

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 761 New York respondents on October 21-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

New York Highlights

Education Policy

As schools reopen, we asked about how to prioritize groups of students for in-person instruction. 65.8% of New York 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 Pre-K and kindergarten students (64.9%) and elementary school students (62.7%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 53.8% of New York adults saying it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important.’ In general, New York adults rated in-person instruction as extremely or very important for all student groups more frequently than US adults overall.

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%, NY Margin of Error = 4.9%

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, 41.4% of New York adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 28.8% of New York adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 45.6% of New York adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state’s government budget, and 35.2% of New York adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

School Reopenings

29.6% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 43.0% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 27.4% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote . This has remained steady from mid-September when 30.3% of New York parents of K-12 students reported that their children are attending all in-person classes, 43.6% reported that their children are attending all remote classes, and 26.1% reported a hybrid of in-person and remote.

COVID-19 Protective Measures

73.6% of New York adults report ‘always’ wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 56.3% ‘always’ staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 65.0% ‘always’ staying 6 feet apart from others, 37.7% ‘always’ gathering with small groups only when socializing.

Of those who report only ‘sometimes,’ ‘rarely,’ or ‘never’ wearing a face mask, 22.5% say they don’t do so because they forget to bring it with them, followed by 20.3% who say they don’t do so because if they are social distancing and/or outside, it’s not necessary, and 19.6% who say they don’t do so because it’s uncomfortable. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 37.7% 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 28.7% who say they don’t do so because when they try to stay socially distanced, others don’t, and 21.1% who say they don’t do so because if they are outside and/or wearing a mask, it’s not necessary. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups only when socializing, 31.9% say they don’t do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 26.2% who say they don’t do so because it’s not necessary if they’re wearing masks, social/physical distancing, and/or outside, and 16.2% 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 (66.7% found this ‘very compelling’ to keep gatherings small and 63.0% 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 (63.9% found this 'very compelling' to keep gatherings small and 59.0% found this 'very compelling' to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events).

COVID-19 Vaccine

62.2% of New York adults say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 26.1% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 11.7% are not sure. Of those who are unlikely or unsure, 41.7% said it is because they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 37.8% said they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, 33.7% said that they are concerned it has not been tested enough on people like them. 44.7% of New York adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been approved by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration), 41.6% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed clinical trials, and 38.6% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if they knew it would help protect themselves from getting COVID-19. When it comes to reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 43.8% of New York adults say being more comfortable leaving home to do everyday errands is a compelling reason, while 39.3% selected being able to resume all the activities they can't do now, and 38.7% selected helping businesses and people who have been negatively impacted financially by the pandemic get back on their feet sooner (respondents were asked to select all that apply).

Contact Tracing and Exposure Notification Apps

67.8% of New York adults have heard of contact tracing as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19, which has held steady since polling for this question began in early-June. New York adults say that the most compelling reasons to cooperate with contact tracers are contact tracing helps slow the spread of COVID-19 (45.3%), contact tracing finds and isolates new infections before they spread (37.3%), and the information from contact tracing is strictly confidential and only used to help slow the spread of disease (34.5%). 38.2% of New York adults 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 35.1% of New York adults say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if they understand why contact tracing is important.

50.8% of New York adults have heard about exposure notification apps or features on their phone as a way to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and 31.6% of New York adults say that they are 'very' likely to enable the feature or download the app. In terms of motivating enablement of exposure notifications, 53.9% of New York adults say they would be more likely to enable if the app provides 100% privacy, 40.7% 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.

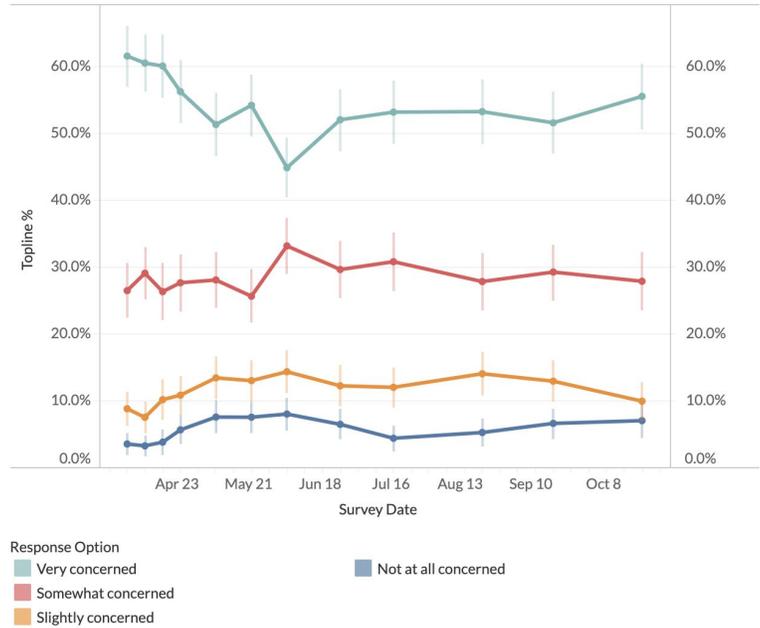
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 55.4% of New York adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), up from 51.5% from our last wave of research in September. It also marks the highest level since the late-April wave.

Attitudes Concern Level in NY

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



62.3% of New York adults are more concerned than before due to COVID-19 cases increasing in some areas, particularly around college campuses, compared to 34.3% who have maintained the same concern level and 3.4% who are less concerned than before. 41.8% of adults in New York 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 college universities not putting into place necessary precautions for students to return to campus (14.9%) and the spread of COVID-19 has been unpredictable, and we don't know why college campuses are currently hotspots (13.8%).

Many New York adults (44.4%) continue to think that the steps their state has taken are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis.

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%, NY Margin of Error = 4.9%

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 New York. Questions were fielded October 21-26, 2020 (761 respondents).