



COVID-19 Survey Summary: June 17, 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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Concerns and perception of risk of the coronavirus remain steady and low in new polling this week. Just 36 percent of Americans see a large or moderate health risk in returning to their normal, pre-pandemic life; a stable four in 10 have already done so. Pandemic lows report consistent mask wearing and social distancing.

Some, however, are not yet ready for a return to normality. Thirty-five percent agree that while most people around them have moved on from the pandemic, they have not done so. Democrats and Black people are much more likely than their counterparts to say so.

Two-thirds favor reopening fully (29 percent) or with some remaining precautions (38 percent). A large majority favors requiring testing for travelers entering the United States, although the CDC lifted such a requirement this week. In another poll, voters split between trusting the Democratic Party or the Republican Party to better handle the pandemic.

Other results show declining trust in officials to provide accurate coronavirus information. And newly released data from last winter find Hispanic people were more likely than adults overall to rely on coronavirus information from religious leaders, journalists and social media personalities. Another poll finds that gas prices will have a bigger impact than the coronavirus on American's summer travel plans.

A state poll from Texas and international results from Brazil and Chile also are included in this week's summary.

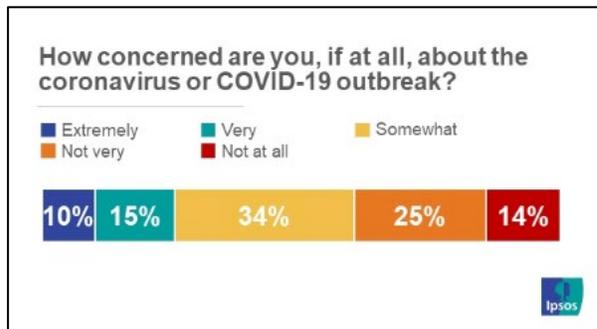
Perceptions of Cases & Hospitalizations

Nationwide, new cases have remained steady the past three weeks at around 100,000 per day – four times the level in late March but down from around 800,000 daily cases during the Omicron surge in mid-January ([CDC](#)). In a new poll, 35 percent think cases in their state are increasing; a quarter, decreasing; two in 10, staying the same ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).

Hospitalizations are up about 10 percent nationwide since the beginning of the month and more than double the level at the beginning of May, though it varies greatly by state ([CDC](#)). Thirty-seven percent think hospitalizations are decreasing in their state, vs. 17 percent increasing and 23 percent staying the same ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).

Concerns & Risk Perceptions

Six in 10 remain at least somewhat concerned about the coronavirus, steady since April. Three in 10 identify spreading the virus to higher risk people as their top concern; two in 10 apiece say it's dealing with restrictions or developing long COVID. Fewer say being hospitalized or dying is their top concern, both 12 percent. Each is essentially unchanged since May ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)). In May, 14 percent identified the coronavirus as one of the issues they find most worrying (respondents were able to select up to three options). More, 53 percent, pointed to inflation ([NAMI/Ipsos 5/20-5-23](#)).



Thirty-six percent see a large or moderate health risk in returning to their normal pre-coronavirus life, steady since March while down from six in 10 in late January during the Omicron wave. Three in 10 to four in 10 also see a large or moderate risk in taking a vacation (41 percent), dining in at a restaurant (36 percent), attending in-person gatherings (35 percent) or working indoors (31 percent). More view traveling on airplanes (55 percent) or attending events or conferences (51 percent) as risks.

Forty-six percent think personally contracting the coronavirus would be a large or moderate risk to their health and well-being, unchanged since May ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).

Daily Life & Precautions

Three in 10 say the pandemic is over; in another measure, 68 percent say we're moving toward a time when the coronavirus won't disrupt daily life, down 7 percentage points since mid-March.

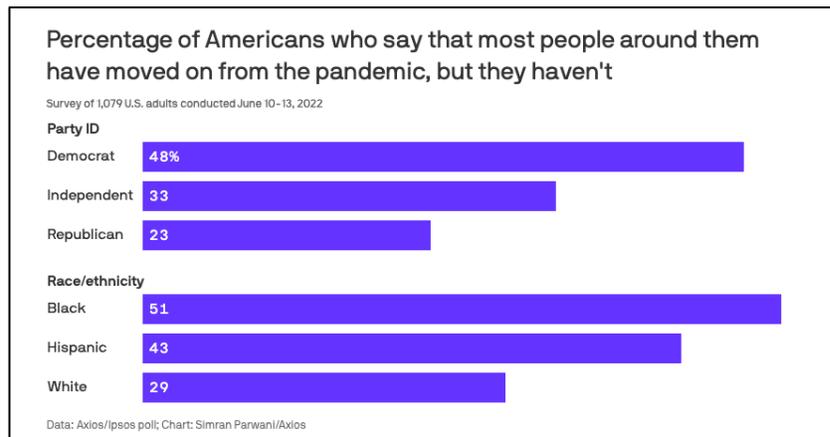
Four in 10 say they've fully returned to their normal pre-coronavirus life, steady in past months and up from 15 percent in early January to a new high numerically. A quarter expect it will take a year or less for them to return to normal. The rest split evenly between expecting it to take longer than a year or never expecting to return to normal.

Among specific activities:

- Seven in 10 visited friends or relatives in the past week, steady since April while up from half in early February.

- Sixty-two percent have gone out to eat in the past week, mostly unchanged since March and up 16 points from mid-January.
- Four in 10 always or sometimes wear a mask when leaving their home, down 33 points since late January to a low in data since April 2020. A third say they never wear masks, up 22 points. About two-thirds say that if cases were to increase in their area, they would be likely to wear a mask when leaving their home.
- A pandemic-low 30 percent say they social distanced in the past week (i.e., stayed at home and avoided others as much as possible), down 6 points since mid-March.

Some Americans report feeling left behind by the return to normal pre-pandemic life. Thirty-five percent overall agree with the statement “most people around me have moved on from the pandemic, but I haven’t,” with wide gaps among groups. About half of Democrats agree, compared with a third of independents and about a quarter of Republicans. Black people (51 percent) and Hispanic people (43 percent) are more apt to agree than are whites (29 percent) ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).



Pandemic Policy

Seventy percent support requiring a negative test for international travelers coming to the United States. The CDC [lifted](#) such a requirement this week.

Fifty-six percent support lifting all remaining coronavirus restrictions, essentially even since mid-May. Two-thirds think we should fully return to life as usual (29 percent) or move toward reopening with some precautions (38 percent). A quarter favor keeping current restrictions in place (17 percent) or expanding them (8 percent).

On specific policy items, more oppose than support state or local governments requiring masks in public, 55 vs. 44 percent. Two-thirds oppose businesses requiring proof of vaccination for customers. Among employed people, more oppose than support workplace mask requirements, 54 vs. 44 percent. In January, 71 percent supported such a requirement. Workers split, 50-49 percent on whether their employer should require vaccines for employees.

The public splits on federal spending to combat the pandemic. Thirty-five percent say the government is spending too much money; as many say it is spending the right amount. Twenty-eight percent say it’s not spending enough ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).

Governmental Approval

Among registered voters, just 3 percent say the pandemic is the most important issue in deciding their vote for Congress, ninth on a list of 10 items. Voters split 47-44 on which party they trust to better handle the pandemic, the Democrats or the Republicans. That's narrowed from a 52-43 percent Democrat advantage in January ([Fox News 6/10-6/13](#)).

Trust in Information

In a survey conducted in November to December 2021, Hispanic adults were more apt than U.S. adults overall to say they could rely (some or a lot) on coronavirus information from religious leaders (38 vs. 26 percent), journalists (51 vs. 43 percent), social media personalities (27 vs. 20 percent) and online groups with shared interests (33 vs. 26 percent). Seven in 10 overall said they could rely on coronavirus information from experts, as did three-quarters of Hispanic people. Hispanic adults are more likely than all U.S. adults to say they've felt like they should be doing more to keep up with coronavirus information, 44 vs. 33 percent ([Pew 11/30-12/12 2021](#)).

Another survey finds a decline in trust in institutions to provide accurate information about the coronavirus since mid-April. Fifty-eight percent trust the CDC (-8 points), 49 percent trust their state government (-6 points), 43 percent trust the federal government (-7 points) and 37 percent trust Joe Biden (-7 points). Half agree with the statement "the media is overexaggerating the threat COVID-19 causes," unchanged since February ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).

Workplace

A quarter of workers say their employer requires all employees to wear a mask, steady since mid-April while down from six in 10 in mid-January. Two in 10 say their employer has asked remote workers to return to the office, unchanged since February ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).

Travel

In May, about two-thirds said they plan to travel for a vacation this summer, while just 47 percent said they went on a summer vacation last year. Thirty-six percent said they will reduce the amount they travel this summer because of the coronavirus, down from more than six in 10 who reduced travel last year. Many more, 69 percent, said gas prices will reduce how much they travel this summer. Among those who plan to take a vacation this summer by airplane, 63 percent say they will wear a mask on the plane, the rest will not. Eighty three percent of Democrats will wear a mask compared with just 28 percent of Republicans, with independents in between ([SSRS 5/20-5/23](#)).

Vaccines

Vaccine uptake among adults has flatlined in recent months, with 74 percent reporting having received at least one dose. Of those who have received a vaccine, half have received a single booster shot and another 21 percent have received two booster shots ([Axios-Ipsos 6/10-6/13](#)).

[CDC](#) estimates instead say 89 percent of adults have received at least one dose of a vaccine. This estimate have been consistently been higher than probability-based polling results since distribution of booster shots began, as covered [previously](#). The CDC says 43 percent of at least partially vaccinated adults have received a booster, corresponding to about 39 percent of all adults.

State Results

In a survey of Texas registered voters, more trust Republican Greg Abbott than Democrat Beto O'Rourke to better handle the coronavirus pandemic, 51 vs 40 percent. In December 2021, Abbot was favored 54 vs. 39 percent. Just 1 percent call the coronavirus the most urgent issue facing Texas, tied for last on a list of 12 items ([Quinnipiac 6/9-6/13](#)).

International Results

In Brazil, 13 percent mention the coronavirus as primarily responsible for price increases. More, 42 percent, blame President Jair Bolsonaro. Of those who support Bolsonaro, two in 10 blame the coronavirus for inflation, compared just 7 percent of those who oppose him ([PoderData 6/5-6/7](#)).

About a quarter in Chile are worried about contracting the coronavirus, down 8 points in two weeks ([Cadem 6/7-6/10](#)).

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

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