

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 752 Ohio respondents on October 21-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

## Ohio Highlights

### Education Policy

As schools reopen, we asked about how to prioritize groups of students for in-person instruction. 58.4% of Ohio 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) (55.2%) and students who are in their first year at a school (54.8%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 43.7% of Ohio adults saying it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important.’ In general, Ohio adults rated in-person instruction as extremely or very important for all student groups less 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%, OH Margin of Error = 4.3%

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%
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When asked about government budget priorities, 46.8% of Ohio adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 29.6% of Ohio adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 41.5% of Ohio adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state’s government budget, and 27.7% of Ohio adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

### School Reopenings

43.5% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 31.2% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 25.3% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. More students are attending in-person classes compared to September when 33.7% of students were attending all in-person classes.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 95.7% of Ohio 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 94.1% reported success in requiring sick students and staff to stay home and 89.0% reported success in increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities.

### COVID-19 Protective Measures

69.8% of Ohio adults report ‘always’ wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 49.2% ‘always’ staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 57.7% ‘always’ staying 6 feet apart from others, 39.9% ‘always’ gathering with small groups only when socializing.

Of those who report only ‘sometimes,’ ‘rarely,’ or ‘never’ wearing a face mask, 30.3% say they don’t do so because if they are social distancing and/or outside, it’s not necessary, followed by 27.8% who say they don’t do so because it’s uncomfortable and 21.0% who say they don’t do so because they forget to bring it with them. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 44.0% say they don’t do so because some places they go don’t have enough room to stay 6 feet apart, followed by 27.7% who say they don’t do so because when they try to stay socially distant, others don’t and 26.1% who say they don’t do so because if they are 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, 41.9% say they don’t do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 21.9% who say they don’t do so because gatherings are spontaneous, so it’s not easy to control the number of people and 21.8% who say they don’t do so because if they are wearing masks, standing six feet apart and/or are outside, it’s not necessary to gather in small groups.

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 prevent spreading the disease to others, especially the vulnerable (55.5% found this ‘very compelling’ to keep gatherings small and 55.6% found this ‘very

compelling' to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events), followed by to protect themselves or their families from catching the disease (55.1% found this 'very compelling' to keep gatherings small and 53.8% found this 'very compelling' to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events)

## **COVID-19 Vaccine**

54.5% of Ohio adults say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 33.5% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 12.1% are not sure. Of those who are unlikely or unsure, 44.6% said it is because they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 32.1% said they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, and 32.1% said they're concerned that it has not been tested enough on people like them. 42.2% of Ohio adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been approved by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration), 36.3% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed an independent, scientific safety and efficacy test and 35.3% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if they knew it would help protect them from getting COVID-19. When it comes to reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 37.7% of Ohio adults say they would be compelled because they would be more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands, while 32.9% say they would be compelled because they would be helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic get back on their feet sooner, and 31.7% selected that they would be 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**

62.5% of Ohio adults have heard of contact tracing as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19, which has decreased since September (65.6%). Ohio adults say that the most compelling reasons to cooperate with contact tracers are contact tracing helps slow the spread of COVID-19 (41.7%), information from contact tracing is strictly confidential and used only to help slow the spread of disease (30.8%), and contact tracing helps prevent another stay-at-home order (28.9%). 37.3% of Ohio adults say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if knowing that the information is confidential and will not be shared, and 33.5% of Ohio adults say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if understanding how the information will be used.

41.3% of Ohio adults have heard about exposure notification apps or features on their phone as a way to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and 22.9% of Ohio adults say that they are 'very' likely to enable the feature or download the app. In terms of motivating enablement of exposure notifications, 46.2% of Ohio adults say they would be more likely to enable if the app provides 100% privacy, 31.8% 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 43.5% say they would be more likely to enable if people using the app helps decrease the number of cases in the state.

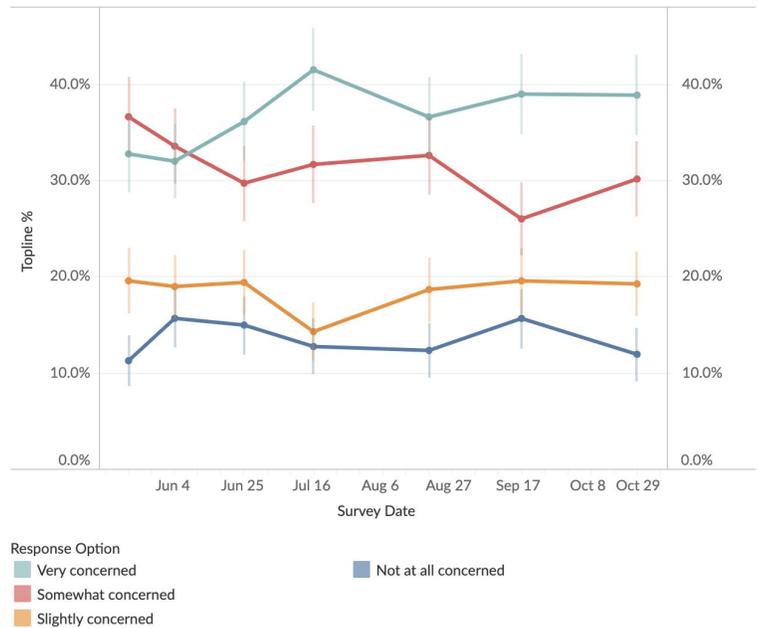
## Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 38.8% of Ohio adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), on par with 38.9% from our last wave of research in September. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in Ohio since mid-July.

#### Attitudes Concern Level in OH

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



47.8% of Ohio adults are more concerned than before due to COVID-19 cases increasing in some areas, particularly around college campuses, compared to 46.8% who have maintained the same concern level and 5.4% who are less concerned than before. 37.5% of adults in Ohio believe students are 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 people believing there are not more cases of COVID-19 in those areas. The increased numbers are only because of more testing (14.5%). 13.4% believe that the spread of COVID-19 has been unpredictable, and we don't know why college campuses are currently hotspots.

Many Ohio adults continue to feel that their state has reacted appropriately to slow the spread of the virus (38.5%), while 29.6% of OH adults wish the state would do even more.

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

\* Each respondent was asked about their home state  
 US Margin of Error = 1.4%, OH Margin of Error = 4.3%

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 Ohio. Questions were fielded October 21-26, 2020 (752 respondents).