



COVID-19 Survey Summary: February 11, 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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Six in 10 Americans continue to support state or local mask mandates and mask use remained high in polling this week, even as states moved to ease mask rules given plummeting coronavirus infection rates.

More generally, three-quarters favor at least some precautions going forward, albeit with divisions on their extent. One factor: Nearly two-thirds do not think the United States will be able to eradicate the coronavirus in the year ahead.

With the Omicron surge subsiding, risk perceptions have edged down, although Americans haven't fully resumed their usual activities. Vaccine requirements for air travel remain popular, while those for more everyday activities are unpopular or contested.

Surveys continue to indicate that initial vaccine uptake among adults has flatlined in the past few months while booster uptake is up sharply. More than eight in 10 vaccinated adults say they'd be likely to get an annual booster; fewer, about two-thirds, are willing to get one every six months.

Among other new results, ratings for public officials' handling of the coronavirus continue to decline and more say they've felt confused by changing guidance. More K-12 parents see learning loss rather than infection risk as an important consideration in whether to keep schools open. On another front, relationship satisfaction has retreated to pre-pandemic levels. And an analysis presented below shows how survey estimates and CDC reports on vaccine uptake have diverged since booster shots became available.

This week's summary also includes polls from Brazil, Chile, Germany, Great Britain, Mexico and Russia.

Concerns & Outlooks

New daily coronavirus cases have fallen rapidly, with the seven-day average down more than [70 percent](#) from its peak in mid-January. Deaths have started to level off after increasing through most of January, though they're still averaging about 2,300 per day.

Forty percent of Americans are extremely or very concerned about the outbreak, down 9 percentage points in the past month; an additional 33 percent are somewhat concerned ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)). In a survey largely conducted when new cases were more prevalent, 58 percent of Americans were worried about the way the pandemic was going in the country ([CNN 1/10-2/6](#)). As of late January, a steady 53 percent were very or moderately concerned about catching the virus, still elevated after rising 11 points from early November ([CDC 1/23-1/29](#)).

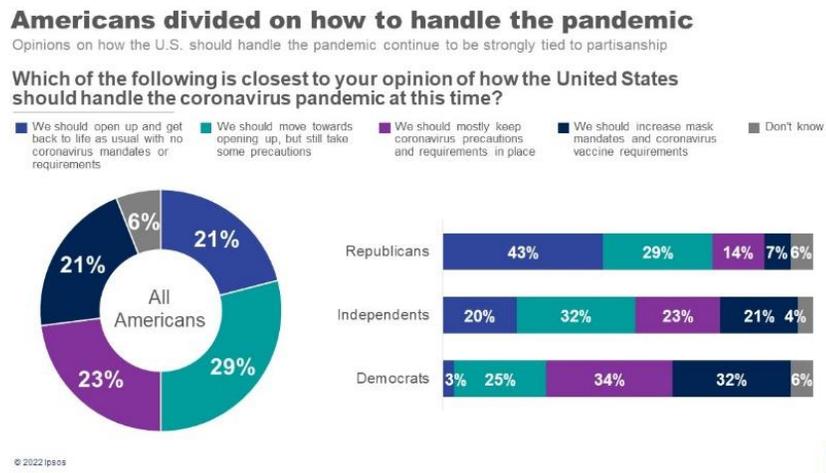
Even with falling cases, 64 percent do not think “we will be able to eradicate the virus in the United States in the next year.” Thirty-two percent think it’s likely they’ll personally catch the virus in the next few months.

Forty-four percent think it’ll take more than a year before they can return to their normal pre-coronavirus life, if ever. That’s down from 52 percent a month ago, but still nearly three times its level last summer, before the Delta and Omicron surges ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)).

Echoing [previous surveys](#) on emotional reactions, in a poll done mostly in January, 75 percent felt burned out by the way the pandemic in the United States was going and 60 percent felt angry. Roughly half felt confused (49 percent) or optimistic (47 percent). ([CNN 1/10-2/6](#)).

Coronavirus Precautions

The public divides on how best to move ahead. Twenty-one percent think “we should open up and get back to life as usual with no mandates or requirements,” 29 percent favor moves toward opening but with some precautions, 23 percent want mostly to keep current precautions and requirements in place and 21 percent prefer increased mask and vaccine requirements ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)).



Mostly in January, 51 percent said “it’s time to learn to live with the virus,” while 48 percent instead said stopping the spread of the virus “must continue to be the highest priority” ([CNN 1/10-2/6](#)).

More oppose than support federal, state and local governments lifting all coronavirus restrictions, 55-44 percent. Sixty-two percent continue to support their state or local government requiring

masks to be worn in all public places. (Fewer, 46 percent, say they live in an area with such a mandate.) ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)) Officials in several states recently announced plans to [lift](#) their mask mandates.

Mask use remains high (albeit not as high as in the pre-vaccination period), with 71 percent saying they wear a face mask at least sometimes when leaving home, steady after a 7-point rise from early November to early January ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)).

A late January poll finds that 61 percent wore a mask all or most of the time in stores and businesses in the previous month, compared with 53 percent in August. Most Americans in this poll continued to favor requiring proof of vaccination for air travel, 58-41 percent. Narrow majorities also favored vaccine requirements for sporting events or concerts (53-46 percent) and for in-person attendance at public colleges and universities (52-47 percent). Conversely, majorities opposed vaccine requirements for shopping in stores and businesses (59 percent) and for indoor dining (53 percent) ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)).

Another survey finds Americans split 51-48 percent on businesses requiring customers to show proof of vaccination before being allowed into stores or restaurants ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)).

Risk Perceptions & Daily Life

After modest increases during the Omicron surge, risk perceptions have eased:

- Thirty-four percent think they have less risk of catching the virus now than in April 2020, up 8 points since early January. Fifteen percent feel they're at greater risk, down 7 points.
- Fifty-six percent see returning to their normal pre-coronavirus life as a large or moderate risk to their health and well-being, compared with 66 percent around this time last year. Sixteen percent see a large risk, down 8 points in two weeks.
- Fifty-four percent see attending in-person gatherings of friends and family outside their household as a large or moderate risk, down from nearly two-thirds a month ago. Half visited friends or relatives in the past week, steady since early January after falling from 60 percent in mid-December ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)). At the same time, a broad 85 percent in late January were comfortable visiting with close family and friends in their home, up 20 points compared with November 2020 ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)).
- Fifty-two percent see dining in at a restaurant as at least moderately risky, including 15 percent who consider this a large risk, down 6 points since early January. Fifty-two percent also say they've gone out to eat in the past week, up 6 points from January and from no more than four in 10 across the pre-vaccine period ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)). Seven in 10 in late January were comfortable eating out in a restaurant, up from 44 percent in November 2020 ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)).
- Forty-nine percent of employed adults think working indoors in an office is a large or moderate risk, down 7 points in two weeks. Thirty-two percent of workers say they're

working remotely instead of at their normal workplace, steady since early January and up from a quarter in mid-December ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)).

Again compared with November 2020, more people in late January were comfortable going to the grocery store (+9 points to 84 percent), visiting a hair salon or barbershop (+20 points to 73 percent), attending an indoor sporting event or concert (+24 points to 43 percent) or attending a crowded party (+19 points to 34 percent) ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)).

Vaccines

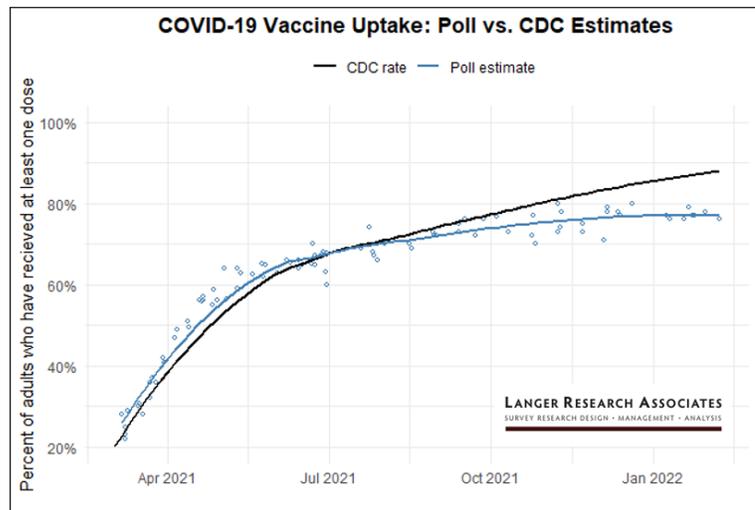
Two newly released surveys estimate that 76 or 78 percent of adults have received at least one vaccine dose ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#), [Pew 1/24-1/30](#)). Another that uses jurisdiction-level vaccine administration data as a weighting adjustment has uptake at 85 percent, similar to the CDC's current estimate, [87 percent](#) ([CDC 1/23-1/29](#)).

Seventy-two percent of partially or fully vaccinated people in one survey have gotten a booster shot, up 22 points since mid-December. Sixty-six percent of fully vaccinated people in another report having received a booster. These estimates correspond to 55 and 48 percent of all adults, respectively ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#), [Pew 1/24-1/30](#)). The CDC's figure among fully vaccinated adults is lower, 46 percent ([CDC](#)).

As previously [noted](#), the CDC has acknowledged difficulties in linking a person's first, second and booster doses because it lacks personally identifiable information about recipients. The

agency's estimate of vaccine uptake has continued to rise since eligibility for booster shots was expanded to all adults [Nov. 19](#), while surveys indicate that uptake has flatlined just short of eight in 10 adults. Among the nine polls conducted this year that are not weighted to CDC administrative vaccine data, uptake on average was 10 points lower than the concurrent CDC estimate; this was not the case earlier in the vaccine rollout, when polls [closely tracked](#) the agency's rate. The divergence between survey estimates and the CDC-reported uptake began when boosters became available and has accelerated since.

The chart to the right includes data from 105 probability-based surveys collected for the SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive from Dec. 29, 2021 to Feb. 7, 2022 from 11 polling organizations and 18 survey sponsors. The CDC vaccine uptake rate is publicly available through the agency's [API](#). Dates in the chart denote the surveys' final day of interviews.



An analysis of September and October data finds that vaccine uptake among gay or lesbian adults was higher than among heterosexual adults, 85 to 76 percent. There were no differences in

vaccine coverage among adults who identified as transgender or nonbinary compared with those who did not ([CDC 8/29-10/30](#)).

As the FDA [deliberates](#) authorizing the Pfizer vaccine for children younger than five, data from three separate survey waves since the start of the year finds parents of children younger than five divided on whether they'd vaccinate their child right away; 44 percent say they are not very or not at all likely to do so, vs. 41 percent likely ([Axios-Ipsos 1/7-1/10, 1/21-1/24, 2/4-2/7](#)).

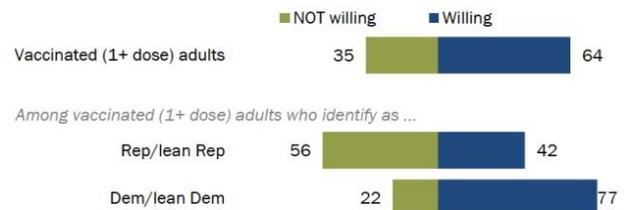
Booster uptake intentions

Eighty-four percent of vaccinated people say they would be likely to get an annual coronavirus shot and 85 percent of those who have received a booster say they'd be likely to get another one, including 64 percent very likely ([Axios-Ipsos 2/4-2/7](#)).

Booster intentions appear to decrease with frequency: Sixty-four percent of vaccinated adults in another survey, in late January, said they would be willing to get a coronavirus booster about every six months. Among the vaccinated, Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents were 35 points more apt than Republicans and Republican-leaning independents to be willing to get a booster that often, 77 vs. 42 percent ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)).

64% of vaccinated adults say they would be willing to get a COVID-19 booster about every six months

Among U.S. adults who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, % who say they would probably be ___ to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot about every six months



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.
"Increasing Public Criticism, Confusion Over COVID-19 Response in U.S."

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Government Response

As in previous [surveys](#), ratings for public officials' handling of the virus have declined. Half of Americans say public health officials such as those at the CDC are doing an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak, down 10 points since August and 29 points since March 2020 to a new low. Similar shares say their local (50 percent) and state (46 percent) elected officials have done a good job, each down from seven in 10 at the onset of the pandemic, also to new lows.

Four in 10 in late January gave Joe Biden positive ratings on the pandemic, a low, down 14 points from last March ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)). Another survey, done mostly in January, has Biden's approval on the pandemic at 45 percent, down 9 points from mid-December and similarly a career low for the poll. A quarter had a lot of confidence in his ability to lead the country out of the pandemic, 28 percent had some confidence and 46 percent had none, up from 30 percent last March ([CNN 1/10-2/6](#)).

In contrast, 81 percent of Americans continued to say hospitals and medical centers in their area have done an excellent or good job responding to the outbreak.

Changes in public health officials' recommendations may be a factor: Six in 10 said these changes have made them feel confused, up 7 points since August; 57 percent said the changes

have made them wonder if public health officials were withholding important information; and 56 percent reported less confidence in officials’ recommendations, up 5 points since the summer.

At the same time, 56 percent said the changes in recommendations made sense because scientific knowledge always is being updated, though that’s down 5 points from August. Forty-three percent said the changes are reassuring because they mean officials are staying on top of new information, down 8 points ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)).

K-12 Education

Fifty-three percent of parents with school-age children in a late January poll said schools in the United States should provide a mix of in-person and online instruction this winter, more than the share who thought instruction should be only in person (37 percent) or fully online (9 percent). White parents, those with higher incomes and Republicans and Republican-leaning independents were more apt than others to prefer fully in-person instruction.

Asked about factors to consider in determining whether to keep schools open for in-person classes, 67 percent cited the possibility that students will fall behind academically, up from 60 percent a year ago and 54 percent in July 2020. Sixty-one percent said the negative impact of closures on students’ emotional well-being should receive a lot of consideration; 52 percent said the same about parents not being able to work because their children are at home.

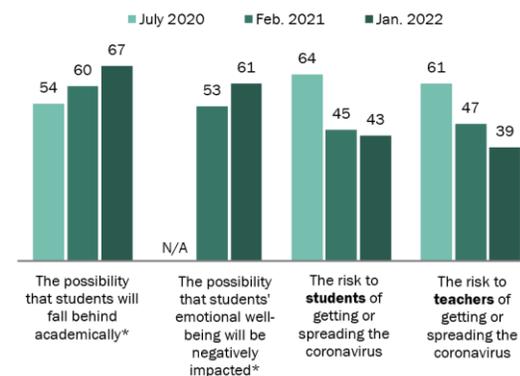
Fewer said a lot of consideration should be given to the risk to students (43 percent) or to teachers (39 percent) of contracting or spreading the coronavirus, compared with six in 10 or more in July 2020. Just 26 percent said the cost of following public health guidelines while open should be a major factor.

Most parents, 71 percent, said in late January that their child was receiving fully in-person instruction. Sixteen percent reported hybrid and 5 percent fully online classes. Higher-income parents were more likely than those with lower incomes to say their child was attending fully in-person classes ([Pew 1/24-1/30](#)).

In a survey done in late October to early December among 359 district leaders (333 superintendents from traditional public schools and 26 directors from charter management organizations), 71 percent reported moderate or major concern about providing high-quality instruction to quarantined students this school year and 61 percent said the same for low student engagement in remote learning. These were surpassed only by concerns about the mental health of students (90 percent), teachers (87 percent) and principals (84 percent).

Growing shares of K-12 parents say concerns about academics, emotional well-being should be major factors in decisions about keeping schools open

% of parents of K-12 students saying each of the following should be given a lot of consideration in deciding whether to keep K-12 schools open for in-person instruction this winter



*Without in-person instruction.

Note: Based on parents with children in elementary, middle or high school in their household. In February 2021, the question asked about schools that were not open for any in-person instruction deciding whether to reopen. In July 2020, the question asked about K-12 schools deciding whether to reopen for in-person instruction in the fall. The item on students’ emotional well-being was not asked in 2020.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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At the time of the survey, leaders estimated that an average of 6 percent of students were absent on a typical school day because of quarantines related to the coronavirus. Three-quarters reported that no more than 5 percent of their students were in quarantine on a given day. Quarantines aside, 45 percent were concerned about low attendance from students and teachers alike. These concerns were higher among those from urban and high poverty districts and districts mostly serving students of color.

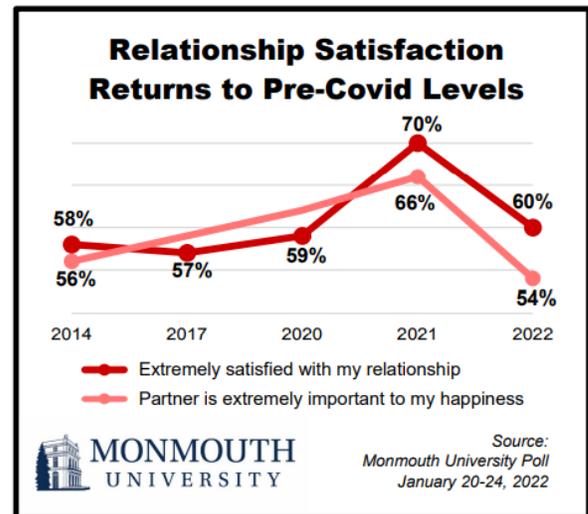
Fifty-seven percent of school leaders pointed to a shortage of candidates to join their staff as a barrier to spending emergency federal coronavirus relief funds. That was nearly double the next-cited reason, lack of time required to procure goods and services.

Three-quarters agreed that political polarization about the coronavirus and vaccines was interfering with their ability to educate students. Sixty-eight percent also agreed that parent or community belief in coronavirus misinformation impeded their mission ([RAND 10/25-12/10](#)).

Relationship Satisfaction

Among adults who are married, living with a partner or in a romantic relationship, 16 percent say their relationship has gotten better since the pandemic began, surpassing the 7 percent who say it's gotten worse. Most, 74 percent, say there's been no change.

Sixty percent are extremely satisfied with their relationship, down 10 points in the past year to return to its pre-pandemic levels. Fifty-four percent say their partner is extremely important to their overall happiness, down 12 points to about its pre-pandemic level ([Monmouth 1/20-1/24](#)).



Telehealth Use

Telehealth use has declined since early in the pandemic but still far exceeds its pre-pandemic level. An analysis of 41 million outpatient visits from 889 hospitals and 19,420 clinics nationally finds that 8 percent of outpatient visits were conducted by telehealth from March to August 2021, down from 13 percent in the same period in 2020. Use of telehealth before the pandemic was negligible ([KFF 2/10](#)).

Local Results

In New York City, 8 percent of registered voters call the coronavirus the most urgent issue facing the city. Forty-six percent point to crime ([Quinnipiac 2/3-2/7](#)).

International Results

In Chile, 54 percent are worried about getting sick with the coronavirus, down 7 points in a week from its Omicron peak of 61 percent. Sixty-four percent approve of the government's handling of the pandemic, off its high of 79 percent before the Omicron surge. Seven in 10 agree that schools should be open and parents should decide whether or not to send their children. Twenty-three percent disagree, down 11 points since July and 6 points from a year ago ([Cadem 2/2-2/3](#)).

Three in 10 German voters say the country's coronavirus restrictions are excessive, up 6 points in a month to a pandemic high. Forty-four percent say the restrictions are about right while 22 percent would support stricter rules. Fifty-three percent support mandatory vaccinations for all adults and an additional 12 percent support mandates for people older than 50; a third oppose either ([Infratest Dimap 1/31-2/2](#)).

Four in 10 Brazilians say the coronavirus is less serious than a month ago; three in 10 feel it's more serious and a quarter say it's the same. Forty-one percent are very concerned about the Omicron variant, a third are somewhat concerned and two in 10 a little or not at all concerned. Daily cases are [dropping](#) but remain elevated, at a seven-day rolling average of more than 160,000 as of Feb. 9 vs. just more than 8,000 as of Jan. 1. Thirty-seven percent blame President Jair Bolsonaro for the state of the pandemic, down 14 points in six months. A nationwide child vaccination campaign began Jan. 14; seven in 10 support it ([PoderData 1/31-2/1](#)).

Just before the Winter Olympics began, 56 percent of Russians said major sporting events such as the Olympics should be held during the pandemic, up 14 points from last summer ([FOM 1/28-1/30](#)).

As the daily case count [declines](#) in Great Britain, concern about the effect of the coronavirus was down 9 points in two weeks to 52 percent in mid- to late January, about even with its levels last summer and fall. Just over half report taking a rapid coronavirus test in the past week, down 8 points. Among 16- to 29-year-olds, the decrease was 20 points in the past two weeks. As fewer take tests, the number who reported difficulties in finding them fell 13 points to 9 percent.

Seven in 10 say their cost of living had increased, up from 62 percent in mid-November. Of them, nine in 10 pointed to rising prices while food shopping, eight in 10 cited rising gas and electric bills and 68 percent mentioned the price of fuel. Two in 10 said it's more difficult to pay their household bills than it was a year ago ([Office for National Statistics 1/19-1/30](#)).

A third of Mexicans in January said the country was on the right track, down sharply from half a month earlier. Thirty-six percent said it was on the wrong track, up 6 points. (Twenty-nine percent said it was staying constant.) Seventy percent gave positive ratings to the government's handling of the vaccine campaign, down 6 points from December ([El Financiero 1/14-1/15, 1/28-1/30](#)). New daily cases in Mexico have [fallen](#) sharply from their peak in mid-January, while deaths tied to the virus continue to rise.

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

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