

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 8,387 US adults on October 21-26, 2020, including 4,370 respondents across the US and oversamples in the states of Florida, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington (758, 761, 752, 746, and 1000 responses, respectively). Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

National Highlights

Education Policy

As schools reopen, we asked about how to prioritize groups of students for in-person instruction. 65.1% of US 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 (61.9%) and elementary school students (60.9%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 48.4% of adults nationally saying it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important.’

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%

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, 45.3% of US adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 29.7% said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 47.1% said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state’s government budget, and 31.7% said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in their state’s budget.

School Reopenings

34.5% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 45.5% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 20.0% report a hybrid of in-person and remote. We are seeing a shift away from remote classes and toward in-person classes compared to September, when 30.2% of US parents of K-12 students reported that their children are attending all in-person classes, 51.4% reported that their children are attending all remote classes, and 18.4% reported a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 89.4% of K-12 parents said their children’s school has been ‘very’ or ‘somewhat successful in providing masks and hand sanitizer to each student, followed by 88.6% reported success in requiring sick students and staff to stay home, and 87.7% reported success in enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways.

COVID-19 Protective Measures

74.3% of US adults report ‘always’ wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 51.6% ‘always’ staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 60.7% ‘always’ staying 6 feet apart from others, 38.3% ‘always’ gathering with 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 if they are social distancing and/or outside, it’s not necessary, 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. 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 they try to stay socially distanced, others 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. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups only when socializing, 35.6% say they don’t do so because they trust their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 24.2% who say they don’t do so because if they are wearing masks, standing 6 feet apart and/or

outside, it's not necessary and 20.9% who say they don't do so because gatherings are spontaneous, so it's not easy to control the number of people.

When asked about reasons to keep gatherings small and to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events, the most compelling reason for both was to protect themselves or their family from catching the disease (62.9% found this 'very compelling' to keep gatherings small and 59.4% found this 'very compelling' to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events), followed by to prevent spreading the disease to others, especially the vulnerable (61.9% found this 'very compelling' to keep gatherings small and 57.9% found this 'very compelling' to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events).

COVID-19 Vaccine

59.6% of US adults say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 29.4% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 11.0% are not sure. Of those who are unlikely or unsure, 44.5% said they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 34.6% said they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, 32.2% said they are concerned it has not been tested enough on people like them. 41.7% of US adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has passed clinical trials, 40.8% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has been approved by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration), and 39.1% 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 reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 39.2% of US adults say being more comfortable leaving home to do everyday errands is a compelling reason, while 34.7% selected helping businesses and people who have been negatively impacted financially by the pandemic get back on their feet sooner, and 33.2% selected being able to resume all the activities they can't do now (respondents were asked to select all that apply).

Contact Tracing and Exposure Notification Apps

65.6% of US adults have heard of contact tracing as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19, which has held steady since mid August (67.4%). US adults say that the most compelling reasons to cooperate with contact tracers are slowing the spread of COVID-19 (44.5%), finding and isolating new infections before they spread (38.0%), and that the information from contact tracing is strictly confidential and used only to help slow the spread of disease (32.8%). 39.5% say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if they knew the information is confidential and will not be shared, and 34.4% of adults say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if they understood how the information will be used.

43.9% of US adults have heard about exposure notification apps or features on their phone as a way to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and 24.9% say that they are 'very' likely to enable the feature or download the app. In terms of motivating enablement of exposure notifications, 49.6% of adults say they would be more likely to enable if the app provides 100% privacy, 35.7% 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 50.9% say they would be more likely to enable if people using the app helps decrease the number of cases in the state.

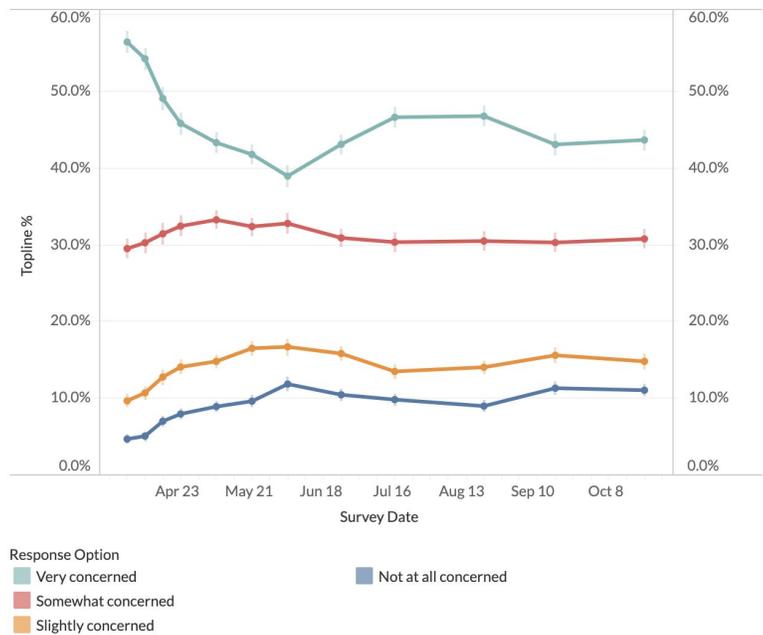
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 43.6% of US adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), holding steady with 43.0% from our last wave of research in September. More generally, concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in the US since late June.

Attitudes Concern Level in US

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



51.9% of US adults are more concerned than before due to COVID-19 cases increasing in some areas, particularly around college campuses, compared to 42.6% who have maintained the same concern level and 5.5% who are less concerned than before. 38.3% of adults in the US believe students being irresponsible and not following guidelines is the most important factor contributing toward the increase in COVID-19 cases around college campuses, followed by the unpredictable spread of COVID-19 (13.6%) and more testing driving increased numbers, rather than more COVID-19 cases in actuality (12.9%).

In terms of the steps states have taken, responses are consistent with the previous wave, in that 39.6% say the steps have been appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis (on par with 39.4 in mid-September). 32.2% of US adults report that they wish their state would do even more (also on par with 32.3 in mid-September). 15.2% say some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far, and 8.4% believe everyone is overreacting.

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

* Each respondent was asked about their home state
 US Margin of Error = 1.4%

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 US adult population. Questions were fielded October 21-26, 2020 (8,387 respondents).