

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 758 Florida respondents on October 21-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

Florida Highlights

Education Policy

As schools reopen, we asked about how to prioritize groups of students for in-person instruction. 67.0% of Florida adults said it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important’ that students with special needs or learning disabilities are prioritized highest for a return to in-person instruction, followed by Low income students (or students experiencing poverty) (65.5%) and Elementary school students (62.2%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 51.4% of Florida adults saying it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important.’ Overall, Florida adults rated in-person instruction as ‘extremely’ or ‘very important’ for all student groups more frequently than US adults across every category.

Some people think states and school districts should prioritize certain groups of students for in-person instruction as schools reopen. For each group of students, please indicate how important you think it is for states and districts to prioritize them highest for a return to in-person instruction. (% of adults who responded “Extremely important” or “Very important”)

US Margin of Error = 1.4%, FL Margin of Error = 4.7%

Student Group (% “Important for in-person”)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Pre-K and kindergarten students	60.3%	60.5%	64.9%	54.6%	61.9%	58.8%
Elementary school students	60.9%	62.2%	62.7%	54.7%	60.7%	59.8%
Middle and high school students	57.5%	59.9%	61.0%	49.9%	58.0%	55.6%
College and university students	48.4%	51.4%	53.8%	43.7%	50.7%	43.0%
Students with special needs or learning disabilities	65.1%	67.0%	65.8%	58.4%	61.6%	68.0%
Students who are learning to speak English	52.7%	55.8%	55.0%	46.5%	54.9%	53.1%
Low income students (or students experiencing poverty)	61.9%	65.5%	62.1%	55.2%	63.2%	63.0%

Students who are close to graduating	55.8%	58.9%	58.2%	51.3%	55.2%	54.1%
Students who are in their first year at a school	54.2%	54.6%	56.5%	54.8%	52.0%	51.4%

When asked about government budget priorities, 44.5% of Florida adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 33.7% of Florida adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 54.7% of Florida adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state’s government budget, and 31.7% of Florida adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

School Reopenings

38.8% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 49.3% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 11.8% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. Slightly more students are attending in-person and hybrid classes compared to mid-September. In mid-September, 34.7% of Florida parents of K-12 students reported that their children were attending all in-person classes, 55.2% reported that their children were attending all remote classes, and 10.0% reported a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 91.9% of Florida K-12 parents said their children’s school has been ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ successful in enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways, followed by 90.7% reported success in avoiding large gatherings (e.g. cafeteria lunch, assemblies) and 90.5% reported success in dismissing in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus.

How successful has your children’s school been in implementing each of the following safety measures? (% of K-12 parents who responded “Very successful” or “Somewhat successful”)

US Margin of Error = 3.6%, FL Margin of Error = 12.1%

Safety Measure Implementation (% “Successful”)	US	FL	OH	TX
Provide masks and hand sanitizer to each student	89.4%	89.3%	95.7%	91.1%
Increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities	86.9%	87.9%	89.0%	82.2%
Require sick students and staff to stay home	88.6%	87.4%	94.1%	86.7%
Avoid large gatherings (e.g. cafeteria lunch, assemblies)	85.5%	90.7%	87.3%	82.1%

Reduce the hours per day that a student is at school	76.7%	78.3%	77.8%	72.4%
Dismiss in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus	81.9%	90.5%	87.8%	79.3%
Enforce social distancing in classrooms and hallways	87.7%	91.9%	88.9%	83.6%

COVID-19 Protective Measures

79.6% of Florida adults report ‘always’ wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 59.8% ‘always’ staying home and limiting trips to only essentials, 68.0% ‘always’ staying 6 feet apart from others, 39.1% ‘always’ gathering with small groups only, and 68.6% ‘always’ wearing a mask, staying six feet apart, and gathering in small groups only when socializing.

Of those who report only ‘sometimes,’ ‘rarely,’ or ‘never’ wearing a face mask, 30.1% say they don’t do so because it’s not necessary if they are social distancing and/or outside, followed by 23.6% who say they don’t do so because it’s uncomfortable and 19.6% who say they don’t do so because they don’t really trust the people who are telling them it is necessary to wear a mask. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 39.0% say they don’t do so because some of the places they go don’t have enough room to stay 6 feet apart, followed by 28.6% who say they don’t do so because when they try to stay socially distanced, other don’t, and 26.9% who say they don’t do so because if they’re outside and/or wearing a mask, it’s not necessary to stay physically distanced. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups only when socializing, 35.6% say they don’t do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 20.9% who say they don’t do so because gatherings are spontaneous, so it’s not easy to control the number of people and 16.0% who say they don’t do so because they hear inconsistent information about gathering, so they are not sure what to do.

When asked about reasons to keep gatherings small and to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events, the most compelling reasons for both were to protect themselves or their families from catching the disease (64.4% found this ‘very compelling’ to keep gatherings small and 67.5% found this ‘very compelling’ to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events) and to prevent spreading the disease to others, especially the vulnerable (65.7% found this ‘very compelling’ to keep gatherings small and 64.5% found this ‘very compelling’ to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events).

COVID-19 Vaccine

56.6% of Florida adults say they are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 30.9% say they are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ unlikely, and 12.6% are not sure. Of those who are unlikely or unsure, 44.4% said it is because they don’t trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 38.1% said they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, 31.5% said they are concerned it has not been tested enough on people like them. 43.8% of Florida adults say they would

be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been approved by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration), 42.1% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed clinical trials, and 38.8% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed an independent, scientific safety and efficacy review. When it comes to compelling reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 40.7% of Florida adults say they would be compelled to get the vaccine because they would be more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands, while 34.1% selected that they would be helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic back on their feet sooner, and 33.3% selected that they would be able to resume all the activities they cannot currently do now (respondents were asked to select all that apply).

Contact Tracing and Exposure Notification Apps

62.1% of Florida adults have heard of contact tracing as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19, which has increased slightly since September. Florida adults say that the most compelling reasons to cooperate with contact tracers are that contact tracing helps slow the spread of COVID-19 (46.7%), contact tracing finds and isolates new infections before they spread (40.1%), and the information from contact tracing is strictly confidential and used only to help slow the spread of disease (36.9%). 40.6% of Florida adults say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if they know that the information is confidential and will not be shared, and 35.9% of Florida adults say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if they understand how the information will be used.

38.5% of Florida adults have heard about exposure notification apps or features on their phone as a way to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and 23.3% of Florida adults say that they are 'very' likely to enable the feature or download the app. In terms of motivating enablement of exposure notifications, 51.0% of Florida adults say they would be more likely to enable if the app provides 100% privacy, 35.9% say they would be more likely to enable if the app was created from a partnership between Apple, Google, and their local health department, and 52.7% say they would be more likely to enable if people using the app helps decrease the number of cases in the state.

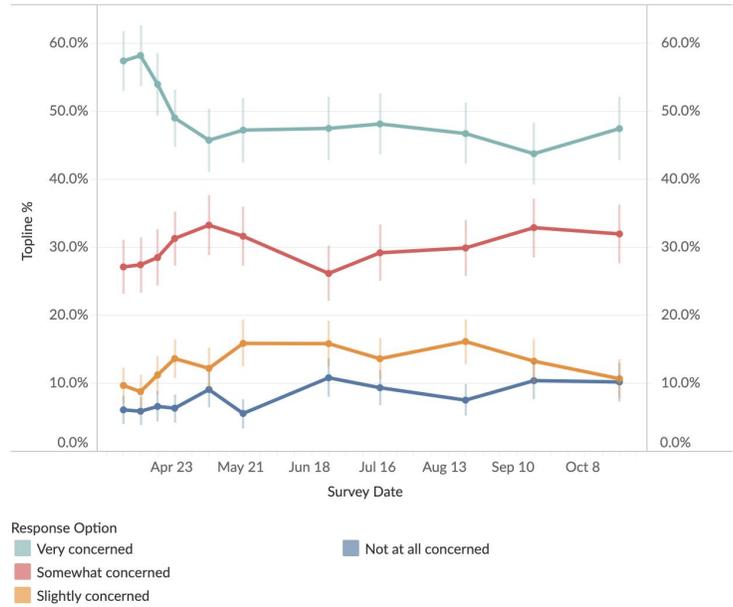
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 47.4% of Florida adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), up from 43.7% from our last wave of research in September. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in Florida since April.

Attitudes Concern Level in FL

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



53.5% of Florida adults are more concerned than before due to COVID-19 cases increasing in some areas, particularly around college campuses, compared to 42.4% who have maintained the same concern level and 4.2% who are less concerned than before. 38.4% of adults in Florida believe students being irresponsible and not following guidelines set by their college or university is the most important factor contributing toward the increase in COVID-19 cases around college campuses, followed by the federal government not setting appropriate guidelines for all campuses to follow (15.7%). 13.5% of Florida adults believe the spread of COVID-19 has been unpredictable, and they don't know why college campuses are currently hotspots.

40.2% of Florida adults say they wish their state would do more to slow the spread of the virus, on par with our last wave of research in September (41.5%).

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 = 1.4%, FL Margin of Error = 4.7%

State Order Reaction (% response)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
I wish they would do even more	32.2%	40.2%	32.4%	29.6%	37.1%	27.3%

I think the steps are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis	39.6%	35.3%	44.4%	38.5%	36.2%	42.7%
I think some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far	15.2%	13.8%	12.1%	17.5%	12.7%	17.7%
I think everyone is overreacting	8.4%	5.6%	5.2%	9.5%	8.4%	8.3%

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Florida. Questions were fielded October 21-26, 2020 (758 respondents).