



COVID-19 Survey Summary: June 12, 2020

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 ([SEAN](#)). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the [SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

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Protesting in a Pandemic

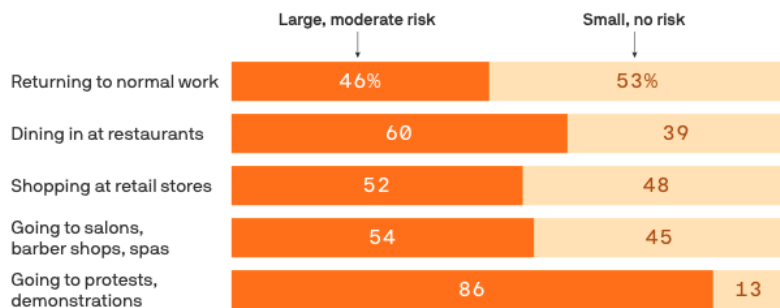
Even as [most Americans support](#) the protests against police misconduct and racial injustice taking place across the country, large majorities are concerned about how these mass demonstrations could exacerbate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Eight in 10 are at least somewhat concerned about a spike in coronavirus cases as a result of the protests, although many fewer, a quarter, are extremely concerned about it.

- Eighty-six percent think it would be a large (62 percent) or moderate (24 percent) risk to their health and well-being to go to protests, more than say the same about dining at restaurants (60 percent), going to salons, barbershops and spas (54 percent), shopping at retail stores (52 percent) or going to a grocery store (43 percent).

How much of a risk to your health and well-being do you think the following activities are?

Survey of 1,006 U.S. adults conducted June 5–8, 2020



Two percent of adults (the equivalent of roughly 5 million individuals) say they've personally attended a protest in the past week. Eleven percent say someone in their immediate family or circle of friends has done so, including 20 percent of adults under age 30 ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).

Contact and Concern

Four in 10 Americans personally know someone who has been diagnosed with the coronavirus ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)), and a third know someone who has tested positive for the virus ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-](#)

6/8), both unchanged since mid-May. Sixteen percent know someone who has died from the virus. Nine percent say they've personally been tested ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).

Concern about the coronavirus remains broad, but strong concern has waned in recent weeks:

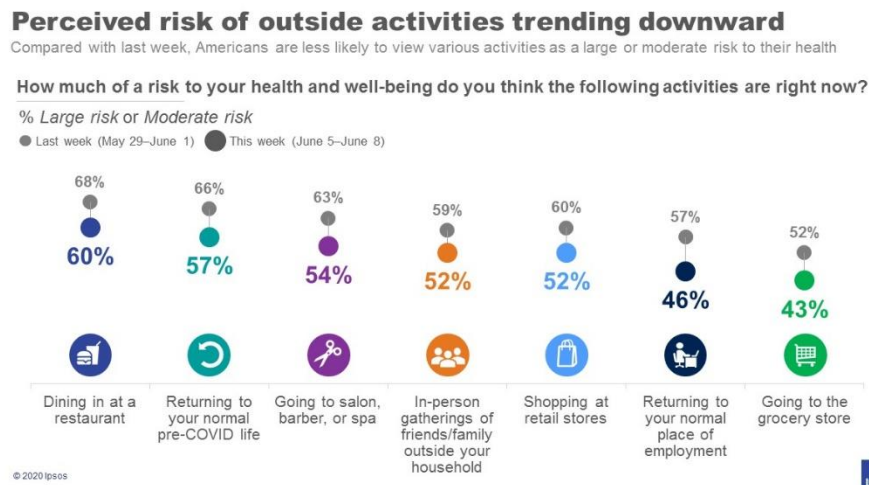
- While eight in 10 remain at least somewhat concerned about the outbreak, the number who say they're "extremely" concerned, 21 percent, has dropped 6 points in one week to the fewest since mid-March ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).
- Seven in 10 say they're at least somewhat concerned that "you or someone you know" will be infected with the virus, down 9 points in three weeks, with an 8-point drop in the number who are "very" concerned ([ABC/Ipsos 6/10-6/11](#)).
- Similarly, while seven in 10 say they're at least somewhat concerned about the possibility of getting sick, the number who are extremely concerned about that has dropped 7 points since mid-May ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).
- The number of registered voters who are very worried about the possibility that someone in their immediate family catching coronavirus likewise has dropped, from 33 percent in April to 25 percent now ([NBC/WSJ 5/28-6/2](#)).

Many still see a long road ahead. Fifty-four percent think it will take a year or longer for the coronavirus to be contained enough that the economy can return to normal, and 46 percent think the worst of the outbreak is yet to come ([NBC/WSJ 5/28-6/2](#), [CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).

Daily Life

Despite recent data indicating a rise in coronavirus cases in more than 20 states, assessments of the risk of everyday activities continue to decline:

- While 43 percent think it's a moderate or large risk to go to the grocery store, that's down from 52 percent last week.
- Twenty-three percent say it's a large risk to dine at a restaurant, down 12 points.
- Twenty-one percent think



it's a large risk to attend in-person gatherings of friends and family outside the house, down 7 points.

- Two in 10 think going to a salon, barbershop or spa is large risk, down from 29 percent; and 13 percent say the same about shopping at retail stores, down from 19 percent.
- All in all, 20 percent say it would be a large risk to return to their normal pre-coronavirus life right now, down 7 points since last week ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).

In tandem with these views, a gradual resumption of normal activities continues:

- Half of Americans say they've left the house to visit friends, family or neighbors at least once in the past seven days, up 15 points since last month ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)). Asked another way, 45 percent have visited friends and relatives in the past week; as many as said so last week but this is up sharply since April ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).
- More specifically, 39 percent have gone to a friend, neighbor or relative's residence in the past week, and as many have had visitors at their own residence, both up from 25 percent a month earlier.
- Fifty-three percent say they've had close contact (i.e., within six feet) with people who do not live with them, up from 40 percent a month earlier ([USC UAS 5/13-6/9](#)).
- Forty-one percent have visited a non-grocery retail store and 49 percent say someone in their immediate family or circle of friends has done so, both up slightly since last week.
- A third have visited a park, beach or other outdoor space and 42 percent say their family or friends have done the same, both essentially unchanged.
- Nearly a quarter (23 percent) have gone out to eat, up 5 points, and 31 percent say others in their immediate family or circle of friends have done so, up slightly.
- Fifteen percent have visited a salon, barbershop or spa, double the number who said so in mid-May. A quarter say someone in their family or circle of friends has done so, essentially unchanged ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).
- Eight percent say they've attended a gathering with more than 10 people such as a reunion, wedding or funeral, up from 2 percent a month prior ([USC UAS 5/13-6/9](#)).
- Among those with a job, 68 percent say they've left the house to go to work at least once in the past seven days, up from 61 percent in May ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).

In addition, fewer are canceling plans or avoiding activities to keep themselves safe from the coronavirus:

- Forty-eight percent have canceled or delayed personal or social activities in the past week, down from 67 percent a month previous. A quarter have done the same for work or school activities, down from 37 percent.
- Forty-two percent have canceled or postponed plans to travel for pleasure in the past week, down from 53 percent a month earlier. Twenty-one percent have canceled or postponed travel for work, down from 28 percent.
- Twenty-two percent have canceled a doctor’s appointment in the past week, down from 33 percent.
- While about three-quarters continue to avoid public spaces, gatherings or crowds (77 percent) as well as people who could be high risk (77 percent), that’s declined from 87 and 85 percent, respectively ([USC UAS 5/13-6/9](#)).

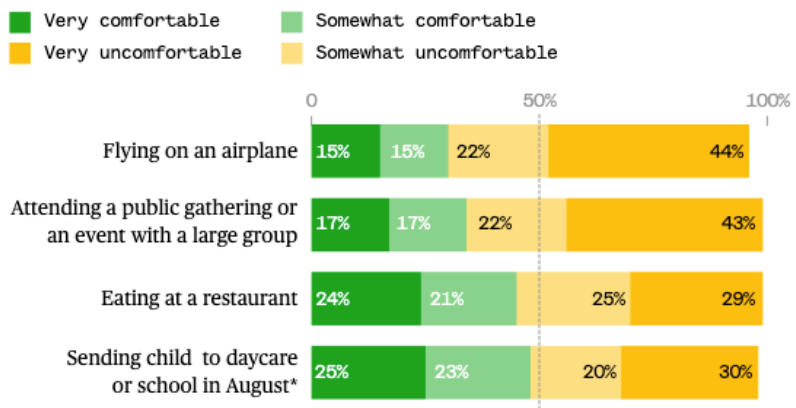
Sixty-four percent remain at least somewhat concerned about their community reopening too soon, down from 74 percent in mid-May, and the number who are extremely concerned about this has dropped from 24 to 14 percent ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).

Concerns, nonetheless, remain substantial. Two-thirds of registered voters would be at least somewhat uncomfortable flying on an airplane or attending a public gathering or an event with a large group; 54 percent would be uncomfortable eating at a restaurant; and half of parents would be uncomfortable sending their child to daycare or school in August ([NBC/WSJ 5/28-6/2](#)).

Moreover, majorities remain unwilling to go to a sporting event in a large stadium (71 percent), a gym or health club (66 percent), a bar (65 percent), a movie theater (61 percent), bowling (61 percent) or to fly on an airplane (55 percent). Fewer, but still sizable numbers, express unwillingness to go to a shopping mall (46 percent), stay at a hotel (42 percent), attend church (42 percent), eat at a restaurant (40 percent), or get a haircut at a barber or salon (31 percent). Among parents, 45 percent express an unwillingness to send their child to school. But in each case, unwillingness to engage in these behaviors has dropped substantially

Americans uneasy about crowds, travel, school due to coronavirus

Two-thirds of voters would be uncomfortable attending a large gathering or flying on a plane.



*Asked only if children under 18 in household.

Source: NBC News / WSJ poll conducted May 28-June 2, 2020 with margin of error +/- 3.1%.

Graphic: Jiachuan Wu / NBC News

since mid-May ([ABC/Ipsos 6/10-6/11](#)). (Results omit those who said they do not typically do these activities.)

All told, 49 percent of Americans say they'd feel comfortable returning to their regular

routine today, up from 41 percent in May. Half say they would not feel comfortable, down from 58 percent. Among those who would not feel comfortable resuming their regular routine, more than six in 10 think they won't be able to do so in 2020 ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).



Seventy-three percent of Republicans would be comfortable returning to their normal routine now, as would 53 percent of independents, compared with 23 percent of Democrats. Men are more apt than women to say they'd be comfortable resuming their routine, and more whites say so than people of other racial or ethnic backgrounds ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).

Even as concerns ease, most Americans report wearing masks in public. For the fourth week in a row more than three-quarters say they always or sometimes wear a mask when leaving their home ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)), and 63 percent say they always wear a mask “to go shopping, to work, or be around other people outside of your house” ([NBC/WSJ 5/28-6/2](#)).

As major sports leagues grapple with how to return amid coronavirus concerns, more than half of Americans say they miss being able to watch live sporting events a lot (32 percent) or a little (26 percent). Baseball, basketball and football are missed the most by those who yearn for a return of live sports ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)).

Work Life

Nearly three-quarters of employed adults say the coronavirus is having a negative effect on their workplace, and close to half are very (13 percent) or moderately (33 percent) concerned about being exposed to the virus at work ([Gallup 5/25-5/31](#)). About three in 10 say doing their job poses at least a moderate risk to their health and well-being. And 46 percent of people who are working from home, furloughed or have been laid off see returning to their normal place of work as a moderate or large risk. That includes 15 percent who call it a large risk, down from 28 percent in mid-May ([Axios/Ipsos 6/5-6/8](#)).

A third of workers say all or nearly all employees at their place of work are currently working on site, up from 28 percent in late April/early May. Nineteen percent say some employees are on site, 31 percent say very few are and 14 percent report no employees working on site ([Gallup 5/4-5/31](#)).

Among those who report on-site workers, majorities say their employers are taking some precautions to avoid spread of the coronavirus. Among them:

- Seven in 10 say their employer is adopting new or more frequent cleaning practices “always” and a quarter say their employer is doing that sometimes.
- About six in 10 say their employer always provides personal protective equipment; a quarter say that’s happening sometimes.
- Fifty-four percent say their employer is enforcing a distance of at least six feet between employees and/or customers; a third more say that’s happening sometimes.
- Fewer, 41 percent, say their employers are always screening employees or customers for symptoms of fever or cough. Two in 10 say that’s happening sometimes, while 39 percent say it never happens ([Gallup 5/25-5/31](#)).

Economic Impacts

Americans’ ratings of their personal finances and the buying climate posted their largest three-week gains in about a decade, lifting an overall gauge of consumer confidence for a second week. But, after its steepest drop in 34 years of weekly data, consumer sentiment remains far from where it was before the pandemic, and the third component of the measure, based on views of the national economy, held steady, and dismal – with just 23 percent rating the economy positively ([Bloomberg CCI 6/3-6/7](#)).

Indeed, just about a quarter of Americans overall (23 percent) think the economy is starting to recover from the downturn caused by the coronavirus. Thirty-six percent say the economy is still in a downturn and conditions are continuing to worsen; as many think economic conditions have stabilized but a recovery has yet to begin ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).

Partisanship again informs these perceptions. Four in 10 Republicans say the economy is starting to recover, compared with 12 percent of Democrats. More than half of Democrats say the economy is still in a downturn, vs. 13 percent of Republicans ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).

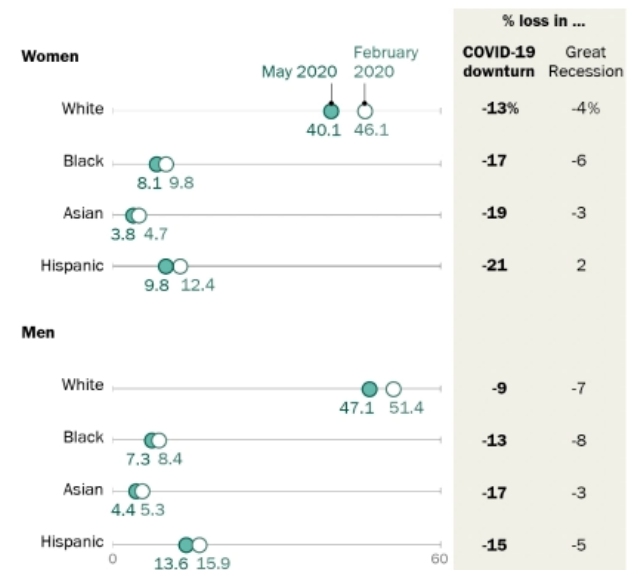
A recent Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data from February through May confirms and extends findings on disparate impacts of the coronavirus-driven spike in unemployment. Among the findings:

- More women than men lost their jobs, due in part to their greater concentration in sectors particularly hard hit by the pandemic, including leisure and hospitality, education and health services and retail trade.

- Hispanic women were particularly hard hit, at least in part because they are disproportionately employed in the leisure and hospitality sector.
- Among men, Asian, Hispanic and black workers have experienced greater job loss than whites.
- Employment among immigrant workers has dropped by 19 percent, compared with 12 percent among U.S.-born workers.
- Young workers (aged 16-24) have been particularly hard hit – with a quarter losing their jobs between February and May.
- Those without a college degree are more likely to have lost their jobs, likely at least in part because workers with a college degree are more apt to be able to work remotely ([Pew Research Center](#); [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)).

Hispanic and Asian women have experienced sharper job losses in COVID-19 downturn than other workers

Employed workers, in millions



Note: Estimates refer to employed workers ages 16 and older, nonseasonally adjusted. Estimates for 2007 and 2009 refer to the fourth quarter of each year. Whites, blacks and Asians are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders in the estimates for 2007 and 2009. American Indian and Alaska Natives or some other race not shown.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Pew Research Center analysis of 2007 and 2009 Current Population Survey data.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey likewise documents how the pandemic is disproportionately impacting communities of color:

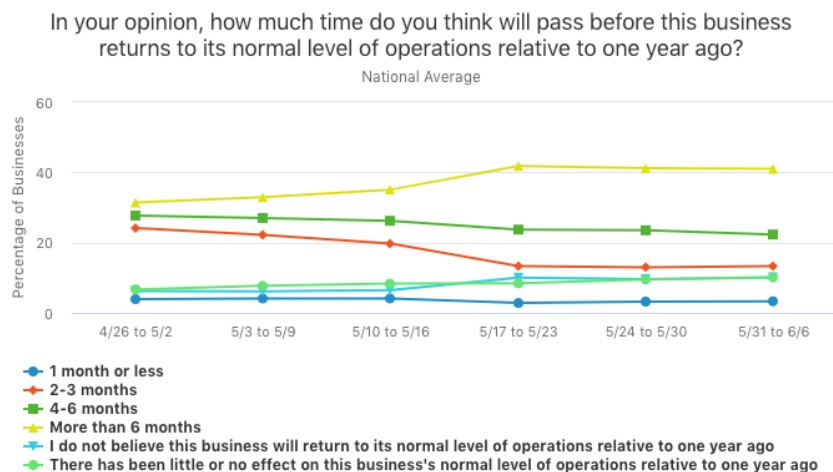
- Sixty-three percent of Hispanics or Latinos say their household has experienced a loss of employment income since March 13, as do 54 percent of blacks and 49 percent of Asians, compared with 43 percent of whites.
- Half of Hispanics or Latinos and roughly four in 10 blacks and Asians expect that someone in their household will lose employment income in the next four weeks, compared with 27 percent of whites ([U.S. Census Bureau 5/28-6/2](#)).

On a more positive note, a weekly survey of small businesses shows that while many are still hurting, there have been substantial improvements in the past five weeks:

- Half of small businesses report a decline in revenues over the past week, down from 74 percent five weeks ago.

- Forty-one percent say the pandemic has had a large negative effect on their business, down from 51 percent.
- Thirty-six percent report a disruption of the supply chain in the past week, down from 45 percent.
- Twenty-seven percent say they've had to temporarily close a location for at least one day in the past week, down from 41 percent.
- Thirteen percent say that in the last week the number of paid employees at their business has decreased, down from 28 percent. One in 10 says the number of paid employees has increased, up from 4 percent.
- The number who report a decline in hours worked by paid employees in the past week has been cut nearly in half, from 51 percent five weeks ago to 26 percent now. Twelve percent say the total number of hours worked has increased in the past week, up from 6 percent.

Still, 41 percent think it'll take more than six months before their business returns to its normal level of operations, up from 31 percent five weeks ago, and one in 10 does not believe their business will ever return to its normal level of operations. ([U.S. Census Bureau 5/31-6/6](#)).



Government Response

A majority of Americans continues to disapprove of President Trump's coronavirus response, with approval in the low-to-mid 40s ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#); [NBC/WSJ 5/28-6/2](#)).

More registered voters think presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden would handle "the response to the coronavirus outbreak" better than Trump, 55 to 41 percent ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)). Similarly, more say Biden would be better at "dealing with the coronavirus" than Trump, 48 vs. 37 percent ([NBC/WSJ 5/28-6/2](#)).

Three in 10 registered voters say the coronavirus outbreak will be an extremely important factor in their vote for president this year ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).

More than eight in 10 registered voters think the Chinese government deserves a lot (55 percent) or some (29 percent) blame for the spread of the virus. Six in 10 think Trump deserves at least some of the blame, and a similar number blame the World Health Organization. Half think the CDC deserves some of the blame and three in 10 place blame on their state's governor ([NBC/WSJ 5/28-6/2](#)).

State Results

In California, the number who avoided unnecessary trips outside of their home “all of the time” in the past seven days has declined from 53 percent in April to 40 percent now, and fewer now say they always stay at least six feet away from others in public spaces, 58 vs. 64 percent in late May. Seven in 10 continue to say they always wear a mask in public spaces, unchanged since early May. Latinos are more likely than others always to take most of these precautionary measures. Nearly half in the state, 47 percent, say they'd be very comfortable having a phone or video appointment for non-emergency medical care, including 61 and 56 percent of blacks and whites, respectively, compared with 42 and 38 percent of Asians and Latinos ([CHCF 5/29-6/3](#)).

International Results

In Sweden, which did not impose strict lockdown measures, confidence in the country's ability to cope with the pandemic has dropped – 45 percent now have very or fairly high confidence in the government's ability to deal with the coronavirus, down from 63 percent in April. Confidence in the public health authority also has dropped, from 73 to 65 percent, though eight in 10 continue to have confidence in health care overall, essentially unchanged. Fifty-seven percent of Swedes say they're keeping a distance of at least one meter from others when outside the home. Fifteen percent believe they have had the virus ([Novus 5/30-6/3](#); [6/1-6/7](#)).

In Greece, three-quarters evaluate the government's response to the pandemic positively, essentially unchanged since May, and eight in 10 have a positive assessment of the scientific committee that's managing the coronavirus crisis. Fifty-four percent say the economic measures taken by the government are in the right direction; 37 percent think they're going in the wrong direction. After relaxation of restrictive measures in the country, 44 percent remain highly worried about the pandemic, down from more than six in 10 in May ([Pulse RC 6/1-6/3](#)).

In Malawi, one of the world's poorest nations, fears about hunger, stigma, political corruption and restricted access to healthcare due to COVID-19 outpace concerns about becoming infected with the virus:

- Roughly half are at least somewhat concerned about becoming infected with the virus, including about a third who are very worried about this.
- But 82 percent fear they will go hungry due to COVID-19.
- Three-quarters think others will think poorly of them if they contract the disease.

- Two-thirds are worried that politicians in Malawi will use the coronavirus crisis to increase their power or enrich themselves.
- Six in 10 fear healthcare will be more difficult to access ([GLD-IPOR 5/7-5/28; 5/7-6/2](#)).

In Kenya, which had imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew to try to limit the spread of the coronavirus, 57 percent think that curfew should remain in place until the situation is deemed manageable. (Thirty percent think it should be done away with entirely and 12 percent think it should be relaxed and imposed for a shorter duration.) Here, concern has increased: Two-thirds say they're extremely worried about the coronavirus situation in their country, up from 50 percent in April. Nine in 10 are very concerned that there are people who have the virus but are unaware of it, up from 78 percent; and 88 percent are very concerned they will not be able to make ends meet if the virus persists, up from 76 percent. When asked to mention three things that are hindering the fight against the pandemic, the most common responses are failure by Kenyans to adhere to government directives (71 percent), lack of awareness about the disease (42 percent) and corruption (38 percent) ([Infotrak 5/28-6/1](#)).

In Great Britain, 63 percent say they've either not left the house in the past week, or have done so only to do essential shopping, go to work, exercise or for medical reasons. That has dropped from 73 percent last week and a peak of 85 percent in April. Half say they've visited a park or public green space this week, up from 42 percent last week; and four in 10 employed adults left the house to travel to work, up from 36 percent. Forty-one percent say they feel safe outside their home, up from 33 percent. In England, where some schools reopened June 1, more than half of parents, 54 percent, say they're unlikely to send their children back this month ([Office for National Statistics 5/28-5/31](#)).

In Mexico, where health officials warn the peak could be several weeks away, a poll of cellphone users finds that nearly twice as many think the priority should be to stay home to decrease the spread of the coronavirus (64 percent) than to return to normal activities to revive the economy (33 percent). Just one in 10 thinks the worst of the epidemic is over; 47 percent think the worst is happening now and 39 percent say the worst is yet to come. About half say their personal finances are worse than they were six months ago. Amid this, ratings of President López Obrador's administration, while still positive, have declined since April: Sixty-five percent rate its actions to decrease the spread of the virus positively, down 8 points, and six in 10 assess the measures taken to reactivate the country's economy positively, down 17 points ([Buendía & Laredo 5/15-5/21](#)).

In the Philippines, a poll conducted before quarantine measures in the country started to lift nationwide found that 84 percent of working-aged Filipinos (15+) said the strict stay-at-home measures were "worth it to protect people and limit the spread of coronavirus," while 15 percent said they were "placing too many burdens on people." Concern about catching the virus is high: Eighty-seven percent are worried that someone in their immediate family might catch COVID-19, including 73 percent who are worried a great deal. Eight in 10 say the shutdown of private businesses and stores has been at least somewhat burdensome on their family, and nearly as many (77 percent) say the same about the suspension of public transport. Seventeen percent say their family has experienced hunger due to a lack of food to eat at least once in the past three

months (February-May), almost double the rate in December 2019. In terms of steps taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus, more than three-quarters say they always use a face mask when going out, 68 percent report always washing hands several times a day and 64 percent say they're always keeping "social distance." Most of the rest say they're doing these things "most of the time" ([SWS 5/4-5/10](#)).

Additional U.S. and international poll results are available at the [COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

Summary for SEAN by [Langer Research Associates](#).