

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 746 Texas respondents on October 21-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

## Texas Highlights

### Education Policy

As schools reopen, we asked about how to prioritize groups of students for in-person instruction. 63.2% of Texas adults said it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important’ that low income students are prioritized highest for a return to in-person instruction, followed by Pre-K and kindergarten students (61.9%) and students with special needs or learning disabilities (61.6%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 50.7% of Texas adults saying it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important.’ In general, Texas adults rated in-person instruction as extremely or very important for all student groups similarly to 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%, TX Margin of Error = 5.4%

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, 38.2% of Texas adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 28.2% of Texas adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 39.9% of Texas adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state’s government budget, and 27.4% of Texas adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

### School Reopenings

38.4% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 48.1% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 13.5% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. More students are attending in-person classes compared to mid-September when 22.1% of Texas parents of K-12 students reported that their children are attending all in-person classes, 55.9% reported that their children are attending all remote classes, and 22.0% reported a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 91.1% of Texas 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 86.7% reported success in requiring sick students and staff to stay home and 83.6% reported success in enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways.

### 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%, TX Margin of Error = 11.8%

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

72.9% of Texas adults report ‘always’ wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 56.9% ‘always’ staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 62.1% ‘always’ staying 6 feet apart from others, 42.8% ‘always’ gathering with small groups only when socializing.

Of those who report only ‘sometimes,’ ‘rarely,’ or ‘never’ wearing a face mask, 32.7% say they don’t do so because if they are social distancing and/or outside, it’s not necessary, followed by 15.9% who say they don’t do so because they don’t really trust the people who are telling them it is necessary, and 15.3% who say they don’t do so because it’s uncomfortable. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 35.9% 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 30.9% who say they don’t do so because when they try to stay socially distanced, others don’t, and 21.4% who say when people they know aren’t staying physically distant, they don’t either. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups only when socializing, 34.8% say they don’t do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 26.9% who say they don’t do so because it’s not necessary if they’re wearing masks, social/physical distancing, and/or outside and 20.0% who say they don’t do so because they hear inconsistent information about gathering, so they aren’t 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 reason for both was to protect themselves or their family from catching the disease (58.8% found this ‘very compelling’ to keep gatherings small and 61.6% 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 (57.5% found this ‘very compelling’ to keep gatherings small and 58.3% found this ‘very compelling’ to limit going out to gyms, restaurants, or events).

## COVID-19 Vaccine

58.9% of Texas adults say they are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 30.6% say they are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ unlikely, and 10.5% are not sure. Of those who are unlikely or unsure, 47.4% said it is because they don’t trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 32.8% said it is because they are concerned it has not been tested enough on people like them, and 27.8% said it is because they are worried the vaccine will have side effects. 39.4% of Texas adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has passed clinical trials, 38.8% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed an independent, scientific safety and efficacy review, and 38.0% 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,

41.0% of Texas adults say being more comfortable leaving home to do everyday errands is a compelling reason, while 30.6% selected being able to resume all the activities they can't do now, and 35.7% 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**

59.5% of Texas adults have heard of contact tracing as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19, which has held steady since mid-July. Texas adults say that the most compelling reasons to cooperate with contact tracers are that contact tracing helps slow the spread of COVID-19 (43.8%), contact tracing finds and isolates new infections before they spread (38.0%), and contact tracing helps prevent another stay-at-home order (29.5%). 37.9% of Texas adults say they would be more likely to provide information about their close contacts if they know their contacts can be tested for free, and the same percentage (37.9%) of Texas 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.

41.5% of Texas adults have heard about exposure notification apps or features on their phone as a way to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and 26.2% of Texas adults say that they are 'very' likely to enable the feature or download the app. In terms of motivating enablement of exposure notifications, 38.6% of Texas adults say they would be more likely to enable if the app provides 100% privacy, 49.1% 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 35.9% say they would be more likely to enable if people using the app helps decrease the number of cases in the state.

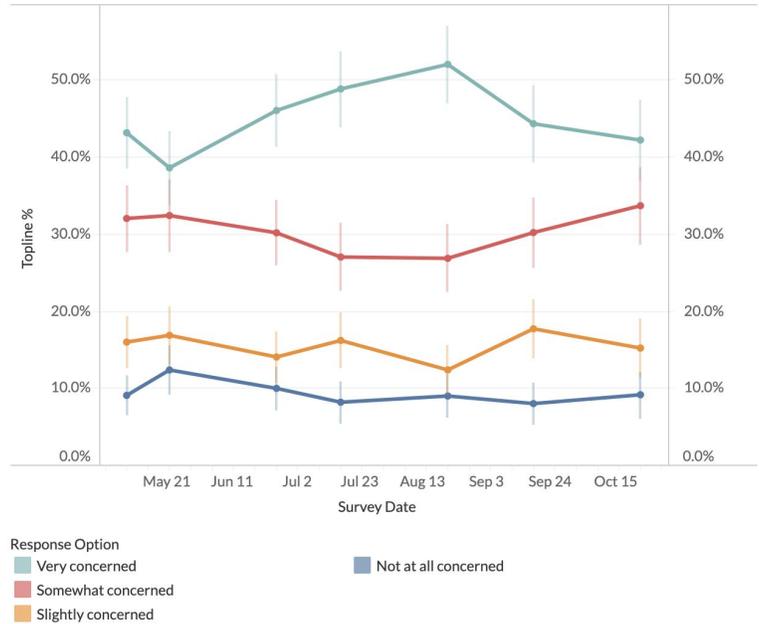
## Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 42.1% of Texas adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), slightly down from 44.3% from our last wave of research in September. Levels of concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Texas continue to decrease slightly since their summer high.

#### Attitudes Concern Level in TX

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



53.6% of Texas adults are more concerned than before due to COVID-19 cases increasing in some areas, particularly around college campuses, compared to 41.1% who have maintained the same concern level and 5.3% who are less concerned than before. 36.6% of adults in Texas believe that 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 spread of COVID-19 being unpredictable (16.0%) and there are not more cases in those areas; the increased numbers are only because of more testing (12.9%).

Now in October, similar levels of Texas adults wish their state would do even more to slow the spread of the virus (37.1%) as those that believe the steps their state has taken are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis (36.2%).

### 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%, TX Margin of Error = 5.4%

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 adult population of Texas. Questions were fielded October 21-26, 2020 (746 respondents).