

COVID-19 Survey Summary: April 2, 2021

The following is a summary of social, behavioral and economic survey research on COVID-19 released in the past week, as compiled for the Societal Experts Action Network (<u>SEAN</u>). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the <u>SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive</u>.

Sign up for notice of these weekly summaries each Friday morning.

Vaccination rates and intentions are rising, but so too are COVID-19 cases in much of the country, and as many states lift mask mandates and restrictions, more of the public continues to venture out.

About a third of adults, including nearly two-thirds of seniors, now say they have gotten at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and several polls show a rise in the share who intend to get vaccinated as soon as they can. Satisfaction with the vaccine rollout has surged, and views of President Biden's handling of it are broadly positive.

Additional coronavirus-related polls released this week further document Americans' return to public life, with strict social distancing dropping to a pandemic low and fewer people avoiding public places. This gradual re-emergence has boosted consumer confidence to a pandemic high, though with much ground still to cover to reach pre-pandemic levels.

Other new analyses examine Americans' comfort attending in-person sporting events, look at the impacts of sports cancellations on children, investigate attitudes and behaviors among those at increased risk of COVID-19 complications, explore global maternal and birth outcomes in the pandemic and indicate that COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2020, with more than one in 10 death certificates listing the virus as a factor.

Vaccines

After holding relatively steady for weeks, polls released this week indicate gains (in some cases slight ones) in the share of Americans who have been vaccinated or plan to do so:

- In daily tracking data, three-quarters say they've gotten at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or are very or somewhat likely to do so once it is available to them, up from about seven in 10 for most of March (<u>USC UAS</u>).
- Similarly, 74 percent say they have gotten at least one dose of a vaccine or would agree to get one right now if FDA-approved and free. That's up a slight 3 percentage points

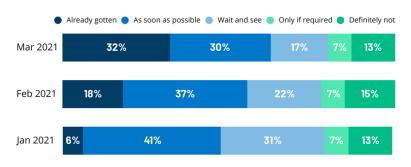
since February to a new high. It includes 19 percent who are fully vaccinated, 13 percent who have gotten one dose and 42 percent who plan to get vaccinated (<u>Gallup 3/15-3/21</u>).

- In another poll, seven in 10 say they have received a vaccine (36 percent) or will choose to be vaccinated if one is made available to them (34 percent), compared with 67 percent earlier this month and 62 percent in January. A quarter say they will not, down from 30 percent three weeks ago (NPR/Marist 3/22-3/25).
- In a different approach, 61 percent say they've gotten at least one dose of a vaccine (32 percent) or intend to do so as soon as possible (30 percent), up 6 points from February. Seventeen percent plan to wait and see before getting vaccinated, down from 22 percent; 7 percent say they'll get vaccinated only if required for work, school or other activities and 13 percent say they definitely will not get vaccinated, essentially unchanged.

Nearly two-thirds of seniors (64 percent) say they've gotten at least one dose, up from 44 percent last month, and an additional 7 percent have their appointment scheduled. Seven percent say they've tried but were unable to get an appointment, down from 16 percent last month.

The share of Black people who have gotten vaccinated or intend

One-Third Report Having One COVID-19 Vaccine Dose; Share Wanting To "Wait And See" Continues To Shrink



to do so as soon as possible has increased 14 points since February to 55 percent. It's 61 percent among Hispanic people and 64 percent among white adults.

Nearly three in 10 Republicans continue to say they definitely will not get vaccinated, essentially unchanged. A similar share of evangelical white Christians (28 percent) also say they definitely won't get vaccinated, as do one in five rural residents (20 percent) and essential workers in non-health care fields (21 percent). Among the groups most apt to say they'll wait and see before getting a shot are young adults ages 18-29 (25 percent) and Black adults (24 percent).

Among those reluctant to get the shot as soon as possible, majorities say they're at least somewhat concerned about experiencing serious side effects (70 percent), that the effects of the vaccine will be worse than getting COVID-19 (63 percent) or that they might be required to get the vaccine even they don't want to (63 percent). Substantial shares also are concerned they might have to miss work if vaccine side effects make them feel sick (45 percent) or that they might get COVID-19 from the vaccine (39 percent).

Sixty-seven percent of those who have yet to be vaccinated say they have enough information about where to go, up from 55 percent in February, and 53 percent have enough information about when they can get vaccinated, up from 36 percent. Still, three in 10 are unsure whether they're currently eligible to receive the vaccine, rising to 45 percent of Hispanic adults.



Among those who think they are eligible, one third say they tried to make an appointment, with about equal shares saying they succeeded (16 percent) or tried but were unable to get an appointment (17 percent). Among those who tried but could not get an appointment, 43 percent say it was because they didn't meet eligibility requirements and a third say it was because no appointments were available.

Roughly three in 10 unvaccinated adults who are at least somewhat open to it have a strong preference for which of the three available vaccines they get; an additional quarter have a slight preference. But in separate questions, roughly equal shares – about seven in 10 apiece – say they'd definitely or probably get each of the three vaccines. However, among those in the "wait and see" group, twice as many say they'd definitely get the one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine (16 percent) as say the same of the Pfizer (8 percent) or Moderna vaccines (7 percent), suggesting the convenience of the one-dose vaccine may be a motivating factor.

The public divides 51-45 percent on whether employers should or should not be allowed to require certain employees to get vaccinated. The partisan gap is vast – seven in Democrats think this should be allowed, while an equal share of Republicans think it should not (KFF 3/15-3/22).

Conservative Republicans and Evangelicals

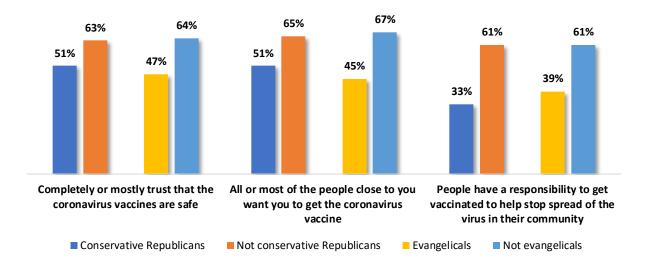
An analysis of survey data from early March delves into vaccine hesitancy specifically among conservative Republicans and evangelicals, finding that it's fueled by elevated levels of skepticism about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines, doubts about being vulnerable to infection and less acceptance of vaccination norms in these groups. Among the results:

- Only about half of conservative Republicans and fewer than half of evangelicals trust that the vaccines are safe and effective, compared with nearly two-thirds of other adults.
- While two-thirds of Americans in other groups think all or most of the people close to them want them to get vaccinated, this falls to 51 percent among conservative Republicans and 45 percent among evangelicals.
- Just four in 10 conservative Republicans or evangelicals say they're likely to recommend getting vaccinated to their family or friends, 17 points below its level among others.
- Just 33 percent of conservative Republicans and 39 percent of evangelicals see getting vaccinated as a community responsibility rather than a personal choice, compared with 61 percent of other Americans.
- Thirty-five percent of conservative Republicans are worried about catching COVID-19, vs. 60 percent of other adults. Forty percent of evangelicals express this worry, compared with 59 percent of non-evangelicals.

Vaccine hesitancy is particularly pronounced among white evangelicals. Compared with evangelicals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, white evangelicals are 24



points less apt to be worried about getting infected, 14 points less apt to see getting vaccinated as a community responsibility and 11 points more distrustful of the vaccines' safety.



Political and ideological preferences are part of the equation: Half of white evangelicals are conservative Republicans, compared with 17 percent of evangelicals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

In terms of paths forward, among those who are inclined to wait and see before getting vaccinated, three-quarters of evangelicals and conservative Republicans alike say information on the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines could be persuasive in encouraging them to act sooner. Six in 10 say information on the development and testing of the vaccines could be persuasive. And 60 percent of evangelicals and 54 percent of conservative Republicans are open to advice from their doctor or healthcare provider not to wait (COVID Collaborative 2/26-3/8).

Increasing Uptake

Among a variety of potential incentives, messages and information strategies that might be used to increase uptake, results suggest a few potentially promising paths. For example:

- Two-thirds of those who intend to wait and see before getting vaccinated say hearing that the vaccines are nearly 100 percent effective at preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19 would make them more likely to get vaccinated, as do 42 percent of those who only intend to get vaccinated if required.
- Half in the wait-and-see group say they would be more likely to get vaccinated if the vaccine were offered to them during a routine medical appointment.
- Roughly four in 10 in the wait-and-see group and a similar share of those who only intend to get vaccinated if required say they would be more likely to get a shot if airlines required it or if the CDC said that vaccinated people could travel freely and would not have to wear masks in most situations.



- Other messages that would increase vaccine likelihood for about four in 10 or more of those in the wait-and-see group include information that scientists have been working on the technology used in the new vaccines for 20 years (49 percent), that more than 100,000 people from diverse backgrounds took park in the vaccine trials (43 percent), that the vast majority of doctors who have been offered the vaccine have taken it (43 percent) and that there is no cost to get the vaccine (41 percent).
- Nearly four in 10 employed adults who plan to wait and see say they would be more likely to get the vaccine if their employer arranged for on-site vaccination or offered them a \$200 incentive to get vaccinated (KFF 3/15-3/22).

Views of the Vaccine Rollout

Satisfaction with the vaccine rollout has surged – 68 percent of Americans are now satisfied with how the COVID-19 vaccination process is going in the United States, up 24 points since last month to double its level in January.

Satisfaction peaks among seniors (77 percent), those who are partially or fully vaccinated (75 percent) and Democrats (73 percent), but reaches a majority among all major demographic groups including Republicans (66 percent) and those who do not plan to get vaccinated (57 percent) (Gallup 3/15-3/21).

Three-quarters of Americans approve of how President Biden is handling the distribution of coronavirus vaccines, including more than half of Republicans (53 percent), 77 percent of independents and 92 percent of Democrats (ABC/Ipsos 3/26-3/27).

Vaccine Efficacy

Building on previous research on vaccine efficacy in real-world conditions, a newly released study by the CDC finds evidence that the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are highly effective in preventing COVID-19 infection. The CDC routinely tested nearly 4,000 health care personnel, first responders and other essential and frontline workers for COVID-19 on a weekly basis from mid-December to mid-March in eight locations across the United States and found that the vaccine effectiveness was 90 percent for those who were fully immunized and 80 percent for those who were partially immunized.

During this 13-week period, the rate of infection among unvaccinated participants was 1.38 per 1,000 person-days, compared with 0.04 per 1,000 person-days among fully immunized participants (two weeks or more after second dose) and 0.19 among partially immunized participants (two weeks or more after first dose, before second dose). The authors of this ongoing study conclude that the vaccines provide substantial protection from COVID-19 infection and recommend vaccination for all eligible people (CDC 12/14/20-3/13/21).

Social Distancing & Mask Use



Echoing results <u>covered last week</u>, strict social distancing has declined. Thirty-eight percent say that in the past 24 hours they completely or mostly isolated themselves from people outside their house, down 9 points since February to match the low hit in November.

The decline at least partially reflects more people being vaccinated. Thirty-four percent of fully vaccinated people are isolating themselves, compared with 47 percent of those who are partially vaccinated and 46 percent of those who plan to get vaccinated. However, those who do not intend to get vaccinated continue to be the last apt to socially isolate, 23 percent.

The share who are avoiding public places also has declined in the past month. Sixty-two percent say they avoided events with large crowds in the past week, down 8 points; 57 percent avoided travel, down 9 points; 48 percent avoided public places like stores or restaurants, down 8 points; and 45 percent avoided small gatherings, down 9 points. The shares who visited their workplace (59 percent of employed adults), a grocery store (54 percent) or a gym (6 percent) in the past 24 hours are their highest since the pandemic began (Gallup 3/15-3/21).

Mask use remains high. Nearly all say they have worn a mask outside their home in the past seven days, including equal numbers – 96 percent – of those who have been vaccinated and those who plan to do so. Those who do not plan to get vaccinated continue to be less likely to say they've worn a mask (72 percent).

When asked how their mask use might change based on knowledge of a person's vaccination status, 65 percent say they would always wear a mask around someone if they don't know if they're vaccinated and 59 percent say they'd always wear a mask around someone they know is not vaccinated. Just three in 10, however, say they'd always wear a mask around someone they know is vaccinated (Gallup 3/15-3/21).

Economic Impacts

Americans' ratings of the national economy have increased sharply over the past two weeks, helping to lift the Consumer Comfort Index, a measure of consumer sentiment, to its highest since the pandemic began. However, the index remains well below its pre-pandemic levels, and recent gains are concentrated among Democrats, Northeasterners, those with a four-year college degree and middle- and higher-income Americans (CCI 3/28).

Another poll finds that 46 percent overall describe the nation's economy positively, up from 37 percent in February. It's 58 percent among Democrats, up from 41 percent (<u>AP-NORC 3/25-3/29</u>).

Sports in the Pandemic

Six in 10 parents with children who participated in sports before the pandemic say disruptions to youth sports have negatively impacted their child's emotional well-being. Sixty-five percent report negative impacts on their child's happiness, 64 percent on their athletic development and 63 percent on their friendships. Forty-five percent say the disruptions have harmed their child's physical health.



More than eight in 10 report cancellation of entire seasons (82 percent) or multiple games or practices (85 percent). Of them, six in 10 say their child missed playing in these sports "a lot."

Sixty-two percent say their child is not currently participating in any organized youth sports. Among all parents, half say they'd feel at least somewhat comfortable with their children participating in organized sports this spring (Post/UMD 3/12-3/18).

When it comes to sporting events, 42 percent of Americans say they're comfortable attending a live, ticketed sporting event at this time. Four in 10 are not comfortable with this and 18 percent are unsure. However, results vary widely based on specific conditions. For example:

- More than twice as many say they'd feel comfortable attending an outdoor sporting event such as baseball than an indoor one such as basketball, 66 vs. 32 percent.
- Sixty-four percent say they'd feel comfortable attending a sporting event if masks were required; if masks were not required, comfort drops to 22 percent.
- Sixty-nine percent are comfortable attending a sporting event when the stadium is at 20 percent attendance capacity. That falls to half when attendance capacity is 50 percent.
- Sixty-nine percent would be comfortable if all attendees had received the COVID-19 vaccine. Sixty-four percent say they'd be comfortable if they had received the vaccine themselves.
- More than half say they'd feel comfortable attending an event if attendees tested negative for the coronavirus (56 percent), if they were screened for fever (56 percent) or if regional COVID-19 case levels were low (54 percent).

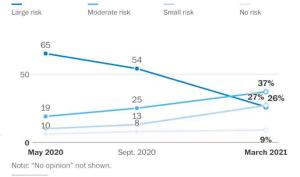
Overall, 63 percent think it's a large or moderate risk to their health or well-being to attend a sporting event right now, down from 79 percent in September and 84 percent in May. A quarter now view doing so as a large risk, down from 65 percent last May.

Three-quarters think that if sports leagues allow fans to attend sporting events this spring, attendees should be required to wear masks. This drops to 56 percent among those who are currently comfortable attending live sporting events.

Among the groups most comfortable attending a sporting event are Republicans and those who

Fewer say attending sporting event is a "large risk"

Q: How much of a risk to your health and well-being do you think attending a sporting event is right now? (Among U.S. adults)



Source: Washington Post-University of Maryland poll conducted online March 12-18, 2021, among 1,500 U.S. adults; error margin +/- 3 percentage points. Conducted with U-Md.'s Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement and Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism. 2020 data from Axios-Ipsos.

EMILY GUSKIN/THE WASHINGTON POST



lean Republican (59 percent), those who have attended a sporting event since 2018 (51 percent) and those living in the Midwest (47 percent).

Three in 10 think the pandemic will be controlled enough that live sporting events can safely return to full fan attendance by mid-summer (or that it already is). Two in 10 think it'll be midfall, but nearly half think it'll be 2022 or later (Post/UMD 3/12-3/18).

Following the News

Thirty-one percent of Americans say they're following news about the pandemic very closely, down 6 points from November to the fewest since the pandemic began. Forty-three percent think the outbreak has been approached about right, while a third think it's been made a bigger deal than it really is and roughly a quarter think it's been made into a smaller deal than it is.

Partisan gaps on both questions remain large – Democrats are more apt than Republicans to be paying close attention to news coverage and far less apt to think the coronavirus outbreak has been made a bigger deal than it really is (Pew 3/8-3/14).

Influence of Risk Factors on Attitudes and Behavior

An analysis of daily tracking data collected from mid-November to mid-December (<u>USC UAS</u> <u>11/11-12/9</u>) investigated whether those who are at increased risk of complications from a COVID-19 infection were aware of their greater risk and engaged in fewer high-risk behaviors.

For seven of the nine medical risk factors tested (all but high blood pressure and kidney disease), those with that condition were more likely than those without it to perceive a higher chance of hospitalization or death if infected with COVID-19. Adjusted mean perceived chance of hospitalization if infected ranged from 24 percent of those with high blood pressure to 40 percent of those with chronic lung disease. It increased from 18 percent among those with no risk factors to 42 percent among those with three or more.

Those with three or more risk factors reported engaging in fewer activities in the previous seven days that could have exposed them to the virus and were less apt to have visited a friend's home or left home for nonessential activities. While mask use at some point in the previous seven days was common regardless of risk factors, it was not consistent during specific activities, and there was only one activity – visiting a grocery store or pharmacy – in which those with three or more risk factors were more likely than those with no risk factors to say they always wore a mask.

For five of the six activities tested (e.g., going to a bar or club, attending a gathering of 10 or more people), fewer than four in 10 always wore a mask, even among those with three or more risk factors (Schoeni et al., 2021).

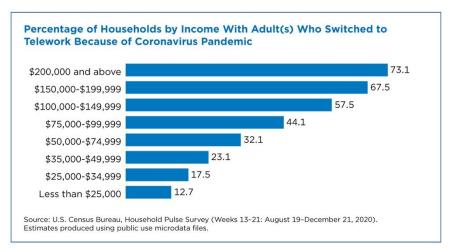
Telework

An analysis of U.S. Census Bureau <u>Household Pulse Survey</u> data collected from mid-August to mid-December looks specifically at the income, education and health of those who said they or



someone in their household substituted some or all of their typical in-person work for telework because of the pandemic. Among the results:

• People in higherincome households were far more likely to telework – in those with annual incomes of \$200,000 or more, 73 percent indicated that someone in the house substituted at least some of their typical in-person work for telework. That compares with



13 percent in households earning less than \$25,000.

- Those with a bachelor's degree or higher were more than three times as likely as those with a high school education to say someone in their household substituted in-person work for telework, 62 vs. 19 percent.
- Those who reported being in excellent health were more than twice as likely as those in poor health to have someone in their household teleworking because of the pandemic, 48 vs. 20 percent (U.S. Census Bureau 8/19-12/21).

COVID-19-Related Deaths

A CDC analysis of provisional death certificate data finds that approximately 375,000 deaths were attributed to COVID-19 in 2020, making it the third leading cause of death in the United States, after heart disease and cancer. The overall death rate (adjusted for age) increased by 16 percent from 2019 to 2020, with 11 percent reporting COVID-19 as an underlying or contributing cause of death. Death rates because of COVID-19 were highest among adults 85 and older, American Indian/Alaska Native people, Hispanic people and men. While the authors caution that numbers may change as more information is gathered, the report provides an early indication of the shift in mortality trends in the country (CDC, 2020)

A separate CDC analysis investigated the accuracy of official death certificates citing COVID-19 as a cause of death. Researchers found that among 378,048 death certificates that listed COVID-19 in 2020, 92 percent (357,133) had at least one other co-occurring diagnosis that was known to be associated with severe outcomes in patients with COVID-19. These included significant contributing conditions such as hypertension or diabetes, or plausible direct causes of death such as pneumonia or respiratory failure. Just 5.5 percent of death certificates did not list other conditions, with the authors citing these instances as opportunities for improved documentation. They conclude that overall, these findings support the accuracy of official death certificates in assigning deaths to COVID-19 (CDC, 2020).



Maternal and Birth Outcomes

Some global maternal and fetal outcomes may have worsened during the pandemic, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, according to a meta-analysis of 40 studies conducted using a variety of methods (case-control, cohort, brief reports), in a variety of countries and settings. Specifically:

- The analysis finds a significant increase in stillbirths (using data from 12 studies) and maternal deaths (two studies, conducted in low- and middle-income countries) during the pandemic compared with pre-pandemic levels.
- Postnatal depression scores were higher during the pandemic than before (three studies).
- The number of surgically managed ectopic pregnancies increased during the pandemic (three studies).
- There were no significant differences found for maternal gestational diabetes; hypertensive disorders of pregnancy; preterm birth before 34, 32 or 28 weeks; iatrogenic preterm birth; labor induction or mode of delivery; post-partum hemorrhage; neonatal death; low birthweight; NICU admission; or Apgar scores less than 7 at 5 minutes.
- In addition, the rate of preterm birth before 37 weeks was not changed overall (15 studies), but actually declined in high-income countries (12 studies) (Chmielewska et al., 2021).

Government Response

Forty-two percent of Americans think the United States has done as much as it could to control the virus, while 56 percent say it has not. Seven in 10 Republicans think the nation has done as much as it could; eight in 10 Democrats think it has not, though that's down from 88 percent in November (Pew 3/8-3/14).

More than seven in 10 approve of how President Biden is handling the pandemic response overall (<u>AP-NORC 3/25-3/29</u>, <u>ABC/Ipsos 3/26-3/27</u>). It was 65 percent in a slightly earlier poll done mostly before Biden's first press conference March 25 (<u>NPR/Marist 3/22-3/25</u>).

Eight in 10 have heard some or a lot about the coronavirus and economic relief package recently passed by Congress and signed into law. Fifty-four percent approve of it, a quarter disapprove and 21 percent neither approve nor disapprove. Approval of many of the individual provisions included in the bill is higher:

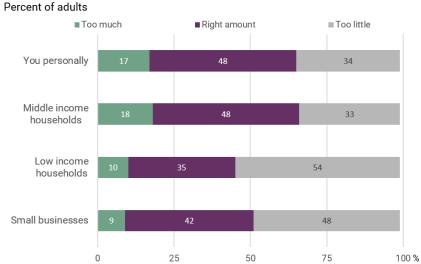
• Seven in 10 or more approve of funding for grants and low-interest loans for small businesses (80 percent), funding for vaccine distribution and testing (78 percent), funding for schools to reopen safely (76 percent) and sending \$1,400 payments to eligible Americans (70 percent).



- Six in 10 or more approve of funding for mortgage and rent assistance (66 percent), expanding child and earned income tax credits (64 percent) and extending the moratorium on evictions and foreclosures (61 percent).
- Fifty-eight percent support extending unemployment insurance payments of \$300 a week until Sept. 6 and 53 percent approve of funding for state, local and tribal territorial governments.

Overall, 42 percent view the amount of spending authorized by the law as about right, while 31 percent think it spends too much and 26 percent say it spends too little. Nearly half think the law does the right amount to help their personal financial situation, a third think it does too little and 17 percent think it does too much. Results are virtually identical when asked about "middle income households." More think the law does too little for lowincome households (54 percent) and small businesses (48 percent).

Do you think the law does too much or too little to help the financial situation of the following?



Question: Do you think the law does too much, too little, or about the right amount to help the financial situation of the following?

Source: AP-NORC poll conducted March 25-29, 2021 with 1,166 adults age 18 and older nationwide.



Half say they already have received a direct payment because of the law, a quarter expect to receive it, 16 percent do not and 9 percent are unsure. Among those who have received or expect to receive a payment, a third plan to use most of it to pay for their bills, 23 percent plan to save it, 21 percent plan to pay down debt and 16 percent plan to spend it (AP-NORC 3/25-3/29).

State Results

In California, 61 percent say they have been vaccinated (33 percent) or definitely will do so (28 percent), well up from 48 percent in January. Three-quarters say the worst of the pandemic is behind us, up 16 points since January. Fewer than half (47 percent) are concerned about getting the virus and needing hospitalization, down from six in 10 in January.

Roughly half positively evaluate the job the state is doing in distributing vaccines, up 16 points since January. Three-quarters favor the \$7.6 billion COVID-19 relief package signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in late February and 73 percent favor the \$1.9 trillion federal relief package



signed by President Biden. Forty-seven percent think the spending in the aid package is about right; 26 percent think it is too little and 23 percent too much (PPIC 3/14-3/23).

In New Hampshire, eight in 10 say they're currently comfortable eating outdoors at a restaurant, three-quarters are comfortable going to a barber shop or hair salon and 57 percent are comfortable dining indoors at a restaurant. However, fewer than half are comfortable going to a bar or pub (41 percent), gym or health club (39 percent), movie theater (34 percent), athletic stadium (32 percent) or large concert (30 percent), and comfort going to a stadium, gym or bar has declined since August. Among those who are not currently comfortable with these things, few anticipate that they will be comfortable with them by Memorial Day, even if all coronavirus restrictions in the state have been lifted by then. More anticipate they'll be comfortable by July 4, but even by then, fewer than half anticipate being comfortable going to the movies, a stadium or a large concert.

Many anticipate spending more on several common activities once the pandemic is over. Six in 10 apiece expect to spend more on visits to paid attractions such as theme parks, museums and historical sites and outdoor attractions such as beaches, hiking trails and state parks. Roughly half plan to spend more on hotels and accommodations (53 percent) and eating out at restaurants (50 percent). Still, residents are pessimistic about the pace of the economic recovery in the state – fewer than a quarter think the economy will recover to pre-COVID-19 levels within six months, while 28 percent think it will happen within 12 months and half think it will take longer than that (UNH 3/18-3/22).

International Results

In Greece, where cases are rising, the public fragments on the main cause. Twenty-four percent think weak observance of protective measures and restrictions contributed most to the increase, two in 10 think demonstrations are more to blame, 18 percent say insufficient controls of the implementation of measures and restrictions are the main reason, 10 percent primarily blame new strains of the virus and 6 percent mainly blame home-to-home travel. More than eight in 10 say they definitely (61 percent) or probably (21 percent) will get vaccinated, essentially unchanged since February but up from 74 percent in January. Sixty-two percent plan to get a shot as soon as possible, again unchanged from last month while up from 47 percent in January.

When it comes to lockdown restrictions, 35 percent would like them to be relaxed immediately, up from 24 percent last month; 34 percent want a brief extension of restrictions and a review of the data, down from 39 percent; and 17 percent are in favor of extending restrictions for as long as is necessary, down from 29 percent. Once restrictions start to lift, 42 percent think retail stores should open first, 30 percent want schools to open first and 14 percent think it should vary by county. Overall, the public divides evenly on the government's management of the pandemic: Forty-seven percent evaluate it positively, 47 percent negatively (<u>PulseRC 3/26-3/28</u>).

In Chile, where cases also continue to rise, nearly three-quarters think the April elections should be postponed a few weeks until cases decrease and just 52 percent say they've definitely decided to vote, down 17 points compared with the October election. Seven in 10 are afraid of catching the virus, up 12 points in two weeks. Three-quarters agree that their area should go back into



total quarantine, up 13 points in the past week. Forty-one percent have been vaccinated and 37 percent plan to be vaccinated as soon as possible, essentially unchanged since last week. Forty-two percent approve of the government's handling of the crisis, down 16 points since mid-February, however most – 83 percent – continue to evaluate the government's mass vaccination plan positively (Cadem 3/24-3/26).

In Russia, nine in 10 have heard of passports for those who have been vaccinated or who have had coronavirus and have antibodies. Of them, 35 percent view the introduction of such passports positively, 29 percent view them negatively and three in 10 are indifferent. More than half of Russians overall (56 percent) are positive about the introduction of immune passports for international travelers; 16 percent are negative and a quarter are indifferent. Two-thirds think if the European Union and other countries introduce mandatory immune passports for travelers, Russia should too. Fifty-four percent think the introduction of such passports will give people more opportunities, while 37 percent think it will introduce more restrictions (VCIOM 3/24).

In Turkey, seven in 10 agree that they will get vaccinated when a local vaccine is completed. Half (49 percent) agree that they think they can get vaccinated by the end of 2021 and a third agree that if a vaccine is available for a fee, they will pay it (<u>Istanbul Economic Research 3/19-3/21</u>).

In Great Britain, nearly all (94 percent) continue to say they've already received a vaccine or likely will get it when offered. This includes more than half (52 percent) who already have received at least one dose. Ninety-two percent of those who've gotten at least one dose report no difficulties doing so, and 84 percent of those who have not say they do not expect to face any difficulties. Nearly a quarter say they've met up with someone outside their household or support bubble outdoors, up from 14 percent in mid-February (Office for National Statistics 3/17-3/21).

Additional U.S. and international poll results are available at the *COVID-19 Survey Archive*.

Summary for SEAN by Langer Research Associates.

