

# Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

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

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Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 1,083 Washington respondents on December 9-15, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

## Washington Highlights

### Holiday Plans

As the December holidays approach, 46.5% of Washington adults are 'Very' concerned that the upcoming holidays will cause an increase in COVID-19 cases in their state, followed by 27.2% 'somewhat' concerned, 13.2% 'slightly' concerned, and 13.0% 'not at all' concerned. 12.8% of Washington adults plan to travel, while 81.2% do not plan to travel, and 6.0% are not sure yet. 34.7% of Washington adults are planning to celebrate with friends or family members who live outside of their home, while 57.2% do not plan to do so, and 8.1% are not sure yet. 70.8% of Washington adults say their holiday gatherings will be smaller than last year, while 26.1% say they will be the same size, and 3.1% say they will be larger.

### COVID-19 Vaccine

67.1% of Washington adults say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 24.7% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 8.1% are not sure. This is similar to vaccination intent in late October.

Of those who are unlikely or unsure whether they will get vaccinated, 48.2% said it is because they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 39.1% said they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, 37.8% said they are concerned it has not been tested enough on people like themselves. 42.5% of Washington adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has passed an independent, scientific safety and efficacy review, 41.4% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed clinical trials, and 41.2% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it was approved by the FDA. When it comes to reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 43.3% of Washington adults say helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic get back on their feet sooner is a compelling reason, while 39.5% selected being more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands, and 38.1% selected being able to resume all the activities they can't do now (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%, WA Margin of Error = 3.7%

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, 58.7% of Washington adults said they would increase federal spending for health care, 55.8% would increase federal spending for coronavirus, and 54.5% would increase federal spending for assistance to the unemployed. For state budgets, 65.2% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for health care, 62.4% would increase spending for coronavirus, and 51.4% would increase spending for K-12 education.

49.2% of Washington adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 32.1% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 51.4% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state's government budget, and 29.7% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

### **School Reopenings**

16.3% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 59.3% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 24.4% report a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 93.9% of Washington 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 90.8% reported success in requiring sick students and staff to stay home and 90.6% reported success in increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities.

In terms of prioritizing groups of students for in-person instruction, 68.7% of Washington 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 (66.9%) and elementary school students (63.2%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 43.8% of Washington 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%, WA Margin of Error = 4.0%

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

82.1% of Washington adults report 'always' wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 55.7% 'always' staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 66.6% 'always' staying 6 feet apart from others, 29.5% 'always' gathering with small groups only, and 36.2% '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' wear a face mask, 38.2% say they don't do so because it's not necessary if they are social distancing and/or outside, followed by 26.2% who say they don't do so because it's uncomfortable and 23.6% who say they don't do so because they don't really trust the people who are telling us it is necessary to wear a mask. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 49.8% 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 26.7% who say they don't do so because others don't stay socially distant and 22.1% who say they don't do so because it's not necessary to stay physically distanced if they're outside and/or wearing a mask. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups when socializing, 29.3% say they don't do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 24.8% who selected a reason other than the choices given and 21.9% who say they don't do so because it's not necessary to gather in small groups if they are wearing masks, standing six feet apart, and/or are outside.

When asked what would make them more likely to follow recommended COVID-19 behaviors, 65.0% of Washington adults selected if they believed it would help to end the pandemic as soon as possible, 34.2% of Washington adults selected if they believed it was a way to protect the most vulnerable in the community, and 25.6% of Washington adults selected if they believed it would mean they were not responsible for getting someone else sick.

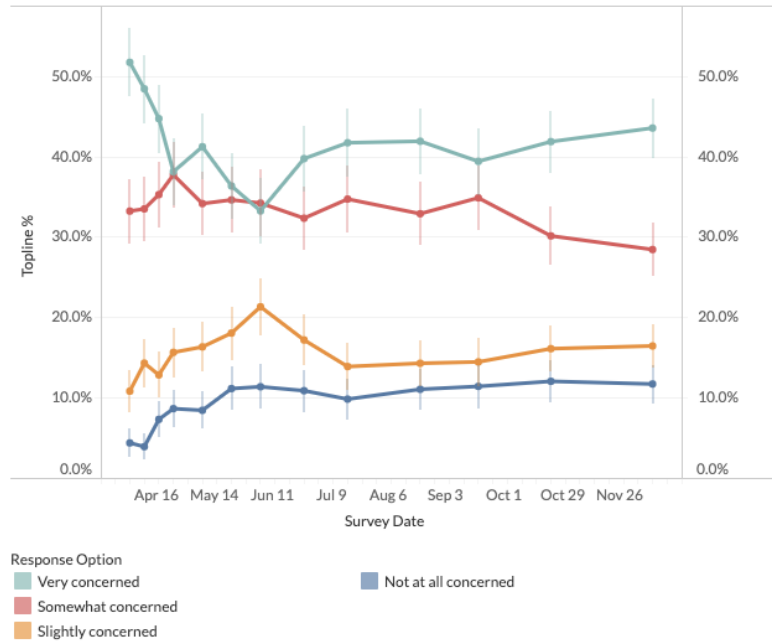
## Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 43.5% of Washington adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), slightly up from 41.8% from our last wave of research in October. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in Washington since mid July.

### Attitudes Concern Level in WA

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 Washington adults (48.2%), followed by federal public health officials (35.4%), and the World Health Organization (35.0%). The most frequently used information sources by Washington adults are broadcast news (41.0% used in the last 7 days), cable news networks (39.5%), and social media (32.0%). 24.8% of Washington adults believe that all or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy, while 35.1% believe there is misinformation and it's hard to know what's real, 26.6% believe there is some misinformation but it's easy to know what's fake, and 13.5% 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%, WA Margin of Error = 4.0%

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 Washington. Questions were fielded December 9-15, 2020 (1,083 respondents).