

COVID-19

Fielded October 2020

Every month, IBM Watson Health® conducts a health poll that surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues.

This health poll is powered by the IBM Watson Health PULSE® Healthcare Survey, an independently funded, multi-modal (land line, cell phone, internet) survey that collects information from approximately 80,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted in this report represent responses from 3,003 survey participants interviewed from October 1–14, 2020, with a margin of error of +/- 1.8%.

Executive summary

This health poll asked Americans about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and sharing information with employers.

Of all respondents:

54%

indicated that they are employed and 25% of this group said they are self-employed. 21% said they are either unemployed or furloughed due to COVID-19.

19%

said they are either Not At All Comfortable or Not Comfortable sharing with their employer that they have had a close contact with an infected co-worker and 21% if contact was with an infected person outside of work.

75%

said they are either Comfortable or Very Comfortable sharing COVID-19 test results with their employer. This rate tends to increase with increasing age, level of education and income.

30%

of those who said they are Not at All Comfortable is that the information is private, and 15% said they felt the information could be used against them.

72%

said they are either Comfortable or Very Comfortable sharing self-reported COVID-19 symptoms with their employer. This rate tends to increase with increasing age and level of education.

41%

of respondents said they would be willing to voluntarily add an app to their phone that shares information with their employer regarding their location in the workplace. This rate tends to increase with increasing age and income.

66%

said they are either Comfortable or Very Comfortable sharing that they have had the COVID-19 vaccine, when available, with their employer. This rate tends to increase with increasing age, level of education and income.

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Question 1: Are you currently employed either full-time or part-time?

Note: Red figures are statistically significant.

	Yes	No	Retired
<35	66.9%	30.2%	1.4%
35 - 64	64.4%	27.2%	7.4%
65+	14.0%	50.7%	35.0%
Total	53.8%	33.2%	12.1%
HS or Less	40.6%	45.8%	11.9%
Some College/Associate	51.3%	35.5%	12.0%
College+	63.1%	24.3%	12.2%
Total	53.8%	33.2%	12.1%
Silent Generation	3.6%	70.1%	25.9%
Baby Boomers	29.8%	38.6%	31.2%
Generation X	68.4%	26.0%	4.4%
Millennials	68.1%	29.2%	1.3%
Total	53.8%	33.2%	12.1%
<\$25k	30.8%	57.7%	10.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	52.8%	32.6%	14.4%
\$50k - \$99.9k	60.0%	23.8%	15.7%
\$100k+	81.1%	12.5%	6.1%
Total	53.8%	33.2%	12.1%

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Question 2: Are you self-employed?

	Yes	No
<35	17.9%	82.0%
35 - 64	28.3%	71.6%
65+	33.8%	66.2%
Total	25.1%	74.8%
HS or Less	21.5%	78.5%
Some College/Associate	18.0%	82.0%
College+	30.1%	69.7%
Total	25.1%	74.8%
Silent Generation	71.7%	28.3%
Baby Boomers	20.7%	79.3%
Generation X	30.8%	69.1%
Millennials	19.2%	80.7%
Total	25.1%	74.8%
<\$25k	20.3%	79.7%
\$25k - \$49.9k	14.7%	85.3%
\$50k - \$99.9k	28.2%	71.8%
\$100k+	31.9%	67.8%
Total	25.1%	74.8%

Question 3: In the past 6 months, have you become unemployed or furloughed due to COVID-19?

	Yes	No
<35	41.9%	54.7%
35 - 64	23.5%	75.7%
65+	4.0%	96.0%
Total	21.1%	77.8%
HS or Less	18.8%	79.0%
Some College/Associate	19.4%	79.8%
College+	25.2%	74.5%
Total	21.1%	77.8%
Silent Generation	1.1%	98.9%
Baby Boomers	8.6%	90.6%
Generation X	24.8%	74.9%
Millennials	42.3%	54.6%
Total	21.1%	77.8%
<\$25k	18.2%	80.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	30.1%	68.6%
\$50k - \$99.9k	21.2%	78.8%
\$100k+	26.3%	73.7%
Total	21.1%	77.8%

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This next section will ask about how comfortable you would be sharing COVID-19 related information with your employer. Please use a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means Not At All Comfortable and 5 means Very Comfortable. You can use any number in between.

Question 4: How comfortable would you be sharing self-reported COVID-19 symptoms including temperature checks?

	1/2 - Not Comfortable	3	4/5 - Comfortable
<35	18.5%	15.3%	63.2%
35 - 64	11.4%	11.2%	74.4%
65+	1.2%	0.9%	97.4%
Total	13.3%	12.1%	71.8%
HS or Less	24.4%	14.8%	57.1%
Some College/Associate	8.3%	12.7%	75.5%
College+	11.3%	10.5%	76.2%
Total	13.3%	12.1%	71.8%
Silent Generation	2.1%	3.9%	86.8%
Baby Boomers	6.5%	2.8%	90.5%
Generation X	12.3%	13.2%	72.1%
Millennials	16.9%	14.3%	64.4%
Total	13.3%	12.1%	71.8%
<\$25k	17.2%	18.0%	63.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	15.9%	12.0%	68.1%
\$50k - \$99.9k	11.4%	9.9%	76.8%
\$100k+	10.9%	10.6%	75.2%
Total	13.3%	12.1%	71.8%

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Question 5: How comfortable would you be sharing that you received the COVID-19 vaccine when available?

	1/2 - Not Comfortable	3	4/5 - Comfortable
<35	20.7%	11.1%	61.1%
35 - 64	16.1%	13.5%	66.9%
65+	4.7%	13.6%	80.4%
Total	17.1%	12.6%	65.6%
HS or Less	23.1%	14.3%	54.3%
Some College/Associate	19.6%	13.2%	60.7%
College+	12.7%	11.6%	73.8%
Total	17.1%	12.6%	65.6%
Silent Generation	5.1%	4.3%	86.3%
Baby Boomers	9.6%	12.3%	77.1%
Generation X	17.3%	14.6%	64.0%
Millennials	19.7%	10.8%	63.0%
Total	17.1%	12.6%	65.6%
<\$25k	25.4%	15.5%	52.6%
\$25k - \$49.9k	22.4%	12.6%	60.3%
\$50k - \$99.9k	15.3%	10.5%	69.7%
\$100k+	9.5%	13.1%	74.5%
Total	17.1%	12.6%	65.6%

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Question 6: How comfortable would you be sharing results from COVID-19 testing?

	1/2 - Not Comfortable	3	4/5 - Comfortable
<35	14.7%	17.5%	66.2%
35 - 64	8.8%	9.6%	78.3%
65+	4.2%	7.4%	87.8%
Total	10.6%	12.2%	74.6%
HS or Less	16.9%	13.9%	64.3%
Some College/Associate	12.1%	14.2%	71.2%
College+	6.9%	10.3%	81.4%
Total	10.6%	12.2%	74.6%
Silent Generation	0.0%	2.5%	84.7%
Baby Boomers	6.9%	5.9%	86.7%
Generation X	9.4%	10.4%	76.3%
Millennials	13.4%	16.5%	68.2%
Total	10.6%	12.2%	74.6%
<\$25k	19.0%	16.1%	63.3%
\$25k - \$49.9k	10.4%	14.4%	71.0%
\$50k - \$99.9k	7.8%	11.3%	78.2%
\$100k+	8.9%	9.0%	80.9%
Total	10.6%	12.2%	74.6%

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Question 7: How comfortable would you be sharing that you have had close contact with an infected co-worker?

	1/2 - Not Comfortable	3	4/5 - Comfortable
<35	28.6%	11.9%	55.0%
35 - 64	14.3%	13.0%	68.3%
65+	8.4%	7.1%	83.9%
Total	19.0%	12.2%	64.5%
HS or Less	29.4%	14.3%	50.4%
Some College/Associate	19.4%	13.2%	62.6%
College+	14.1%	10.7%	72.1%
Total	19.0%	12.2%	64.5%
Silent Generation	33.1%	1.3%	59.6%
Baby Boomers	14.6%	4.8%	79.5%
Generation X	13.8%	15.9%	66.3%
Millennials	26.0%	11.2%	57.1%
Total	19.0%	12.2%	64.5%
<\$25k	29.3%	17.3%	48.4%
\$25k - \$49.9k	25.9%	10.3%	59.4%
\$50k - \$99.9k	17.2%	11.4%	68.4%
\$100k+	8.3%	12.8%	73.9%
Total	19.0%	12.2%	64.5%

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Question 8: How comfortable would you be sharing that you have had close contact with an infected person outside of work?

	1/2 - Not Comfortable	3	4/5 - Comfortable
<35	31.0%	13.0%	50.1%
35 - 64	16.5%	12.3%	67.3%
65+	8.7%	10.2%	80.7%
Total	21.2%	12.4%	62.0%
HS or Less	32.8%	11.5%	50.8%
Some College/Associate	22.4%	12.5%	58.5%
College+	15.0%	12.8%	69.3%
Total	21.2%	12.4%	62.0%
Silent Generation	30.6%	3.9%	59.6%
Baby Boomers	14.4%	8.2%	76.3%
Generation X	17.3%	13.8%	65.7%
Millennials	27.6%	12.6%	52.9%
Total	21.2%	12.4%	62.0%
<\$25k	27.1%	17.8%	48.4%
\$25k - \$49.9k	26.4%	13.8%	54.2%
\$50k - \$99.9k	21.2%	9.4%	66.1%
\$100k+	12.9%	11.5%	72.3%
Total	21.2%	12.4%	62.0%

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Question 9: You indicated that you were Not At All Comfortable at least once. Why did you say that?

Note: Care should be taken when interpreting Q9 due to small sample sizes.

	Hours Reduced	Fired/Laid-Off	Don't Trust Employer	Information Private	Used Against Me	Afraid Info Will Be Shared With Ins	Other
Total	8.1%	7.7%	6.8%	30.1%	15.2%	3.2%	17.3%

Question 10: Would you voluntarily add an app to your phone that shares information with your employer about your location within the worksite to aid in COVID-19 tracing efforts?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
<35	37.5%	52.8%	9.5%
35 - 64	43.1%	47.5%	9.1%
65+	47.5%	47.6%	4.9%
Total	41.4%	49.4%	9.0%
HS or Less	38.5%	50.5%	10.6%
Some College/Associate	34.5%	53.7%	11.4%
College+	46.9%	46.3%	6.8%
Total	41.4%	49.4%	9.0%
Silent Generation	90.6%	9.4%	0.0%
Baby Boomers	44.0%	50.6%	5.4%
Generation X	42.5%	47.6%	9.5%
Millennials	38.9%	51.1%	9.9%
Total	41.4%	49.4%	9.0%
<\$25k	31.2%	57.0%	11.8%
\$25k - \$49.9k	39.8%	52.9%	7.2%
\$50k - \$99.9k	42.5%	46.8%	10.4%
\$100k+	50.4%	41.6%	7.9%
Total	41.4%	49.4%	9.0%

Learn More

Explore other PULSE Health Polls here:
<https://www.ibm.com/watson-health/learn/pulse-health-polls>

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