



COVID-19 Survey Summary: July 8, 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](#).

Views are mixed on how well the country prioritized protecting public health in the coronavirus pandemic and few Americans have a high level of confidence that the U.S. health care system can handle a future global health emergency, newly released polling finds.

Six in 10 in a May survey said the country put too little priority on the needs of K-12 students, and pluralities said the same of priorities placed on overall quality of life, business/economic activity and individual choice alike.

Most see vaccines as highly effective in curbing the spread of the coronavirus and important in the return to a pre-pandemic normal. Still, vaccine uptake among adults has barely budged since January.

While broad majorities have resumed pre-pandemic activities, use of public transportation lags. Among other results, the coronavirus remains low on the public's priority list; half of Latinos support Title 42, the law that allows the government to turn undocumented migrants away at the border to reduce the spread of the coronavirus; and most Americans say it's a good rather than bad thing that more people are working remotely.

State-level polls from Georgia and New Hampshire are included in this week's summary, as are international polls from Chile, Germany, Great Britain, Mexico and Russia.

Pandemic Response

Sixty-two percent of Americans in early May said the country has given too little priority to meeting the educational needs of K-12 students. Fewer, but pluralities, said the country has given too little priority to supporting the overall quality of life for the public (48 percent), supporting businesses and economic activity (46 percent) and respecting individuals' choices (46 percent). In each case, far fewer said the country has over-prioritized each item.

Views were mixed on the goal of protecting public health. Thirty-four percent said the country has given this too little priority, 43 percent about the right amount and 21 percent too much. In another measure, 42 percent said the country has given too little priority to limiting health risks

for vulnerable populations; about as many said this was prioritized about the right amount and 12 thought it was over-prioritized.

Looking ahead, 15 percent expressed a great deal of confidence that the U.S. health care system can handle a future global health emergency. Forty-four percent had some confidence in this; 40 percent, little or none ([Pew 5/2-5/8](#)).

Assessments of Joe Biden’s handling of the coronavirus have held steady in recent months. Fifty-three percent approve in one new poll ([AP-NORC 6/23-6/27](#)). In another measure, in May, 43 percent said he’d done an excellent or good job on it, little changed since January. It was 54 percent near the start of his presidency.

Fifty-one to 54 percent said public health officials and elected officials at the state and local level have done an excellent or good job handling the outbreak, also steady since January though down substantially since the start of the pandemic. Eight in 10 said the hospitals and medical centers in their area were doing an excellent or good job ([Pew 5/2-5/8](#)).

More Latinos pick the Democratic Party over the Republican Party as doing a good job handling the pandemic, 30 vs. 10 percent. Eighteen percent rate both parties equally; a quarter say neither is handling it well ([Axios/Ipsos Telemundo 6/9-6/18](#)).

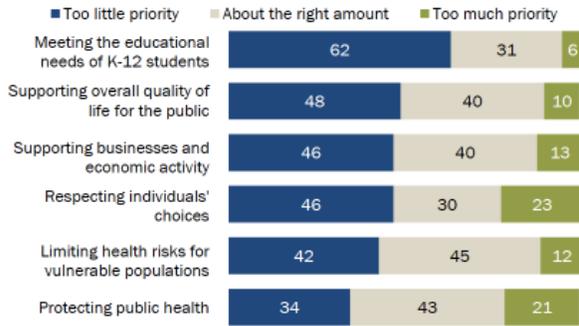
Coronavirus Concerns

In an open-ended question, just 1 percent name the coronavirus as the biggest concern facing their family, down from 18 percent in December and in line with other recent results ([Monmouth 6/23-6/27](#)). Similarly, 1 percent mentioned the coronavirus or other diseases as the most important problem facing the county ([Gallup 6/1-6/20](#)). In a third, 4 percent cite the coronavirus as one of their top five priorities, down from 33 percent in December ([AP-NORC 6/23-6/27](#)).

Among Latinos, 14 percent cite the coronavirus as one of their top three topics of worry, tied for sixth in a list of 18 items and down 7 points since March ([Axios/Ipsos Telemundo 6/9-6/18](#)).

Majority in U.S. says country's COVID-19 response has given too little priority to the needs of K-12 students

% of U.S. adults who say that thinking about the country's response to the coronavirus outbreak since February 2020, ___ has been given to the following



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.
"Americans Reflect on Nation's COVID-19 Response"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



In May, 23 percent of Americans were extremely or very worried that they or someone in their family would be infected with the coronavirus, near its pandemic low of 20 percent the previous month. An additional 31 percent were somewhat worried ([AP-NORC/SCAN Foundation 5/12-5/16](#)). Also in May, half were at least somewhat concerned about unknowingly spreading the coronavirus to others and 34 percent said the same about being hospitalized from the virus, each a pandemic low. Twenty-three percent saw the coronavirus as a major threat to their personal health, down from 30 percent in January ([Pew 5/2-5/8](#)).

Views of Coronavirus Precautions

In May, about eight in 10 Americans said the availability of effective treatments for the coronavirus was important for them to fully participate in public life without feeling at risk of infection, including 50 percent who saw this as essential.

Sixty-nine percent said personally getting vaccinated against the coronavirus was important for them to fully participate in public life, including 51 percent who called this essential, down 8 points since January. Sixty-four percent said personally receiving a booster shot was important; 45 percent called it essential.

There was a sharp decline in seeing masking as important. Fifty-four percent saw most people regularly wearing face masks in public indoor places as important to fully participate in public life, down from seven in 10 in January.

This included a sharp 24-point drop in the share who called indoor mask use essential.

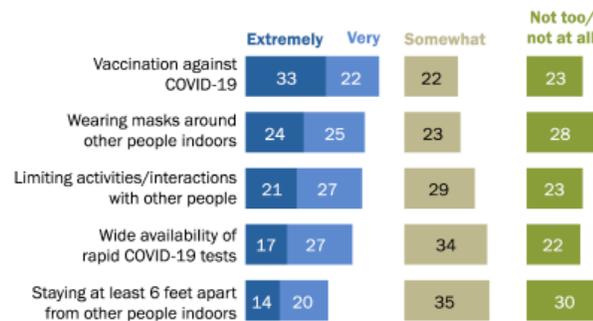
When it comes to most people regularly testing for the coronavirus, about half saw this as important, down from six in 10 in January; 20 percent said it was essential, down 5 points ([AP-NORC/SCAN Foundation 5/12-5/16](#)).

Fifty-five percent in early May viewed vaccination as extremely or very effective at limiting the spread of the coronavirus. Roughly half said the same for wearing masks around other people indoors (48 percent) and limiting interactions with other people (47 percent). Somewhat fewer considered the availability of rapid coronavirus tests (43 percent) and staying at least six feet apart from others while indoors (35 percent) as highly effective. The rest in each case saw these as no more than somewhat effective.

Forty-six percent said treatments and medications for people with coronavirus have gotten a lot better compared with the early stages of the pandemic, up 9 points since November 2020; an additional 33 percent said they've gotten a little better ([Pew 5/2-5/8](#)).

55% say vaccination is extremely or very effective at limiting coronavirus spread

% of U.S. adults who say each of the following has been ___ effective in limiting the spread of the coronavirus



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

"Americans Reflect on Nation's COVID-19 Response"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Vaccines

Seventy-four percent of adults in one May survey and 78 percent in another reported having received at least one vaccine dose ([AP-NORC/SCAN Foundation 5/12-5/16](#), [Pew 5/2-5/8](#)). The latter, including 49 percent who have gotten a booster shot, was virtually unchanged since January. The [CDC](#) estimates initial vaccine uptake among adults far higher, at 90 percent, and the share who have received a booster lower, at 39 percent. The agency notes problems linking doses, resulting in an overestimate of first doses and an underestimate of subsequent doses.

Daily Life

In mid-May, 12 percent said their life was completely the same as before the pandemic. A third said it was not yet the same and 54 percent selected a middle option, saying it was somewhat but not completely the same.

Eighty-seven percent of Americans who socialized with friends or neighbors in person at least monthly before the pandemic expected to do so in the next few weeks. Seventy-nine percent apiece said the same for going out to a bar or restaurant, visiting with older relatives in person, traveling and attending in-person religious services. About two-thirds expected to exercise at a gym or studio (65 percent) or participate in in-person community or civic organizations (64 percent), again among those who'd done these previously. Fewer of those who regularly used public transportation pre-pandemic said they'd use it within the next few weeks, 50 percent.

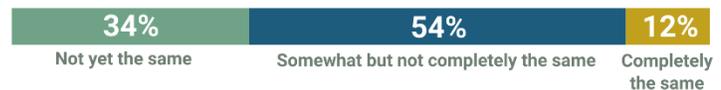
Forty-one percent said they started a new hobby or activity during the pandemic. Those most frequently mentioned included arts and crafts such as painting and drawing (29 percent) and exercise (22 percent). Others mentioned by more than 10 percent were tabletop games and puzzles, reading, cooking/baking, needlework, household maintenance, gardening, going for walks and video games ([AP-NORC/SCAN Foundation 5/12-5/16](#)).

Pandemic-era Services

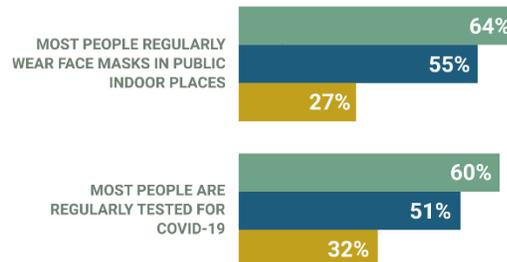
Again in mid-May, 53 percent of Americans said they shopped online more often during the pandemic than before it. Sixty-four percent said they were extremely or very likely to do so at least some of the time after the pandemic ends.

Adults whose lives are not yet the same as before the pandemic are more likely to cite indoor masking and regular COVID-19 testing as crucial to their return to public life.

COMPARED TO YOUR LIFE BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WOULD YOU SAY YOUR LIFE THESE DAYS IS...



PERCENT OF ADULTS WHO SAY IMPORTANT/ESSENTIAL FOR RETURNING TO PUBLIC LIFE



The AP-NORC Center conducted this study with funding from The SCAN Foundation. The poll includes 1,001 interviews from a nationally representative sample of American age 18 and older from the AmeriSpeak panel. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. For more information, visit www.longtermcarepoll.org.



There were considerable drop-offs in intended use of other pandemic-era services:

- Nearly half, 48 percent, said they used curbside pickup at a store or restaurant more often than usual during the pandemic. Fewer, 26 percent, say they were highly likely to do this at least some of the time when the pandemic is over.
- Thirty-seven percent received virtual medical services more often during the pandemic; 21 percent were highly likely to do so post-pandemic at least some of the time.
- Thirty-six percent reported visiting with friends and family via video chat more often during the pandemic, vs. 27 percent for post-pandemic likelihood.
- Twenty-nine percent attended virtual activities such as fitness classes, religious services or social events more often during the pandemic; 16 percent were extremely or very likely to do so after the pandemic.

Still, more said it would be good rather than bad if various pandemic-era activities continued after its end, including streaming new movies at home instead of going to movie theaters (57 vs. 10 percent); virtual options for attending community events (54 vs. 13 percent); increased health care via telehealth (48 vs. 18 percent); and virtual options for activities such as gym classes, religious services or social events (45 vs. 18 percent).

Americans were divided on virtual gatherings for family events or holidays. Thirty-five percent said it would be mostly bad if these were continued after the pandemic, 30 percent mostly good and 34 percent neutral ([AP-NORC/SCAN Foundation 5/12-5/16](#)).

Hybrid & Remote Work

Forty-one percent of employed adults said they worked from home more often during the pandemic, while 37 percent said there was no change and 21 percent reported doing this less often. Twenty-eight percent said they were extremely or very likely to work from home at least some of the time when the pandemic is over, with an additional 19 percent somewhat likely to do this. Among adults overall, more saw it as a good thing rather than bad thing that more people work remotely instead of in person, 54 vs. 14 percent ([AP-NORC/SCAN Foundation 5/12-5/16](#)).

Immigration

Half of Latinos support Title 42, in a question describing the policy as allowing the “U.S. government to turn undocumented migrants away at the border to reduce the spread of COVID-19” ([Axios/Ipsos Telemundo 6/9-6/18](#)). In a [previously covered](#) poll in May, 55 percent of Americans supported the policy. It remains in place after a federal judge blocked a CDC effort to discontinue the policy in May.

State Results

Matching national polling, 1 percent of Georgia registered voters call the coronavirus the most urgent issue facing the state, tied for last in a list of eight items ([Quinnipiac 6/23-6/27](#)).

In New Hampshire, 73 percent say coronavirus-related government spending is at least somewhat responsible for high inflation, about even with blame on the Federal Reserve (76 percent) and non-coronavirus-related government spending (71 percent). Fewer identify the war in Ukraine (60 percent) or Joe Biden (56 percent) as responsible ([UNH 6/16-6/20](#)).

International Results

In Chile, 36 percent are concerned about catching the coronavirus, up 10 points in a week after a sharp 18-point drop the week prior. Despite the recent rise, overall concern remains relatively subdued, down from 61 percent in January amid the Omicron surge ([Cadem 6/29-7/1](#)).

In Mexico, 4 percent call the coronavirus the most important problem facing the country, essentially steady since April. The government continues to get high marks for its handling of the vaccine rollout, with 69 percent saying it's done a good job ([El Financiero 6/17-6/18, 6/24-6/26](#)).

In Germany, 63 percent of voters favor reintroducing an indoor mask mandate in the fall if cases begin to rise. Agreement peaks among older voters and falls to 48 percent of those age 18-34 ([ARD-Infratest Dimap 6/21-6/22](#)).

In Great Britain, a third are somewhat (27 percent) or very (5 percent) worried about the effect the coronavirus is having on their life and 41 percent are worried about new variants. Thirty-eight percent have used a face covering when outside their home in the past week and 27 percent have always or often maintained social distancing when meeting with people outside their household. A third worked remotely at least some of the time ([Office for National Statistics 6/8-6/19](#)).

In a newly released mid-May survey, 10 percent of employed Russians were working mostly remotely and 9 percent were doing so some of the time, little changed since 2021. Among those working mostly remotely, 65 percent said it was their choice while 24 percent said it was required. Looking ahead, 14 percent of employed adults overall said they'd prefer to work mostly remotely, 33 percent preferred a hybrid arrangement and 49 percent wanted to work mainly in person ([VCIOM 5/21-5/22](#)).

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

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