

# Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

Wave #13 (December 9-15, 2020) - New York Quicktakes

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Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 711 New York respondents on December 9-15, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

## New York Highlights

### Holiday Plans

As the December holidays approach, 56.3% of New York adults are 'Very' concerned that the upcoming holidays will cause an increase in COVID-19 cases in their state, followed by 30.9% 'somewhat' concerned, 6.5% 'slightly' concerned, and 6.3% 'not at all' concerned. 16.6% of New York adults plan to travel, while 77.6% do not plan to travel, and 5.8% are not sure yet. 39.5% of New York adults are planning to celebrate with friends or family members who live outside of their home, while 49.9% do not plan to do so, and 10.6% are not sure yet. 73.0% of New York adults say their holiday gatherings will be smaller than last year, while 22.4% say they will be the same size, and 4.6% say they will be larger.

### COVID-19 Vaccine

71.0% 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 18.5% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 10.3% are not sure. Compared to late October, vaccination intent is up among New York adults (62.2% vs. 71.0% saying 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated).

Of those who are unlikely or unsure whether they will get vaccinated, 46.3% said it is because they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, 38.5% said they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, and 30.8% said they are concerned that it has not been tested enough on people like them. 40.5% of New York adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if they knew it would protect them from getting COVID-19, 35.5% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed clinical trials, and 35.4% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed an independent scientific and efficacy review. When it comes to reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 40.9% of New York adults say being able to resume all the activities they can't do now is a compelling reason, while 39.1% selected being more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands, and 36.7% selected helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic back on their feet sooner (respondents were asked to select all that apply).

**Which of the following would make you more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been proven safe and tested to be effective? Select all that apply.**

US Margin of Error = 1.5%, NY Margin of Error = 5.5%

Motivator (% selected)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
If it was recommended by my local health department	19.9%	17.6%	22.7%	20.3%	16.3%	24.7%
If it was recommended by local government officials	11.4%	9.4%	13.6%	11.9%	10.9%	14.3%
If it was recommended by federal government officials	13.9%	14.1%	17.2%	12.8%	14.3%	16.8%
If it has been out for a few months and seems okay	32.2%	28.2%	33.2%	32.8%	30.2%	33.2%
If it has been approved by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration)	38.8%	35.9%	33.5%	38.4%	35.9%	41.2%
If it has passed clinical trials	37.6%	34.9%	35.5%	35.7%	34.0%	41.4%
If it has passed an independent, scientific safety and efficacy review	35.8%	31.9%	35.4%	33.7%	34.2%	42.5%
If I knew it would help protect me from getting COVID-19	39.0%	41.9%	40.5%	41.7%	35.2%	40.2%
If I knew that it was part of helping end the pandemic	32.3%	29.4%	30.1%	33.6%	27.5%	37.5%

**Government Priorities**

When asked about government budget priorities, 65.2% of New York adults said they would increase federal spending for coronavirus, 64.5% would increase federal spending for health care, and 60.6% would increase federal spending for Medicare. For state budgets, 70.1% of New York adults said they would increase spending for coronavirus, 69.9% would increase spending for health care, and 55.3% would increase spending for public welfare.

46.9% of New York adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 33.7% of New York adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 50.7% of New York adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state's government budget, and 43.3% 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, 45.3% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 25.1% report a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 90.5% of New York 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 87.7% reported success in increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities and 87.4% reported success in dismissing in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus.

In terms of prioritizing groups of students for in-person instruction, 72.2% 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 low income students (70.2%) and elementary school students (68.6%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 58.2% of New York adults 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%, NY Margin of Error = 4.9%

Student Group (% “Important for in-person”)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Pre-K and kindergarten students	58.6%	58.7%	66.8%	56.2%	58.5%	58.5%
Elementary school students	62.3%	64.0%	68.6%	59.9%	60.0%	63.2%
Middle and high school students	60.9%	64.9%	64.8%	58.3%	60.7%	58.7%
College and university students	50.5%	54.7%	58.2%	44.8%	53.2%	43.8%
Students with special needs or learning disabilities	68.7%	70.3%	72.2%	67.7%	70.7%	68.7%
Students who are learning to speak English	54.6%	55.0%	62.3%	51.8%	55.4%	54.6%
Low income students (or students experiencing poverty)	65.3%	64.4%	70.2%	62.9%	65.1%	66.9%
Students who are close to graduating	58.4%	59.7%	68.4%	55.5%	59.0%	54.9%
Students who are in their first year at a school	55.0%	55.3%	59.5%	54.0%	55.5%	53.3%

## COVID-19 Protective Measures

82.6% of New York adults report 'always' wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 64.3% 'always' staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 65.9% 'always' staying 6 feet apart from others, 40.3% 'always' gathering with small groups only, and 47.0% 'always' gathering with small groups only when socializing, continuing to wear masks and remain six feet apart during group activities.

Of those who report only 'sometimes,' 'rarely,' or 'never' wearing a face mask, 32.8% say they don't do so because they trust that the people they are gathering with have taken the proper precautions, followed by 22.3% who say they don't do so because it's uncomfortable and 20.5% who say they don't do so because it's not necessary if they are social distancing and/or outside. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 40.3% 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 30.2% who say they don't do so because when they try to stay socially distanced, others don't and 23.7% 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, 39.0% say they don't do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 27.2% who say they don't do so because if they are wearing masks, standing six feet apart and/or outside, it's not necessary to gather in small groups and 16.6% who say they don't do so because gatherings are spontaneous, so it's not easy to control the number of people.

When asked what would make them more likely to follow recommended COVID-19 behaviors, 52.2% of New York adults selected if they believed it would help to end the pandemic as soon as possible, 24.0% of New York adults selected if they believed it was a way to protect the most vulnerable in their community, and 20.3% of New York adults selected if their friends and family were always following the recommendations.

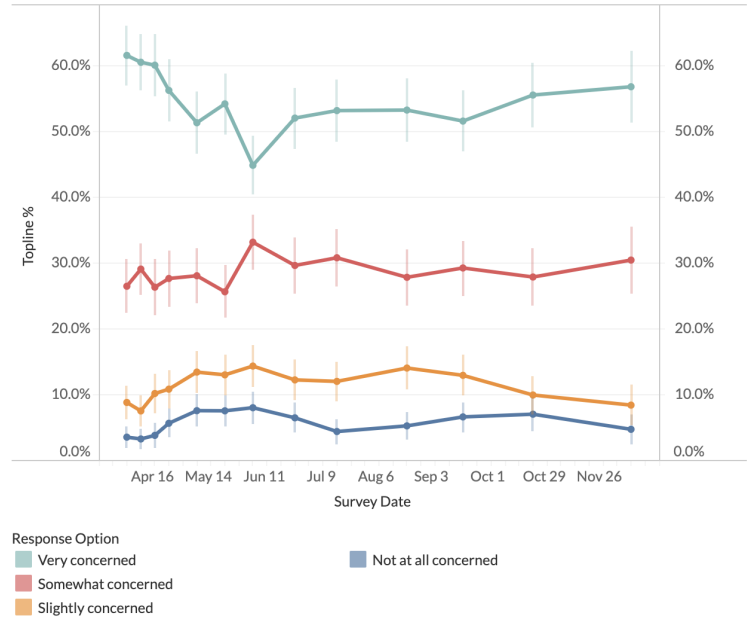
## Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 56.7% of New York adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), up slightly from 55.4% from our last wave of research in late October. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in New York since early May.

#### Attitudes Concern Level in NY

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



When it comes to information sources about COVID-19, their physician is the most 'strongly' trusted among New York adults (50%), followed by federal public health officials (34.6%), and the World Health Organization (33.0%). The most frequently used information sources by New York adults are Broadcast news (44.4% used in the last 7 days), Social media (38.9%), and Cable news networks (37.8%). 37.9% of New York adults believe that all or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy, while 33.3% believe there is misinformation and it's hard to know what's real, 17.5% believe there is some misinformation but it's easy to know what's fake, and 11.3% say they can't trust all or most of the information available about COVID-19.

**Thinking about the information you learn about COVID-19 and the pandemic, which of the following most closely describes how you feel?**

US Margin of Error = 1.4%, NY Margin of Error = 4.9%

Statement (% selected)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
All or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy.	26.0%	25.7%	37.9%	23.0%	24.5%	24.8%
There is misinformation about COVID-19, and it's hard for me to know what's real.	36.6%	38.8%	33.3%	40.2%	37.4%	35.1%
There is some misinformation about COVID-19, but it's easy to know what's fake.	21.6%	21.3%	17.5%	18.8%	21.5%	26.6%
I can't trust all or most of the information available about COVID-19.	15.7%	14.3%	11.3%	18.0%	16.6%	13.5%

**Methodology:** Responses were gathered through online web panels, quality screened, and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of New York. Questions were fielded December 9-15, 2020 (711 respondents).