

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 772 Florida respondents on August 20-23, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

Florida Highlights

School Reopenings

37.3% of parents of K-12 students in Florida say that they have disenrolled their children from the school they were originally supposed to attend this year, in response to school reopening plans, compared to 39.7% of parents in the US overall. Of those that disenrolled their children, 53.4% have enrolled their child or children in an online program, 28.2% have made plans to homeschool, and 25.9% have enrolled their child or children in a charter school. 71.2% of parents in Florida who disenrolled their children say that they will re-enroll their children back into the original school once it is safe to do so.

31.6% of Floridian parents of K-12 students report that their children will be attending all in-person classes, 55.1% report that their children will be attending all remote classes, and 13.3% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. 74.9% of K-12 parents in Florida said that their children's school provided the option to choose between in-person, remote, or hybrid classes, compared to 71.9% of K-12 parents in the US overall. 54.8% of Floridian K-12 parents reported that their children's school has provided information about mental and physical health, 39.1% reported receiving information about racial justice, and 63.9% reported receiving information about food services.

When asked about various safety measures that schools could implement for in-person classes, around half of Floridian K-12 parents said they would be more willing to send their children to school if those measures were implemented. Enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways is most effective at increasing parental confidence in in-person classes (58.8% would be more willing to send their children to school), followed by requiring that sick students and staff stay home (58.2%). Dismissing in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tested positive was the least effective in convincing parents; 47.0% of Floridian parents reported being more willing to send their children to school.

K-12 parents in Florida do generally think schools can successfully implement these safety measures, but at lower rates than parents in the US overall. Floridian parents are most confident in schools' abilities to increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities (70.0% of parents in FL say schools will likely be successful in implementing, compared to 74.6% of parents in the US overall), and least confident in schools' abilities to dismissing class if a student or teacher tests positive (56.4%, compared to 66.0% in the US overall).

How likely do you think it is that your children’s school will be able to successfully implement each of the following safety measures? (% of K-12 parents who responded “Very likely” or “Somewhat likely”)

US Margin of Error = 2.5%, FL Margin of Error = 8.3%

Safety Measure Feasibility (% “Likely”)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Provide masks and hand sanitizer to each student	71.9%	66.0%	78.7%	66.9%	70.2%	61.9%
Increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities	74.6%	70.0%	78.3%	67.5%	71.7%	69.7%
Require sick students and staff to stay home	70.1%	62.2%	75.1%	67.7%	70.4%	62.1%
Avoid large gatherings (e.g. cafeteria lunch, assemblies)	67.4%	63.9%	74.4%	63.5%	67.6%	63.8%
Reduce the hours per day that a student is at school	65.7%	59.1%	71.8%	58.5%	66.4%	62.3%
Dismiss in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus	66.0%	56.4%	73.8%	57.0%	65.9%	60.3%
Enforce social distancing in classrooms and hallways	64.0%	64.2%	74.2%	57.2%	67.9%	56.2%

Postsecondary Education Transitions

64.3% of parents of high school seniors in FL report that their child is planning to apply to four-year colleges this fall, compared to 73.2% of parents of high school seniors in the US overall; of those, 60.8% say they and their child feel “Very prepared” to navigate the college financial aid process, compared to 4.2% who feel “Not at all prepared.” 52.2% of parents of high school students in Florida report that their child has already taken the SAT or ACT, and another 18.6% of parents said that their child will take the SAT or ACT by December 31, 2020, compared to 62.4% of parents in the US overall who report their child has already taken the SAT or ACT and another 17.8% who will take the tests by December 31. 56.2% of Floridian parents of high school seniors say that their child has been in touch with a school guidance counselor to make plans for after graduation, compared to 75.3% of parents of high school seniors in the US.

Following up with students who graduated from high school in the spring, 64.3% of parents of recent high school graduates in Florida report that their child changed his or her postsecondary plans between March 2020 and now, compared to 75.4% of parents of recent high school graduates in the US overall.

Of those who changed plans, 38.9% switched to an option closer to home, 29.2% switched to a less expensive option, and 20.4% postponed their plans.

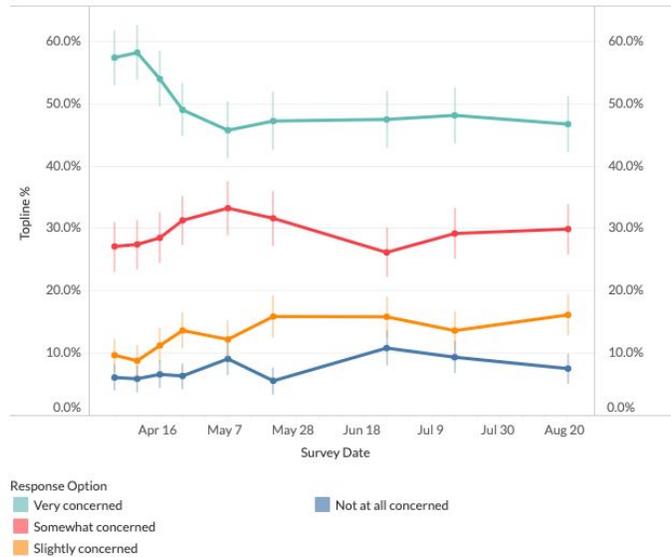
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

How concerned are you about Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

46.7% of Floridian adults say that they are “Very concerned” about Coronavirus (COVID-19), on par with 48.1% from our last wave of research in July. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in Florida since early May.

Attitudes Concern Level in FL

Question Text: “How concerned are you about Coronavirus (COVID-19)?”



When asked about specific concerns in relations to COVID-19, 59.8% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about the immediate illness, 60.5% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about transmitting COVID-19 to others, 48.2% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about losing work or income, and 63.8% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about long-term health impacts.

After an increase in the proportion of Floridians who thought their state’s actions were insufficient over the month of June, reactions to the closures, restrictions and other steps that the state of Florida has taken have remained steady since late June. In this most recent wave (August 20-23), 43.7% of Floridians report that they wish their state would do even more, 33.2% say the steps have been appropriate, 13.5% say that some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far, and 5.4% believe everyone is overreacting.

Which statement best reflects your feelings about closures, restrictions, and other steps that the state of Florida* has taken to slow the spread of the virus?

* Each respondent was asked about their home state
 US Margin of Error = 1.3%, FL Margin of Error = 4.5%

State Order Reaction (% response)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
I wish they would do even more	37.1%	43.7%	30.5%	30.0%	40.9%	32.6%
I think the steps are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis	37.9%	33.2%	46.5%	38.8%	36.9%	40.4%
I think some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far	13.8%	13.5%	15.5%	17.9%	10.9%	14.0%
I think everyone is overreacting	7.1%	5.4%	3.9%	10.0%	7.2%	9.2%

There have been some shifts in protective measures among Floridians over time. 76.8% of Floridians report “always” wearing a face mask or covering while in public, up from 66.1% in June. However, fewer Floridians are staying home and limiting trips to essentials (59.1%, compared to 64.8% in June). The proportion of Floridians who always maintain social/physical distance has remained steady at 67.6%, as have those who wash their hands frequently (69.6%).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Florida. Questions were fielded August 20-23, 2020 (772 respondents).