switched to virtual learning. (A similar share said their child’s school or childcare center closed in a survey [last week](#).)



Fourteen percent say they’ve kept their child home from school since the beginning of January because of coronavirus risks, with Black or Hispanic parents four times as likely as white parents to report doing this, 28 vs. 7 percent. Black and Hispanic parents are considerably more apt to say they are very worried about their child becoming seriously sick from the virus, 49 vs. 12 percent.

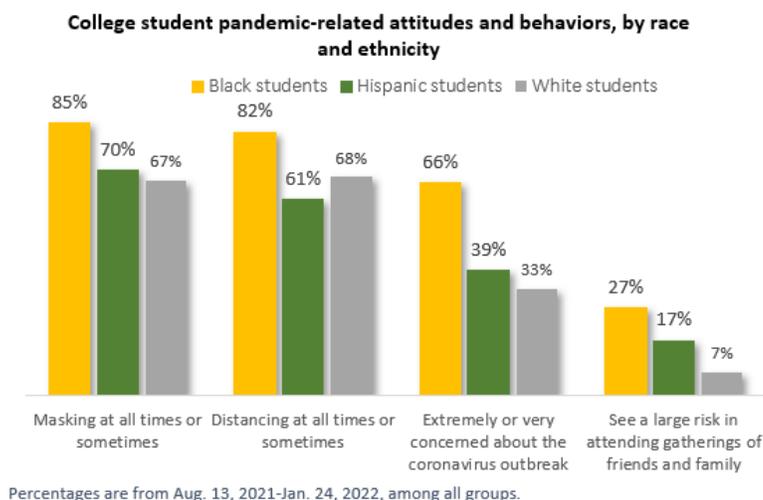
Four in 10 parents overall report having experienced at least one of these schooling disruptions – quarantining, a school closure or keeping their child home for fear of infection – since the start of the year ([KFF 1/11-1/23](#)).

### College Students

A newly released report analyzes vaccine attitudes and uptake among college students before and after the Omicron surge, finding that concern about the virus, mask wearing and social distancing remained essentially unchanged over this time, while up significantly among adults not affiliated with the college community.

One in seven college students is “not at all likely” to get vaccinated, while resistance has edged down among unaffiliated adults, from 16 percent in November to 12 percent in January.

The analysis also found a sharp drop among college students in trust in federal and state leaders to provide accurate information about the coronavirus. Trust in Biden, for example, fell 19 points among from



November to January, from 57 to 38 percent.

Analysis of data from August 2021 to January 2022 finds Black college students more apt than white and Hispanic students to report wearing a mask all or sometimes and to practice social distancing when leaving the home. Sixty-six percent of Black students were extremely or very concerned about the coronavirus during this period, compared with 39 percent of Hispanic students and 33 percent of white students. Vaccine uptake over this time lagged among Black students while uptake intention did not, suggesting either barriers to vaccination or greater reluctance to act ([ACHA 1/28](#)).

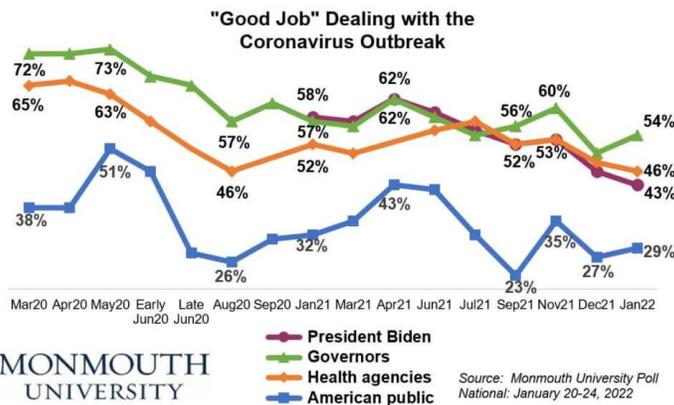
### Testing

Sixty-three percent of parents of school-age children say their child’s school did not provide coronavirus tests for students to take in person or at home before returning to school in January. Thirty-nine percent of parents tried to purchase an at-home test kit in the previous month, compared with 24 percent of adults without children. Sixty-four percent of parents who tried to buy a kit said it was difficult to do so. Midway through the field period, the Biden administration launched a [website](#) and toll-free phone line allowing people to order free at-home test kits ([KFF 1/11-1/23](#)).

Four in 10 Americans think they’ve had the coronavirus; 27 percent say this was confirmed with a positive test ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#)). Twenty-three percent in one poll last week, and 18 percent in another, reported a positive test at some point ([KFF 1/11-1/23](#), [Axios-Ipsos 1/21-1/24](#)).

### Coronavirus Response

One poll finds a 43-53 percent split in whether Biden has done a good or bad job handling the pandemic. Another finds 50-49 percent approve-disapprove. Positive ratings in both are at lows ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#), [ABC/Ipsos 1/28-1/29](#)).



Positive assessments of “federal health agencies” also have

slipped, with the share saying they’ve done a good job down 7 points since November to 46 percent. Assessments of state governors remain above water, 54-41 percent good-bad, a slight improvement from 50-41 percent in December. Few, 29 percent, think the American public has done a good job handling the virus; 58 percent think it’s done badly, steady since December.

Fifty-three percent oppose requiring people to show proof of vaccination in order to go to work in an office or setting around other people, up from 45 percent in September to a new high. (The U.S. Supreme Court [Jan. 13](#) blocked the Biden administration from enforcing a vaccine/testing mandate for large employers.)

Fifty-two percent support instituting or reinstating face mask and social distancing guidelines in their state, essentially unchanged from December but down from 63 percent in September, when the Delta variant was spreading ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#)).

### Employment

Job growth in January was strong despite the Omicron surge, with an estimated 467,000 jobs added, according to preliminary data. Growth continued in public-facing sectors including leisure and hospitality and retail trade, as well as others. The unemployment rate held essentially steady at 4 percent.

That's not to say Omicron didn't have an impact. The share of employed people who teleworked because of the pandemic increased from 11.1 percent in December to 15.4 percent in January. Six million people in January reported that they did not work or worked fewer hours at some point in the previous four weeks because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic, vs. 3.1 million in December. Among those not in the labor force in January, 1.8 million were prevented from looking for work because of to the pandemic, up from 1.1 million the previous month ([BLS 2/4](#)).

Thirty-four percent of employees were engaged at work in 2021, down 2 points after a decade of gradual growth. That included a 12-point drop among healthcare and social assistance workers, who showed the greatest declines in feeling that someone at work cares about them, someone encourages their development, they have an opportunity to do what they do best, they have clear expectations, they have the materials and equipment they need to do their job right and their opinions count at work ([Gallup 2021](#)).

### Nursing Facilities

A study finds no significant difference in vaccine uptake at skilled nursing facilities on the basis of participation in a three-month campaign to encourage uptake. Interventions included educational material and electronic messaging, town hall meetings, messaging from community leaders, gifts (e.g. shirts) with socially concerned messaging, use of a specialist to facilitate consent and funding for additional coronavirus testing. Eighty-three percent of residents and 50 percent of staff were vaccinated in facilities with these measures by the end of March 2021; it was a similar 80 percent and 48 percent at those without. The study included 133 skilled nursing facilities in four healthcare systems across 16 states ([Berry et al., 2022](#)).

Currently, it's estimated that nine in 10 residents and 88 percent of staff at nursing homes have been at least partially vaccinated ([CDC](#)). The Supreme Court recently [upheld](#) the Biden administration's vaccine mandate for health care workers at medical facilities that take Medicare or Medicaid payments.

### State Results

In Florida, 52 percent of likely voters support the state's ban on vaccine requirements, with 40 percent opposed. More say that the state's coronavirus policies have helped rather than hurt the Florida economy, 49-38 percent. At the same time, fewer than half, 46 percent, say Gov. Ron DeSantis has done an excellent or good job handling the pandemic. About as many, 45 percent, approve of Biden's handling of the pandemic ([Suffolk/USA Today 1/26-1/29](#)).

In California, 67 percent think the worst of the coronavirus outbreak is over in the United States, down from 86 percent last May. Four in 10 are at least somewhat concerned about getting the virus and needing hospitalization, up from 28 percent in May. The coronavirus is named as the top issue for Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature to work on this year, cited by 19 percent in an open-ended question. A steady 59 percent approve of Newsom's handling of the pandemic and 73 percent favor the COVID-19 Emergency Response Package that is part of his budget.

Eighty-two percent of California adults say they've been vaccinated, including 90 percent of Asians and about eight in 10 Latino, white and Black people alike. Sixty-one percent of vaccinated adults say they've gotten a booster, including 76 percent of Asians and 71 percent of whites, vs. 47 and 45 percent of Black and Latino people ([PPIC 1/16-1/25](#)).

In Rhode Island, 69 percent of parents with public school children are very or somewhat concerned their child has fallen behind because of coronavirus-related disruptions. Nearly as many fear their child would fall behind if the state resumed virtual learning. Seventy-seven percent are satisfied with the precautionary measures their child's school has taken and 78 percent support students wearing masks in school. Sixty-four percent are very or somewhat concerned about their child getting exposed to the virus at school, but more oppose than support vaccine mandates for students age five and older, 52-39 percent ([Hassenfeld Institute 1/9-1/12](#)).

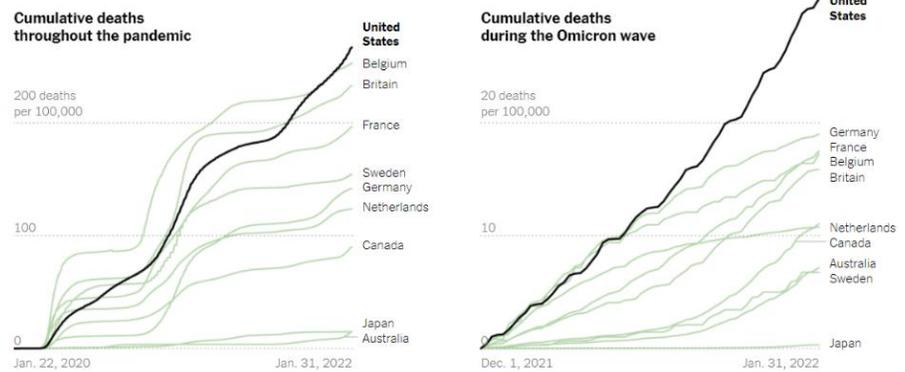
In a late September to early October poll, 23 percent of Texans said the pandemic was one of the biggest problems facing the public schools in the state, the top-cited problem in an open-ended question. Eighty-four percent saw pandemic-related health concerns as a major challenge for teachers; half called this a major challenge. Seventy-one percent supported their community's public schools offering fully remote instruction for students who want it in the long term.

Public school parents in the state were just as apt to say the pandemic has had a positive (35 percent) rather than negative (35 percent) effect on their child's educational progress, with about three in 10 seeing no impact. Parents divided similarly in terms of perceived impacts on their child's emotional health and well-being and relationships with other students.

Fifty-eight percent said the pandemic had a positive impact on their child's technology skills, vs. 11 percent negative. More parents also said the pandemic had a positive rather than negative impact on their own knowledge of their child's educational progress (39 vs. 25 percent) and in their communication with their child's teachers (38 vs. 24 percent) ([Charles Butt Foundation 9/24-10/4](#)).

### Cross-country Comparisons

A new analysis finds that the cumulative per capita death rate in the United States is higher than in other high-income countries, particularly during the Omicron wave. Among factors, vaccination and booster uptake in the United States lags other high-income countries and a larger proportion of Americans are obese, which is associated with increased likelihood of severe coronavirus illness and death ([NYT 2/1](#)).



An exploratory analysis of data from 177 countries from January 2020 to September 2021 finds that higher levels of government and interpersonal trust and less government corruption were significantly associated with lower infection rates. Cross-country variation in the risk of death per infection was most explained by age, GDP per capita and overweight or obesity incidence. Country-level indicators of pandemic preparedness measuring healthcare system capacity were not associated with infection or death rates. The authors estimate that if interpersonal trust improved globally to match the 75th percentile of countries measured, it would have resulted in 40.3 percent fewer global infections; improving trust in government to the same level, 12.9 percent fewer global infections ([Bollyky et al., 2022](#)).

### Other International Results

In Chile, 61 percent are worried about contracting the coronavirus, up 23 points since late December to match its highest since last spring. Fewer, 48 percent, fear the Omicron variant specifically, though that's up 10 points in a month. Approval of the government's handling of the pandemic has improved somewhat after a sharp fall during the Omicron surge, up 6 points in a week to 67 percent ([Cadem 1/26-1/28](#)).

In South Korea, 20 percent planned to visit their hometown for more than a night for the Lunar New Year on Feb. 1, up from 12 percent last year though still roughly half its pre-pandemic level. Fifty-four percent still planned to meet with family and relatives outside their household for the day, up from 33 percent in 2021, compared with 81 percent when last measured in 2018 ([Gallup Korea 1/25-1/27](#)).

Greek Health Minister Thanos Plevris [announced](#) Jan. 27 that some coronavirus measures, such as a midnight curfew and music ban for entertainment venues, restaurants and bars, would be lifted. Before this announcement, 62 percent of Greeks were against relaxing coronavirus measures generally, including 23 percent strongly so ([PulseRC 1/22-1/24](#)).

In Canada, nearly half say their mental health has worsened compared with before the pandemic, up from about four in 10 in April 2020 and far surpassing the 10 percent who say it's improved.

Eighteen percent overall report having sought treatment or counseling during the pandemic. Canadians cite a loss of social contacts (63 percent), the impact of lockdowns and public health restrictions (59 percent) and uncertainty about the virus (50 percent) as the main drivers that negatively impact their mental health ([CTV/Nanos 1/21-1/23](#)).

Half of adults in the Philippines reported having received at least one vaccine dose as of mid-December, with eight in 10 in this group saying they'd surely (73 percent) or probably (7 percent) get a booster shot. Thirteen percent of the vaccinated were unsure about getting a booster, while 7 percent leaned against it. Willingness to get a booster shot ranged from 84 percent of vaccinated adults age 55 and older to 74 percent among 18- to 24-year-olds ([SWS 12/12-12/16](#)).

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

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