



COVID-19 Survey Summary: September 30, 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](#).

Polling on the pandemic has slowed considerably, with especially sparse results in the last two weeks as polls pivot to cover the midterm elections. With cases off their summer peak, few people identify the coronavirus as a top national issue, a top issue for K-12 schools or a pressing personal concern. Fewer have seen a lot of coronavirus coverage in the news now than last spring.

In education-related results, 53 percent of public schools report continued staffing challenges; many have been unable to fill vacant positions or have lost positions entirely since the pandemic began.

With updated booster shots that target omicron variants recommended for all adults, just a third have received the shot or intend to do so right away. Knowledge is muted; just half of fully vaccinated adults are aware that these boosters have been recommended for them by the CDC. And parents of young children express substantial vaccine hesitancy.

In other results, nearly half of those who use online dating apps said it was important to them to see someone's coronavirus vaccination status when looking at their profile, with wide partisan gaps.

State results in Georgia and Texas and international results in Chile, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Russia also are included in this week's summary.

Coronavirus Concerns

New daily coronavirus [cases](#) continue to trend down; on average about 50,000 new infections are confirmed each day in the United States, down from a recent peak of about 130,000 per day in late July. Accordingly, concerns are comparatively muted. Thirty-eight percent are at least moderately concerned about the coronavirus, down 7 percentage points since early August ([CDC 9/11-9/17](#)). Eight percent say the coronavirus is one of the top three issues they find most worrying, tied for 12th in a list of 18 items and mostly steady since May ([FiveThirtyEight-Ipsos 9/6-9/19](#)).

Issue Importance & Voting

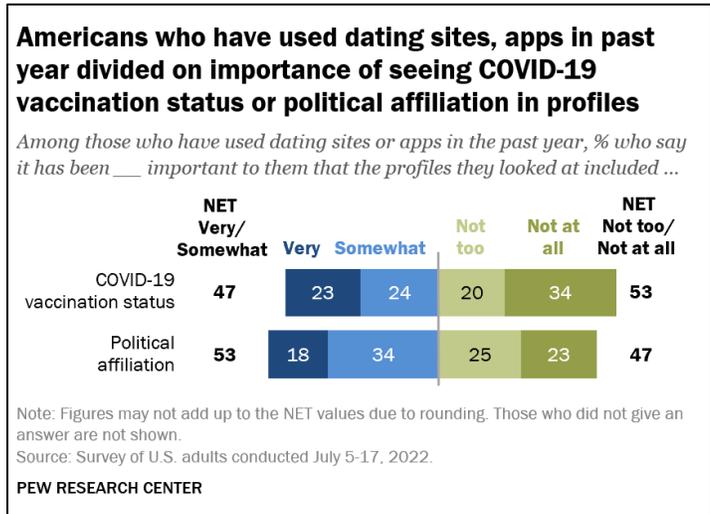
Beyond personal concerns, 7 percent in one poll call the coronavirus one of the top three issues facing the country, down from 15 percent in May ([FiveThirtyEight-Ipsos 9/6-9/19](#)). In another, of the 68 percent of registered voters who say the country is heading in the wrong direction, 2 percent cite the pandemic as a reason. Four in 10 identify the economy or inflation as reasons ([NBC News 9/9-9/13](#)).

In an August poll, 28 percent of registered voters said the coronavirus was a very important issue in deciding their vote for Congress, rising to 39 percent of Latinos ([Pew Research 8/1-8/14](#)).

Thirty-seven percent have seen a lot of coronavirus coverage in the news in the past month, down from 54 percent in May ([FiveThirtyEight-Ipsos 9/6-9/19](#)).

Dating & the Pandemic

In newly released data from a July survey, among the 9 percent who used a dating app in the past year, 47 percent said it was at least somewhat important to them to see someone’s coronavirus vaccination status in their profile. (Fifty-three percent said the same for seeing someone’s political affiliation.) Democrats were nearly five times as apt as Republicans to find this important, 64 vs. 14 percent ([Pew Research 7/5-7/17](#)).



K-12 Education

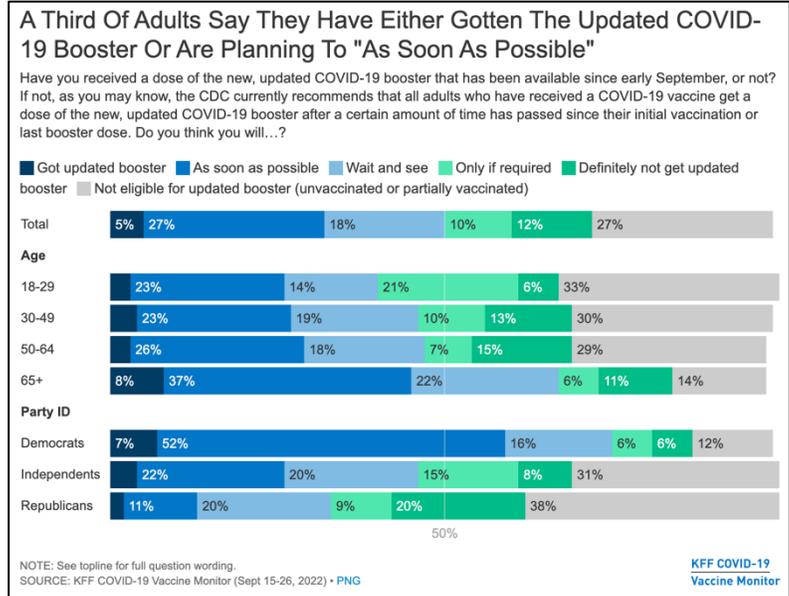
In August polling, 7 percent said the coronavirus was one of their top two worries when it comes to K-12 schools, including one in 10 parents. More selected issues such as gun violence (29 percent) and bullying and mental health (27 percent) ([Ipsos 8/19-8/22](#)).

In an August survey of 904 public schools, 53 percent said their school was understaffed this year. While two in 10 said they were understaffed before the pandemic, six in 10 said they have not been able to fill non-teaching job vacancies since the beginning of the pandemic and 48 percent said the same for vacant teaching positions. Thirty-six percent had lost full-time teaching positions since the beginning of the pandemic. (These data are described as “experimental” and to be “interpreted with caution.”) ([IES 08/2022](#)).

Vaccines & Boosters

With updated bivalent booster shots available to the public, 5 percent of adults say they have received the updated shot and 27 percent plan to do so as soon as possible. Eighteen percent will wait and see; 12 percent, definitely not get it; and 10 percent, act only if required. An additional 27 percent are ineligible for the booster because they are not fully vaccinated.

Knowledge of the updated booster’s availability is limited. Just half of fully vaccinated adults correctly say the shot has been recommended for them by the CDC; four in 10 are unsure and 11 percent think not.



Among parents of children age 6 months to 4 years, 53 percent say they definitely will not get their child vaccinated, up 10 points from July after the FDA authorized the vaccines for use in this age group. Two in 10 say they have gotten their child vaccinated, up from 7 percent in July; just 6 percent currently plan to do so. The rest say they’ll wait and see or will act only if required.

Among parents of children age 5-11, for whom vaccines have been available longer, 46 percent have had their child vaccinated, up from a third in January. Similar to parents of younger children, few parents with unvaccinated children in this age group intend to act ([KFF 9/15-9/26](#)).

State Results

Among registered voters in Georgia, 3 percent identify the pandemic as one of the top two issues facing the country. More pick inflation or increasing prices (36 percent), the economy generally (25 percent), illegal immigration (17 percent) and abortion (14 percent) ([Monmouth 9/15-9/19](#)).

In a poll of Texas likely voters, fewer than 1 percent say the coronavirus is the most important issue facing the state ([Quinnipiac 9/22-9/26](#)).

International Results

A pandemic low of 17 percent in Chile are worried about being infected with the coronavirus. The lifting of restrictions is popular; most agree with ending the use of vaccine passes (71 percent), mask mandates (69 percent) and limited capacity at establishments (65 percent) ([Cadem 9/21-9/23](#)).

In Great Britain, 27 percent are very or somewhat worried about the effect of the coronavirus on their life, down 9 points since late August to a pandemic low. Twenty-six percent have worn a mask outside the home in the past week, a new low ([Office for National Statistics 8/31-9/11](#)).

A survey in the Netherlands finds that 87 percent are fully vaccinated, stable since February, and seven in 10 have received a booster shot. Additional uptake is unlikely: Of the 17 percent who are

vaccinated but unboosted, just 8 percent are certain to receive a booster shot. Among the boosted, 6 percent have received a second booster and 46 percent are likely to do so when it becomes available to them. Most, seven in 10, say getting the vaccine should be a choice, while 14 percent are in favor of mandatory vaccination. In December, 36 percent favored mandatory vaccination.

Pandemic pessimism is high; three-quarters expect the pandemic to revive and about half expect new coronavirus measures to be introduced in the fall. Just 6 percent say we are rid of the coronavirus ([I&O Research 9/9-9/12](#)).

In Russia, 2 percent say the increase in coronavirus cases is one of the four most memorable events of the last month, similar to the share in the previous month ([Levada 8/25-8/31](#)).

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