



COVID-19 Survey Summary: July 22, 2022

The following is a summary of social, behavioral and economic survey research on COVID-19 released in the past two weeks, as compiled for the Societal Experts Action Network ([SEAN](#)). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the [SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

Americans' assessments of health risks associated with the coronavirus have increased as the Omicron subvariant BA.5 has become [dominant](#) in the United States, with cases and hospitalizations on the rise. Still, public concerns about the pandemic generally remain low.

On one hand, the share who see a health threat in returning to their normal pre-pandemic life is up by 7 percentage points compared with its level in March. On the other, new polling also finds the public taking fewer measures to prevent infection. A pandemic low of 36 percent wear a mask at least sometimes when leaving their home; as many never do.

Resignation is evident, with eight in 10 saying we never fully be rid of the pandemic. And while six in 10 agree that we are moving toward a time when the coronavirus will not disrupt daily life, that's down from three-quarters in March.

On policy issues, about six in 10 say the country should move toward opening either with some remaining precautions (36 percent) or without any mandates (26 percent). Majorities continue to oppose mask and business vaccine mandates.

In other newly released polling results, the number of workers who say their employer has instituted a face mask mandate is down more than 40 points since February to a new low, and the share of parents reporting they've had their child vaccinated has risen 9 points in a month.

State results in California and international results in Canada, Chile, Germany, Great Britain and South Korea also are included in this week's summary.

Perceptions of Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths

Forty-six percent of Americans have or suspect they have contracted the coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic and a third know someone who has been infected with it more than once. A third are at least somewhat familiar with the Omicron BA.5 variant; 43 percent have heard of it but are unfamiliar, a quarter not at all familiar ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Nationally, reported daily [cases](#) have risen by about 20 percent since the Fourth of July. This represents a significant undercount given unreported at-home testing and the [closure](#) of state-run testing facilities. An [analysis](#) of coronavirus levels in Bay Area wastewater suggests the current BA.5 surge may rival or exceed the winter Omicron wave. [Hospitalizations](#) are up 13 percent in two weeks, with [CDC models](#) predicting a continued increase into early August. Daily [deaths](#) have stayed flat at around 350 per day since April.

There's some awareness of this. Forty-five percent of Americans say cases are increasing in their state, vs. 16 percent who say they're decreasing and 18 percent staying the same. The share who say deaths are decreasing is down 14 points since June, to 30 percent ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Even with the BA.5 variant, Americans are seeing less about the coronavirus in the news. Thirty-five percent have seen a lot of coverage, down 19 points from May ([FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 6/27-7/5](#)). Half agree that "the media is overexaggerating the threat COVID-19 causes," steady in recent months ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

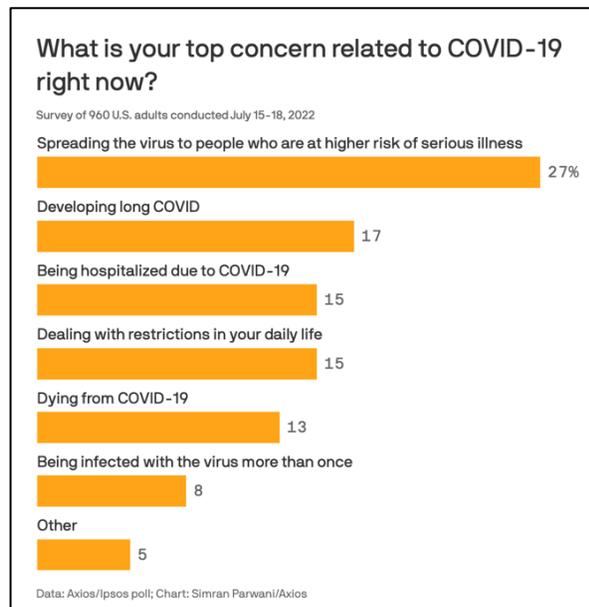
Concerns & Outlooks

Four in 10 are at least moderately concerned about the coronavirus, down gradually from 55 percent in mid-January ([CDC](#)). Using a different scale, 53 percent of registered voters are very or extremely concerned about the pandemic, even since May while down 19 points since mid-January ([Fox News 7/10-7/13](#)). A third gauge finds a steady six in 10 concerned about the coronavirus, including three in 10 very or extremely concerned ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Nine percent call the coronavirus one of the top three issues they find worrying, 10th of 18 items ([FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 6/27-7/5](#)).

Twenty-seven percent identify spreading the virus to high-risk people as their top concern. Thirteen to 17 percent select other items – developing long COVID, being hospitalized, dealing with restrictions and dying from the coronavirus. The share saying dealing with restrictions is their top concern is down 6 points since June.

College-educated adults are more than twice as apt as those who haven't gone beyond high school to cite developing long COVID as a top concern. Thirty-one percent of Republicans say dealing with restrictions in their daily life is their top concern, compared with 8 percent of Democrats.



About eight in 10 overall agree we never fully will be rid of the coronavirus in their lifetime. Three in 10 agree that the pandemic is over, steady since May. Six in 10 agree we're moving toward a time when the coronavirus won't disrupt daily life, down 7 points since June and 14 points since March to a new low.

Four in 10 have returned to their normal pre-coronavirus life, steady since April. Six percent anticipate they will do so within six months. A third say it will take a year or more; two in 10, never – a pandemic high ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments have inched up in the last month. Four in 10 view returning to their normal, pre-coronavirus life as a large or moderate health risk, up a slight 4 points since June and 7 points since March. Fifty-two percent see contracting the coronavirus as a large or moderate risk, up 6 points since June. On specific activities, 61 percent see traveling on an airplane or mass transit as a risk, 45 percent see risk in taking a vacation and 36 percent of workers say the same about returning to an indoor office, each up 5 points since June ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Daily Life & Protective Measures

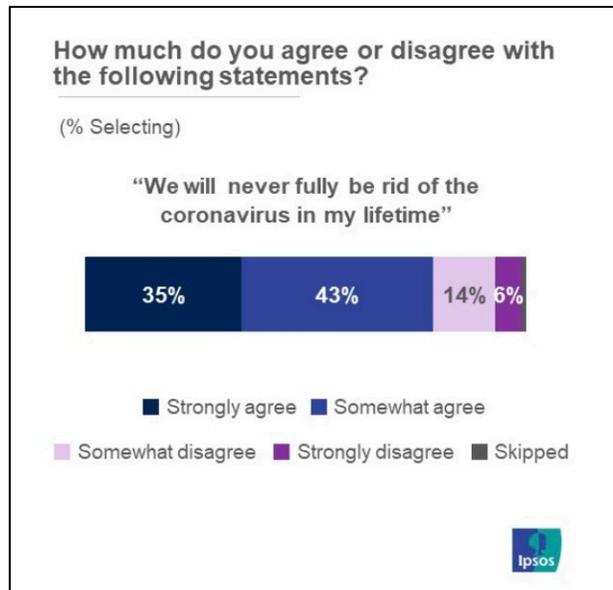
Nonetheless, consistent mask wearing continues to fall. Thirty-six percent always or sometimes wear a mask when leaving the house, down 6 points since mid-May and 37 points since January to a pandemic low. If cases were to increase locally, however, seven in 10 would be willing to wear a mask outside the home, including 45 percent very likely.

Other behaviors are unchanged, with the shares who have gone out to eat (62 percent), visited friends or relatives (67 percent) or visited retail stores (61 percent) in the past week steady since March.

Coronavirus-caused disruptions to events and meetings have declined sharply. Two in 10 people have canceled or skipped large gatherings in the past week, down 27 points from late February. Just 7 percent have had an event, conference or meeting canceled because of the coronavirus in the past few weeks, down from nearly six in 10 in April ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Pandemic Policy

Fifty-three percent support federal, state and local governments lifting all pandemic restrictions, with 46 percent opposed. Asked another way, 36 percent favor opening up with some precautions, 26 percent entirely without any mandates or requirements. Seventeen percent favor



mostly keeping precautions in place. Thirteen percent would increase mask and vaccine requirements, up 5 points in a month.

Fifty-four percent oppose state or local indoor mask mandates and 63 percent oppose businesses requiring customers to provide proof of vaccination, both stable since spring. A pandemic-low 9 percent say their state or local government requires masks to be worn in all public places, down from 46 percent in early February ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Government Response

One percent in one survey, and fewer in another, call the coronavirus the country's biggest problem ([Quinnipiac 7/14-7/18](#), [NYT-Siena College 7/5-7/7](#)). About 10 percent in two other surveys identify it as one of the top three issues ([Ipsos 7/8-7/10](#), [FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos 6/27-7/5](#)).

Just 2 percent of registered voters in an open-ended question say the pandemic is most to blame for current gas prices and 2 percent say it's the biggest economic problem facing their family ([Fox News 7/10-7/13](#), [CNN 6/13-7/13](#)). Half call it highly important in their vote for Congress, last on a list; 1 percent say it's the issue they would most like to see congressional candidates talking about, also last ([CNN 6/13-7/13](#)).

Workplace Requirements

Workers split evenly on their employer placing a vaccine mandate on employees or requiring customers to be masked. Seventeen percent say their employer requires employees to wear masks, down 6 points from June and 42 points from February to a low in data since August 2021.

Twenty-three percent are working from home remotely, down from a third in early February; 11 percent say their employer has extended or returned to a work-from-home policy. Both are lows in available data ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Vaccines

Eight in 10 say they've received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, up 5 points since June after remaining mostly steady since September ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)). Another study places uptake at 84 percent ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/29-7/11](#)).

[CDC](#) data say nine in 10 adults have received at least one dose of a vaccine. CDC estimates exceed those of probability-based polling given the center's difficulty differentiating between initial and booster shots.

Three-quarters of vaccinated adults are likely to get a booster shot annually if recommended; that's down from 88 percent in mid-July. Three-quarters also are likely to get another shot if current boosters are updated to provide better protection against new variants ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

Vaccines and Children

The [CDC](#) estimates that six in 10 children age 12-17 and three in 10 age 5-11 have received at least one vaccine dose. (Data for children younger than 5 are unavailable.) Among parents of minor children, 36 percent say their child has received at least one dose, up 9 points since June. Twenty-two percent are likely to have their child vaccinated; 39 percent unlikely, down 6 points ([Axios-Ipsos 7/15-7/18](#)).

In another study, among adults who live in a household with children, half have a child in their household who has received a vaccine and an additional 10 percent plan on vaccinating a child. A quarter are unlikely to do so, including 19 percent who rule it out. The rest are either unsure or unaware of plans to vaccinate a child ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/29-7/11](#)).

State Results

In a California survey conducted in February and March, nine in 10 California residents were fully vaccinated, 2 percent partially. Among those who were not fully vaccinated, six in 10 cited worry about side effects, 41 percent said the vaccines were developed too quickly and 30 percent called it unnecessary. A quarter planned to get fully vaccinated.

Thirty-one percent of unvaccinated adults got their coronavirus news and information from social media, compared with 18 percent of fully vaccinated adults ([CHIS 2022](#)).

International Results

In Canada, 17 percent blame pandemic supply chain disruptions for the rise in prices and living costs. More blame the war in Ukraine or government spending policies ([Nanos 6/30-7/4](#)).

In Chile, a quarter are worried about contracting the coronavirus, down 12 points in two weeks to match a low in data since March 2020 ([Cadem 7/13-7/15](#)).

Germans split 47-51 percent, satisfied-dissatisfied, on the federal government's coronavirus policies. Satisfaction is higher on this measure than in other policy areas by 8 points or more.

Most Germans are receptive to the reintroduction of preventive measures if cases rise in the fall. Seven in 10 would support the reintroduction of an indoor mask mandate, two-thirds would back testing to access certain public events and about six in 10 would favor mandatory vaccination for the vulnerable. Just two in 10, however, would favor school closures.

In the current absence of mask requirements, 29 percent of Germans say they will continue to wear masks in public voluntarily, down 24 points from April. An additional 24 percent are more likely than not to wear a mask in public. The rest are either unlikely to wear masks (25 percent) or will not do so (22 percent) ([ARD-Infratest Dimap 7/4-7/6](#)).

In Great Britain, majorities think it is important to social distance (76 percent) or wear face masks (71 percent) to slow the spread of the coronavirus and other diseases, but many fewer are

taking these actions. Twenty-six percent always or often maintained social distance when meeting with people outside their household in the past week and 35 percent used a face mask.

Four in 10 are at least somewhat worried about the effect the coronavirus is having on their life, up 8 points from mid-June. Half are worried about new variants, up 7 points ([Office for National Statistics 6/22-7/3](#)).

In South Korea, more approve than disapprove of the government's response to the coronavirus, 41 vs. 32 percent. Disapproval is down 21 points from March, approval largely steady; many more didn't express an opinion. About half would like to see current restrictions remain in place; 36 percent, strengthened; 8 percent, further relaxed. Nearly nine in 10 are fully vaccinated and 65 percent have received a booster. Fewer, 53 percent, are willing to receive a second booster, with the rest unwilling or unsure, especially younger adults ([Gallup Korea 7/12-7/14](#)).

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

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