

## COVID-19 Survey Summary: June 26, 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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### Rising Concerns

With record numbers of daily coronavirus cases nationally, led by sharp increases in multiple states, concerns about the pandemic increased again this week after easing through early June.

The rise in cases [started in mid-June](#) and reached new peaks in just the last few days, with some states pausing their reopening efforts – changes that are important to keep in mind in evaluating COVID-19 survey data reported this week. Depending on their field dates, surveys may not have captured or fully captured changes in views, if any, associated with these developments.

In the most recent results, 76 percent of Americans are at least somewhat concerned that they or someone they know will be infected with the coronavirus, up 7 percentage points in two weeks after dropping to a three-month low earlier this month ([ABC/Ipsos 6/24-6/25](#)). An identical share are concerned about “the possibility of getting sick,” also up 7 points ([Axios/Ipsos 6/19-6/22](#)).

In other recent data, collected June 19-22:

- Seven in 10 think returning to their pre-coronavirus life would pose a large or moderate risk to their health and well-being, up 13 points in two weeks. Seventy-one percent also are at least somewhat concerned that their community will reopen too soon, up 7 points.

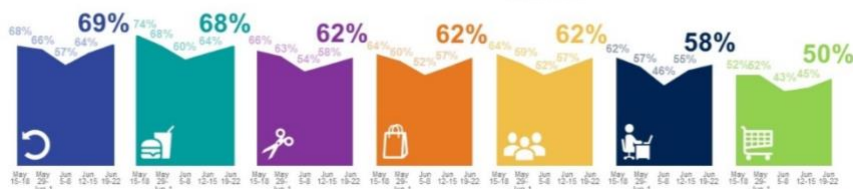
#### Perceived risk of outside activities continues to increase

Perceived risk of various activities has been trending upward over the past two weeks

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

% Large risk or Moderate risk

Returning to your normal pre-COVID life	Dining in at a restaurant	Going to a salon, barber, or spa	Shopping at non-grocery retail stores	In-person gatherings of friends/family outside of household	Returning to your normal place of employment	Going to the grocery store
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- Perceived risks of specific activities rose for a second week, reversing a decline through late May and early June.

These include a 12-point two-week increase in seeing “returning to your normal place of employment” as a large or moderate risk, and 10-point increases in seeing a risk in shopping at non-grocery retail stores and attending in-person gatherings of friends and family outside the household.

- Among employed people, 37 percent say doing their job is at least a moderate risk, up 11 points in a single week ([Axios/Ipsos 6/19-6/22](#)).
- Eighty-five percent are concerned about the pandemic generally, up 5 points in two weeks, and as many express concern about a second wave, up a slight 4 points since last week alone.

Similarly, after steady declines through most of April and May, daily tracking data suggests that Americans’ perceptions of their chance of getting the coronavirus, on average, inched up starting about two weeks ago ([USC UAS](#)).

Most Americans, 59 percent, think the worst of the problems from the outbreak are still to come ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)). That’s down from 73 percent in April, but higher than its level in a similar question (asking “where the U.S. stands in the coronavirus outbreak”) in early June, when 46 percent said the worst was still to come ([CNN 6/2-6/5](#)).

In interviews completed June 16, a third of registered voters thought the pandemic was not at all under control and 43 percent said it was “somewhat” controlled; many fewer thought it was mostly (16 percent) or completely (7 percent) controlled ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)). These were essentially unchanged from a month earlier.

### Reopening America

Amid these rising concerns, 56 percent think the country is moving too quickly to reopen, nearly double the number who think the pace is about right (29 percent). Fifteen percent say things are moving too slowly ([ABC/Ipsos 6/24-6/25](#)).

In mid-June data, registered voters expressed concerns on both sides of the reopening debate. Seventy-seven percent were at least somewhat concerned that reopening too quickly will lead to an increase in infections and more shutdowns, but nearly as many, 73 percent, were at least somewhat concerned that reopening too slowly will cause even more economic and social harm.

More expressed strong concern about reopening too quickly (46 percent) than too slowly (35 percent). Democrats were more than twice as likely as Republicans to be very concerned about moving too quickly, 62 vs. 28 percent, while Republicans were twice as likely as Democrats to express strong concern about moving too slowly, 51 vs. 24 percent ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

At the same time, as of June 15, support for many of the restrictions introduced in response to the coronavirus outbreak, while still broad, had dropped substantially compared with March:

- Sixty-eight percent favored banning travel into the United States for people from other countries, down from 82 percent in March.
- Fifty-nine percent favored requiring Americans to limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer, down from 84 percent.
- Roughly half favored restricting travel within the United States (51 percent) and requiring Americans to stay in their homes except for essential errands (50 percent), down from 76 and 78 percent, respectively, in March ([AP-NORC 6/11-6/15](#)).

As in a number of previous surveys, more registered voters say the federal government’s priority should be to contain the spread of the coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy, than to restart the economy, even if it increases the risk to public health, now 55 vs. 34 percent. Strong partisan divisions persist; eight in 10 Democrats think the government should prioritize containing the spread, while six in 10 Republicans focus on restarting the economy ([NYT/Siena 6/17-6/22](#)).

In another approach, asked to choose what message they would send to the federal government about the pandemic, more said it would be to protect their health (47 percent) than to protect their freedoms (27 percent). (Twenty-four percent said both or mixed.) ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

On whom people trust most to make a decision to “open the economy given the need to keep people safe,” 37 percent choose “a public health official like Anthony Fauci,” 26 percent their governor, 15 percent President Trump and 14 percent their mayor or a local government official ([Commonwealth Fund/SSRS 5/13-6/2](#)).

### Contact and Concern

Thirty-six percent personally know someone in the United States who has tested positive for the virus and 14 percent know someone who has died from it, both unchanged from last week. Blacks continue to be much more likely than whites and Hispanics to know someone who has tested positive, 53 vs. 34 and 38 percent, or has died, 31 vs. 12 and 15 percent, respectively.

Regionally, in June 19-22 data, 45 percent in the Northeast knew someone who has tested positive, vs. 36 percent in the Midwest and South and 27 percent in the West. Northeasterners also were twice as likely as those in the West to know someone who has died, 22 vs. 11 percent ([Anxios/Ipsos 6/19-6/22](#)). The recent surge has occurred mostly in the South and West, with record numbers of daily cases in the past week in Arizona, California, Florida, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

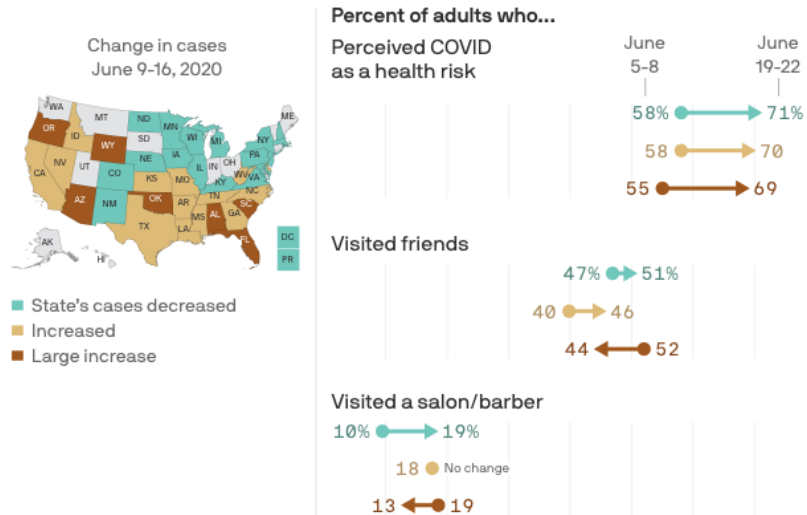
Sixty-two percent are at least somewhat concerned that they might unknowingly spread COVID-19 to others; 51 percent are concerned they will catch it and require hospitalization. Both are down slightly overall since April, and down substantially among Republicans and whites, while Blacks have grown significantly more concerned about spreading the virus ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)).

## Daily Life

Some behaviors appear aligned with case counts. In states where new cases climbed by 50 percent or more the prior week, the share of people who've visited friends or relatives declined from 52 to 44 percent in the past two weeks. In other states, visits with friends and relatives have risen somewhat.

Similarly, in states with the greatest increase in reported cases, visits to a salon, barber shop or spa declined from 19 to 13 percent in the past two weeks, while in states where the infection rate was decreasing, the number who've done so rose from 10 to 19 percent. In states with a more modest increase in cases, visits to a salon or barber were unchanged ([Axios/Ipsos 6/19-6/22](#)).

### Survey of Americans by their state's COVID status



Data: Ipsos/Axios survey, case data from The COVID Tracking Project; Chart: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios

Overall, as of mid-June, 52 percent of registered voters felt at least somewhat comfortable going to public places like restaurants and stores, albeit with just two in 10 “very” comfortable ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

However, after rising sharply earlier this month, a more recent survey finds willingness to engage in several activities down significantly – each by 8 points – in the past two weeks. These include going to a movie, attending church, flying on an airplane and attending a sporting event in a large stadium, among those who typically did those activities before the outbreak ([ABC/Ipsos 6/24-6/25](#)).

## Protective Behaviors and Attitudes

Nearly nine in 10 think the actions of ordinary Americans can have a great deal (59 percent) or a fair amount (28 percent) of impact on how the coronavirus spreads in the United States. Among many sharp partisan differences in COVID-19 attitudes, nearly three-quarters of Democrats say the actions of ordinary people can affect the spread of the virus a great deal, while this declines to 44 percent among Republicans ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)).

In data collected June 8-21, eight in 10 Americans were at least somewhat confident they could protect themselves from being infected by the coronavirus when out in public, with a 16-point rise from late March-early April in the number who were “very” confident, to 27 percent. That included a 29-point increase among Republicans (to 46 percent) and 18 points among independents (to 31 percent), vs. a 5 points among Democrats (to 10 percent) ([Gallup 6/8-6/21](#)).

In terms of protective behaviors, as of June 10, two-thirds of Americans said that in the past month they wore a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses all or most of the time, though fewer (44 percent) said all or most people in their community have been wearing a mask in similar settings ([Pew 6/4-6/10](#)). More generally, 87 percent say they’ve worn a face mask or covering when they’ve left the house in the past week ([ABC/Ipsos 6/24-6/25](#)) and half continue to report wearing a mask at all times when they leave home ([Axios/Ipsos 6/19-6/22](#)). (Face mask mandates have risen in recent days.)

Partisanship informs this behavior. Democrats and those who lean Democratic were more apt than Republicans and Republican leaners to say they wore a mask inside stores or other businesses all or most of the time, 76 vs. 53 percent ([Pew 6/4-6/10](#)). Moreover, the share of Democrats who say they always wear a mask when leaving the house has risen 27 points since mid-April, from 38 to 65 percent, while among Republicans it’s up 15 points, to 39 percent ([Axios/Ipsos 6/19-6/22](#)).

People living in counties with high per-capita coronavirus-related deaths also were more apt to say they regularly wear a mask in stores or other businesses, and whites were less likely to say they regularly do so than Blacks, Hispanics and Asians ([Pew 6/4-6/10](#)).

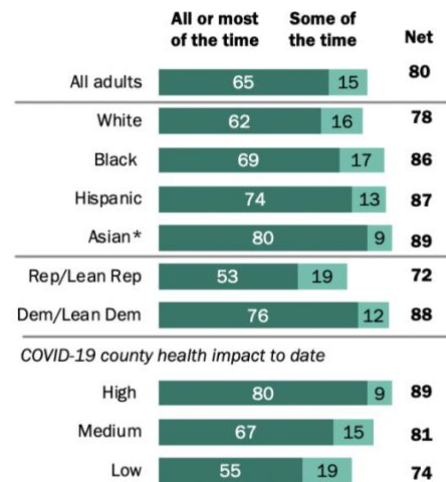
Asked another way, in June 8-14 results, 84 percent of adults said they’d worn a face mask outside their house in the previous seven days. Seven in 10 reported practicing social distancing always or very often in the previous 24 hours and two-thirds said it’s better for people who do not have symptoms and are otherwise healthy to stay home as much as possible to avoid contracting or spreading the coronavirus rather than to resume their normal lives.

In over-time data, while mask use has grown, personal reports of social distancing and support for others to stay home had trended downward since April, driven largely by declines among Republicans ([Gallup 6/8-6/14](#)).

Regardless of personal behavior, majorities across partisan lines say they view those who wear masks positively: Eight in 10 registered voters overall have a favorable view of people who wear

**More Democrats than Republicans say they wore masks in stores all or most of the time**

*% saying, in the past month, they've worn a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses ...*



\*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.  
Note: Figures may not add to subtotals due to rounding. White, black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. COVID-19 health impact is based on deaths by county, adjusted for differences in population, as of June 5, 2020. For more information on how this was calculated, see the methodology.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 4-10, 2020.

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face masks, including 68 percent of Republicans and 61 percent of those who strongly approve of President Trump’s job performance ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

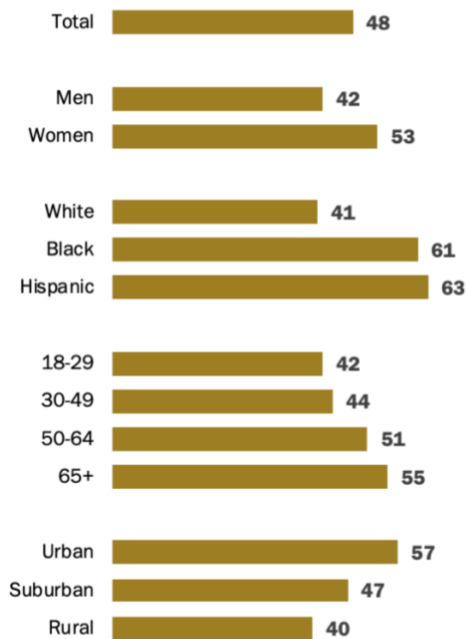
Nearly half overall say people in their community ought to wear a mask all the time when they go to public places and an additional 23 percent think masks should be worn most of the time. Democrats and Democratic leaners, women, Blacks, Hispanics, city dwellers and older Americans are more apt than their counterparts to say masks always should be worn in public places. Just 4 percent of adults think people would disapprove if they were to wear a mask in public places in their area ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)).

In newly released results from a late May poll, broad majorities were willing to accept a variety of restrictive measures to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, with sharply varying partisan divisions:

- Eighty-seven percent said mandatory isolation of those who test positive for coronavirus is acceptable, including 93 percent of Democrats and eight in 10 Republicans.
- Eighty-five percent said having your temperature checked before entering an enclosed public place is acceptable, including 91 percent of Democrats and 82 percent of Republicans.
- Eight in 10 said requiring people to wear face masks while in enclosed public spaces is acceptable, including nearly all Democrats (96 percent) vs. 63 percent of Republicans.
- Three-quarters said allowing the government to alert those whom you’ve been around if you become infected with coronavirus is acceptable, including 87 percent of Democrats vs. 64 percent of Republicans.
- About two-thirds said public bans on gatherings of more than 10 people are acceptable, including 79 percent of Democrats but fewer than half of Republicans (46 percent).
- Sixty-two percent said mandatory vaccinations by employers and schools against the coronavirus once it becomes available, with limited exceptions for medical and religious reasons, are acceptable; that includes 80 percent of Democrats vs. 47 percent of Republicans.

### Race, age, gender, geographic differences in views of mask wearing

*% who say when people in your community go out in public places where they may be near others, they should always wear a mask*



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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- Fifty-seven percent said mandatory sharing of personal health information with the government in order to track the spread of coronavirus is acceptable, including 76 percent of Democrats vs. 39 percent of Republicans ([Fairleigh Dickinson 5/20-5/25](#)).

### Economic Attitudes

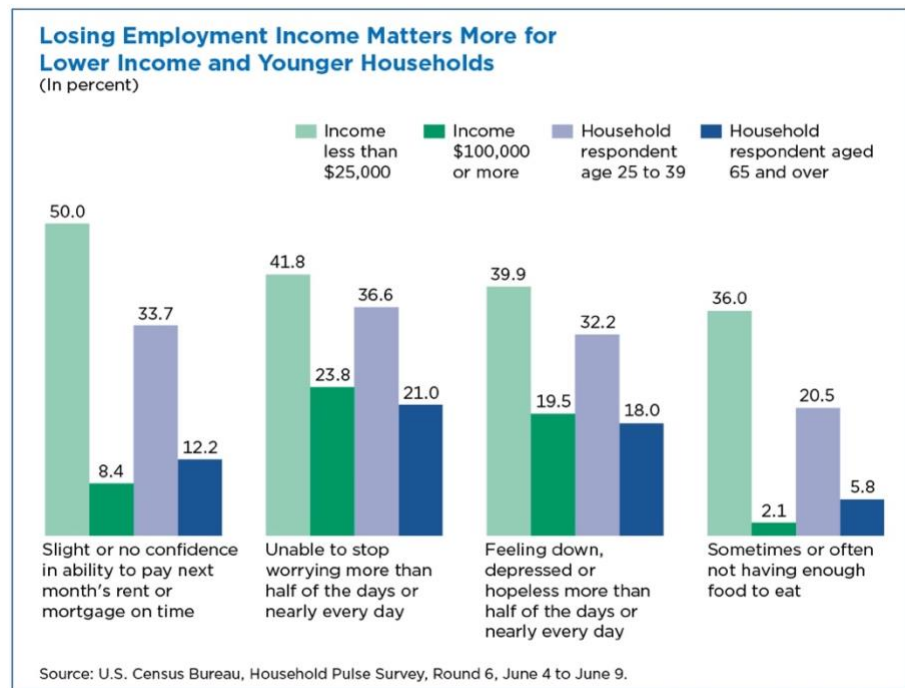
As businesses reopened, views of the national economy grew somewhat less bleak: In mid-June 28 percent of registered voters rated the economy positively (as excellent or good), up 8 points in the previous month but still well below its level in January, 55 percent ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

Similarly, among all Americans, 36 percent described the national economy as good, up from 29 percent last month, but far below 67 percent in January. The rebound is driven mostly by Republicans – in mid-June, 65 percent described the nation’s economy as good, up from 43 percent in May. Republicans also were far more apt than Democrats and independents to think the economy is going to improve in the next year, 66 vs. 29 percent ([AP-NORC 6/11-6/15](#)).

### Economic Impacts

An analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau finds that the loss of household income experienced by roughly half of Americans has been particularly difficult for lower-income and younger Americans. For

example, among those age 25-39 who experienced a loss of employment income, 37 percent were unable to stop worrying more than half the days in the previous week; 34 percent reported having slight to no confidence that they can pay next month’s rent or mortgage on time; 32 percent felt down, depressed or hopeless more than half the days; and two in 10 said there was sometimes or often not enough food to eat.



Among adults aged 65 and older who experienced a loss of income, by contrast, 21 percent reported similar levels of worrying, 12 percent lacked confidence they can make next month’s rent or mortgage payment, 18 percent reported feeling depressed half or more days and 6 percent said there sometimes or often wasn’t enough food to eat ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/4-6/9](#)).

## Stimulus Spending

Eighty-six percent of Americans say they or someone in their household has received or expects to receive a stimulus payment. Most say they used it or plan to use it mostly for expenses; 16 percent to pay off debt and 14 percent mostly for savings. Among those who've already spent their checks, most report using or planning to use the money for basic expenses such as food, rent/mortgage or utilities. About two in 10 say they spent it or will spend it on clothing. Eight percent spent or plan to spend the money on household goods such as TVs, electronics, furniture and appliances or recreational goods ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/11-6/16](#)).

## Health Impacts

In results from June 8-14, 52 percent of Americans said they or another family member living in their household has skipped or postponed some type of medical or dental care because of the pandemic, including 42 percent who personally skipped care. Among those who said someone in their household skipped care, 27 percent said that person had a worsening condition as a result.

Adults age 30 and older, women, those with higher household incomes and insured adults were most apt to say they have skipped care, at least part of which may reflect that some of these groups are more apt to seek care under normal circumstances. Dental care and routine medical check-ups were the most commonly skipped or postponed types of care.

Most, 70 percent, expected to get the delayed care in the next three months. Seven percent said they'd already received it ([KFF 6/8-6/14](#)).

## Government Response

As of mid-June, registered voters divided (38 percent apiece) between whether the quarantines and lockdowns the federal government recommended in response to coronavirus were about right or did not go far enough. Nineteen percent said they went too far ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

Approval of President Trump's handling of the pandemic remains in the high 30s to mid-40s, with little change the past month ([NYT/Siena 6/17-6/22](#); [ABC/Ipsos 6/17-6/18](#); [Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)). In mid-June half approved of the federal government's response, 68 percent approved of their state government's response and 72 percent approved of Anthony Fauci's handling of the pandemic, all essentially unchanged ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

Seven in 10 think it will be necessary for the president and Congress to pass an additional economic assistance package, down from 77 percent in April. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, half say additional stimulus will be necessary, down from 66 percent; among Democrats and Democratic leaners it's 87 percent, unchanged ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)).

Majorities support a variety of other proposals to address economic problems resulting from the pandemic. Among them:



- Nearly nine in 10 favor preventing evictions and foreclosures on those who have lost jobs or income and providing additional tax cuts and loans to businesses keeping workers on payrolls (both 88 percent).
- Three-quarters favor providing financial assistance to state and local governments. This includes 91 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents compared with 58 percent of their Republican counterparts.
- Six in 10 support extending the \$600-per-week increase in unemployment benefits beyond July 31, including nearly twice as many Democrats and Democratic leaners as (77 percent) as Republicans and Republican leaners (39 percent).
- Fifty-three percent back temporarily cutting workers' payroll taxes ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)).

Sixty-eight percent say that “in order for businesses to open and operate they need to be given broad protection from lawsuits brought by employees who may get COVID-19” while working, while 29 percent think employees need to be able to sue their employers if they get COVID-19 on the job, even if it makes it harder for businesses to reopen. Nine in 10 leaned Republicans say businesses should be protected from lawsuits, vs. half of leaned Democrats ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)).

### Election

Again in mid-June, two-thirds of Americans said the coronavirus outbreak was either one of the most important issues in their vote for president (31 percent) or very important (35 percent). That compares with 83 percent for the economy, 76 percent for health care, 65 percent apiece for racism and police treatment of Blacks and 63 percent for immigration ([Post/Ipsos 6/9-6/14](#)).

Six in 10 registered voters said it is a bad idea for the presidential candidates to hold large political events and rallies right now; 23 percent called it a good idea and 16 percent said it depends (e.g., on social distancing and use of masks) ([Fox News 6/13-6/16](#)).

### State Results

In Ohio, a bipartisan 77 percent of registered voters approve of Republican Gov. Mike DeWine's handling of the coronavirus response, including 88 percent of Democrats, 74 percent of Republicans and 73 percent of independents. Six in 10 say the pace at which DeWine is lifting coronavirus-related restrictions on businesses is about right, with the rest split evenly on whether he is moving too fast or not quickly enough. Nearly three-quarters say they'd feel comfortable going to a dentist at this time, 55 percent say they'd feel comfortable going to a restaurant and about a third are comfortable going to a bar (33 percent) or large event (32 percent). Roughly half think it will be safe to send students to college (52 percent) or K-12 schools (49 percent) in the fall. Seven in 10 think it's at least somewhat likely there will be another wave of coronavirus infections that will cause businesses in the state to close again. Forty-two percent personally know someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 ([Quinnipiac 6/18-6/22](#)).

In Wisconsin, with data from last week, 58 percent of registered voters approved of Gov. Tony Evers' handling of the pandemic, down from a peak of 76 percent in March. Seventy-two percent said the decision to close schools and businesses and restrict public gatherings was appropriate, while a quarter called it an overreaction, about the same as last month. About a third said they or someone in their household has lost a job because of the pandemic. With the stay-at-home order lifted, more than eight in 10 said they'd be comfortable visiting a friend or family member at their home, 65 percent going to a mall or large retail store, 54 percent letting students return to school in the fall, 49 percent eating at a restaurant and a third attending a large gathering such as a sporting event or concert. Fifty-three percent said national party conventions should not be held in-person this August ([Marquette Law 6/14-18](#)).

In California, in mid-June results, 43 percent said the state's shelter-in-place order was being relaxed too quickly, while 35 percent said the pace was about right and 21 percent said too slowly. Two-thirds were at least somewhat worried that infections will increase as the orders are relaxed. More than three-quarters said they'd support a new shelter-in-place order in their county if health officials determined COVID-19 cases were "increasing to a dangerous level." Seventy-two percent were avoiding unnecessary trips out of the home all or most of the time, down 16 points from two months previous. When asked how soon they expected to return to a variety of activities, 28 percent said they already were visiting friends and relatives without staying six feet apart and an additional 22 percent expected to do that this summer. Three in 10 were going to the dentist for routine care or expected to do so this summer and 39 percent had visited a doctor for nonurgent care or expected to this summer ([CHCF 6/12-6/16](#)).

A poll of registered voters completed last week in six election battleground states – Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida, Arizona and North Carolina – included some coronavirus-related questions. Among the results:

- Matching national results, 55 percent overall, including majorities in each state, said the federal government's priority should be to limit the spread of coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy, while 35 percent prioritized restarting the economy.
- In Michigan, where Trump sided with those protesting Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home orders, more oppose than support these protests, 57-37 percent. Six in 10 disapprove of Trump's handling of the coronavirus and nearly four in 10 think he has treated their state worse than others in response to the pandemic, far more than said so in the other states.
- While majorities in each state said they'd feel comfortable voting in-person if the election were held today, that ranged from 68 percent in Arizona to 80 percent in North Carolina.
- In trust to do a better job with the coronavirus, Trump edged out presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden in Florida (49-43 percent). Biden has a significant trust advantage in Michigan (52-40 percent) and Wisconsin (52-43 percent). They were about even in Arizona, North Carolina and Pennsylvania ([NYT/Siena 6/8-6/18](#)).

## International Results

In Great Britain, four in 10 report having worn a face covering outside of their home in the past week, up from 30 percent a week ago. That includes a jump from 23 to 38 percent among men. (Among women, already more apt to wear a mask, this was +5 points, to 41 percent.) Further, wearing a face mask while using public transit increased from 45 to 62 percent, ahead of the government mandating it in England. Half called it likely they will wear a mask in the next seven days, up from 40 percent the previous week ([Office for National Statistics 6/11-6/14](#)).

In Japan, 55 percent think it was appropriate for the government to lift its request for people to refrain from traveling between prefectures, while 32 percent think the request should have remained in place. Thirty-six percent are very concerned about others who go out without wearing masks or go to crowded places; an additional 50 percent are concerned to some extent. Half are concerned about Japan's medical and testing systems in relation to COVID-19. Just a quarter (26 percent) rate Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration's response to the outbreak positively. And just 21 percent think it will be possible to hold the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo next year ([Mainichi Shimbun 6/20](#)).

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

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