

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 1003 Washington respondents on January 14-19, 2021. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

Washington Highlights

COVID-19 Vaccine

In Washington, 7.0% of adults report that they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine so far. Of those who have not yet been vaccinated, 62.6% of Washington adults say they are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19, while 26.8% say they are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ unlikely, and 10.6% are not sure. Compared to December, vaccination intent is down (67.1% vs. 62.6%).

Of those who are unlikely or unsure whether they will get vaccinated, 53.2% said it is because they don’t trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 46.5% said they’re worried the vaccine will have side effects, 36.8% said they’re concerned it has not been tested enough on people like them. 34.2% of Washington adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been out for a few months and seems okay, 26.2% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if they knew it would help protect them from getting COVID-19, and 25.9% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if they knew that it was part of helping end the pandemic. 12.2% of Washington adults said they’d be more likely to get the vaccine after seeing public health workers get the vaccine, 9.2% said they’d be more likely to after seeing people they know share about getting the vaccine on social media, and 8.3% said they’d be more likely to after seeing government officials get the vaccine. When it comes to reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 55.4% of Washington adults say helping to protect their family and friends from getting the virus is a compelling reason, while 39.1% selected being more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands, and 36.5% selected helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic get 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 when it is made available to you? Select all that apply.

US Margin of Error = 1.9%, WA Margin of Error = 5.3%

Motivator (% selected)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
If it was recommended by my local health department	12.5%	7.3%	14.4%	13.2%	15.4%	12.1%
If it was recommended by local government officials	7.4%	8.1%	10.9%	4.6%	10.9%	5.3%
If it was recommended by federal government officials	8.3%	8.4%	12.6%	7.5%	10.2%	6.0%

If it has been out for a few months and seems okay	30.6%	29.3%	29.1%	33.1%	24.4%	34.2%
If I knew it would help protect me from getting COVID-19	28.6%	25.6%	30.5%	34.2%	32.8%	26.2%
If I knew that it was part of helping end the pandemic	23.2%	22.3%	27.4%	21.0%	24.6%	25.9%
Seeing government officials, like Dr. Fauci and members of Congress, get the vaccine	8.5%	5.1%	10.5%	5.8%	9.7%	8.3%
Seeing public health workers, like doctors, nurses and caregivers, get the vaccine	11.2%	10.5%	11.6%	8.7%	13.5%	12.2%
Seeing people I know share that they've gotten the vaccine on social media	8.0%	9.0%	7.7%	8.4%	7.9%	9.2%

Government Priorities

When asked about government budget priorities, 60.3% of Washington adults said they would increase federal spending for health care, 59.0% would increase federal spending for coronavirus, and 55.4% would increase federal spending for Medicare. For state budgets, 61.3% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for health care, 56.0% would increase spending for coronavirus, and 48.8% would increase spending for K-12 education. Compared to stated priorities in December, support for increased spending on coronavirus has increased at the federal level (55.8% vs 59.0%) but decreased at the state level (62.4% vs 56.0%).

50.5% of Washington adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 28.0% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 48.8% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state's government budget, and 32.4% of Washington adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

School Reopenings

11.4% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 66.4% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 22.1% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 94.1% of Washington K-12 parents whose children are attending in-person classes full-time or part-time said their children's school has been 'very' or 'somewhat' successful in increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, followed by 92.4% reported success in enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways and 89.6% reported success in requiring sick students and staff to stay home.

How successful has your children’s school been in implementing each of the following safety measures? (% selected ‘Very’ or ‘Somewhat successful’)

US Margin of Error = 3.8%, WA Margin of Error = 13.2%

Safety Measure (% ‘Very’ or ‘Somewhat successful’)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Provide masks and hand sanitizer to each student	84.9%	86.7%	78.6%	89.5%	84.1%	89.3%
Increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities	90.0%	91.6%	86.5%	95.6%	83.4%	94.1%
Require sick students and staff to stay home	86.5%	87.6%	80.3%	94.6%	81.5%	89.6%
Avoid large gatherings (e.g. cafeteria lunch, assemblies)	85.4%	78.8%	87.9%	92.7%	81.2%	88.5%
Reduce the hours per day that a student is at school	69.3%	65.7%	73%	68.8%	69.9%	82.4%
Dismiss in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus	75.2%	73.7%	75.6%	78.6%	67.8%	85.3%
Enforce social distancing in classrooms and hallways	84.0%	84.6%	75.9%	91.1%	78.8%	92.4%

In terms of prioritizing groups of students for in-person instruction, 66.9% 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 (or students experiencing poverty) (63.2%) and elementary school students (59.9%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 40.6% of Washington adults saying it is ‘extremely’ or ‘very important.’

COVID-19 Protective Measures

82.9% of Washington adults report ‘always’ wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 57.8% ‘always’ staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 64.0% ‘always’ staying 6 feet apart from others, 58.4% ‘always’ gathering with small groups only when socializing, and 56.6% ‘always’ gathering with small groups only when socializing, continuing to wear masks and remain six feet apart during group activities.

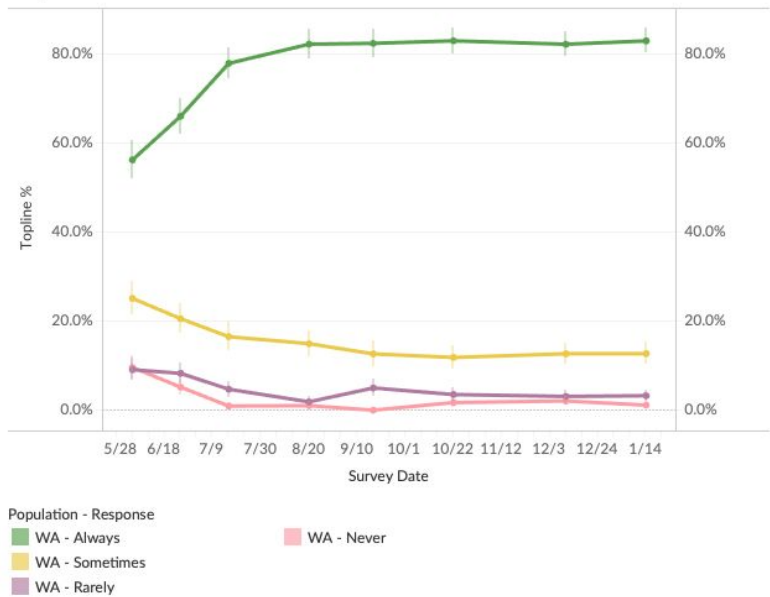
Compliance with protective measures over time

Mask wearing frequency has remained stable over the past 5 months in Washington, with the vast majority of Washington adults always wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public.

Protective Measures Freq Face Mask

Question Text: "How often do you do each of the following? -- Wear a cloth face covering or face mask while in public"

Response: All



Of those who report only 'sometimes,' 'rarely,' or 'never' wear a face mask, 37.2% say they don't do so because if they're social distancing and/or outside, it's not necessary, followed by 29.1% 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 and 27.6% who say they don't do so because it's uncomfortable. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 50.6% 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 27.7% who say they don't do so because if they're outside and/or wearing a mask, it's not necessary to stay physically distanced and 25.7% who say they don't do so because when they try to stay socially distanced, others don't. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups only when socializing, 35.6% say they don't do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 26.6% 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 and 21.5% 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, 67.6% of Washington adults selected if they believed it would help to end the pandemic as soon as possible, 44.7% of Washington adults selected if they believed it was a way to protect the most vulnerable in their community, and 34.0% of Washington adults selected if they believed it would mean they were not responsible for getting someone else sick.

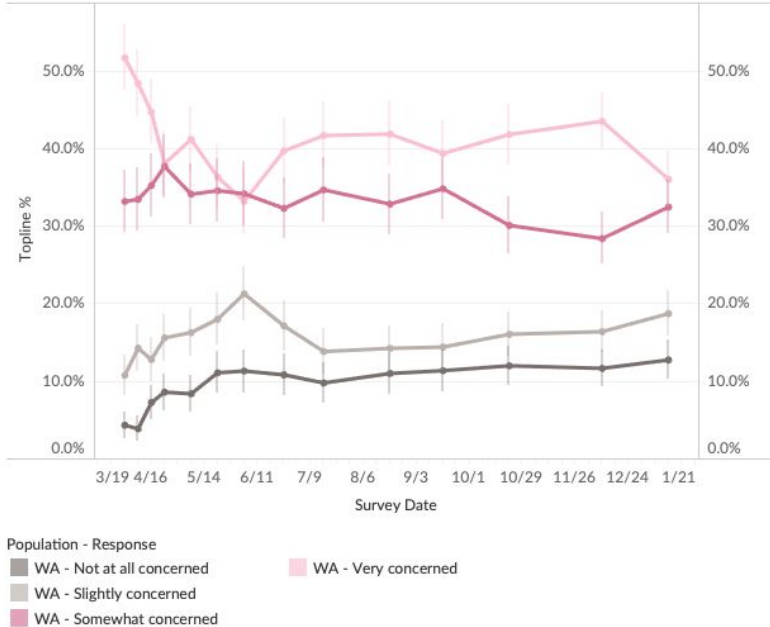
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 36.0% of Washington adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), down from 43.5% from our last wave of research in December. This marks a downward shift from otherwise steady levels of concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Washington since mid July.

Attitudes Concern Level

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



20.2% of Washington adults believe that all or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy, while 30.1% believe there is misinformation and it's hard to know what's real, 28.5% believe there is some misinformation but it's easy to know what's fake, and 21.1% 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 = 1.3%, WA Margin of Error = 3.7%

Statement (% selected)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
All or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy.	24.2%	26.5%	28.6%	23.2%	25.1%	20.2%
There is misinformation about COVID-19, and it's hard for me to know what's real.	30.3%	30.1%	22.8%	33.6%	32.8%	30.1%
There is some misinformation about COVID-19, but it's easy to know what's fake.	27.7%	26.4%	32.9%	26.4%	20.9%	28.5%
I can't trust all or most of the information available about COVID-19.	17.8%	17.0%	15.7%	16.9%	21.1%	21.1%

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels, quality screened, and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Washington. Questions were fielded January 14-19, 2021 (1003 respondents).