



COVID-19 Survey Summary: September 2, 2022

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

Half of Americans approve of Joe Biden's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, his highest-rated issue in recent polling. Fewer, four in 10, have a favorable opinion of the departing Dr. Anthony Fauci, down 14 percentage points since the start of vaccine distribution in winter 2021.

In other newly released surveys the past two weeks, a majority of parents express reluctance to have their child under five vaccinated; more people said socializing in person has become less important rather than more important to them since the pandemic began; among teens, more agree than disagree that they were lonelier and more depressed when their school was fully remote; and the pandemic continues barely to register on top-issue lists.

International results from Great Britain and Japan also are included in this week's summary.

Coronavirus Concerns

After steady declines since late July, new average [daily cases](#) plateaued in the past week at around 90,000 per day. Four in 10 people are at least moderately concerned about the coronavirus, a low since June ([CDC 8/7-8/13](#)).

In two polls, one of adults and another of registered voters, 1 percent say the coronavirus is the most urgent issue facing the country, last of the items tested in each ([Quinnipiac 8/25-8/29](#), [NBC News 8/12-8/16](#)). Among registered voters, 3 percent call it one of the top two issues, also last ([NBC News 8/12-8/16](#)).

Twenty-eight percent of registered voters call the coronavirus very important in their vote in the midterm congressional elections, last of all issues polled and down from a third in March. A third call it somewhat important ([Pew Research 8/1-8/14](#)).

Personal Priorities

In newly released results from an open-ended question in May, among those who said something had become more important since the pandemic began, a quarter identified protecting their health and two in

10 mentioned socializing, including attending gatherings and going out. One in 10 or fewer identified other items as more important. Among people for whom something had become less important, 35 percent mentioned socializing; one in 10, work ([Pew Research 5/2-5/8](#)).

Biden & Fauci

Half approve of Biden’s handling of the coronavirus, steady since June, up from four in 10 in January and his best issue tested. Slightly fewer disapprove, 45 percent.

Thirty-nine percent hold a favorable opinion of Fauci, 37 percent unfavorable and 22 percent haven’t heard enough to say. His favorable rating is down 14 points and his unfavorable rating is up as many vs. February 2021. Democrats and four-year college graduates are most apt to rate Fauci favorably; Republican and non-college adults, least so ([Quinnipiac 8/25-8/29](#)).

Teens & Mental Health

More teenagers agree than disagree that they were lonelier (53 vs. 24 percent) or more depressed (41 vs. 33 percent) while attending school virtually. The rest were neutral or didn’t answer ([NAMI-Ipsos 7/15-8/1](#)).

Vaccines & Young Children

Fifty-seven percent of parents of children younger than five do not plan to have their child vaccinated against the coronavirus; three in 10 plan on it and 14 percent have done so. Reported uptake rises sharply, to 52 percent, among parents of older children ([Gallup 7/26-8/2](#)).

International Results

In Great Britain, three in 10 are worried about the effect the pandemic is having on their life, down from about four in 10 in late July. Forty-three percent are worried about new variant strains. Thirty-five percent have worn a mask in the past seven days, unchanged. Of those who have worn a mask, about six in 10 do so always or often ([Office for National Statistics 8/3-8/14](#)).

In Japan, voters split 49-45 percent, disapprove-approve, on the government’s response to the coronavirus. Amid [increasing cases](#), disapproval reached a new high since Prime Minister Fumio Kishida formed his government in fall 2021 ([Asahi Shimbun 8/27-8/28](#)).

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

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

