

COVID-19

Fielded July 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 July 1–15, 2020, with a margin of error of +/- 1.8%.

Executive summary

This health poll asked Americans about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Of all respondents:

91%

said they would continue to practice social distancing as states lift COVID-19 restrictions. 7% said they would not continue or are not now practicing social distancing.

59%

said they would get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, and 61% of respondents with children said they would get it for their children. The most frequently given reason for not getting the vaccine was Questions/Concerns Regarding Vaccine (38%).

88%

said they would continue to avoid large groups as states lift COVID-19 restrictions. 10% said they would not continue or are not now avoiding large groups.

30%

said their overall mental well-being was Excellent, while 4% said it was Poor. Both rates appear to increase between February 2020 and July 2020, but the differences are not statistically significant.¹

84%

said they would continue to wear a mask as the states lift COVID-19 restrictions. 13% said they would not continue or are not now wearing a mask.

2020 PULSE Health Poll: COVID-19

Fielded July 1 – July 15, 2020

More and more states have either lifted or eased COVID-19 restrictions. This next set of questions are about COVID-19 and the lifting of restrictions.

Question 1: Will you continue to practice social distancing?

	Yes	No	Not Practicing Now
<35	90.8%	4.7%	1.9%
35 - 64	89.9%	5.8%	2.1%
65+	94.3%	2.1%	2.2%
Total	91.3%	4.5%	2.1%
HS or Less	88.1%	6.6%	1.7%
Some College/Associate	93.0%	3.8%	2.1%
College+	92.0%	3.8%	2.3%
Total	91.3%	4.5%	2.1%
Silent Generation	95.1%	2.3%	1.5%
Baby Boomers	93.9%	2.1%	2.3%
Generation X	89.2%	6.1%	2.5%
Millennials	90.6%	5.3%	1.6%
Total	91.3%	4.5%	2.1%
<\$25k	92.6%	3.4%	1.8%
\$25k - \$49.9k	90.2%	5.5%	2.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	92.2%	2.0%	1.9%
\$100k+	90.5%	8.1%	1.1%
Total	91.3%	4.5%	2.1%

Note:
Red figures are statistically significant.

2020 PULSE Health Poll: COVID-19

Fielded July 1–July 15, 2020

Question 2: Will you continue to wear a mask or face covering in public?

	Yes	No	Not Wearing Now
<35	81.9%	8.4%	7.5%
35 - 64	82.7%	8.5%	5.1%
65+	87.6%	5.7%	4.0%
Total	83.8%	7.7%	5.5%
HS or Less	81.6%	8.9%	4.7%
Some College/Associate	81.4%	7.6%	8.3%
College+	86.7%	7.2%	3.9%
Total	83.8%	7.7%	5.5%
Silent Generation	90.2%	7.2%	2.3%
Baby Boomers	85.9%	5.5%	5.0%
Generation X	82.3%	8.2%	5.3%
Millennials	82.3%	9.2%	6.6%
Total	83.8%	7.7%	5.5%
<\$25k	85.2%	4.6%	6.9%
\$25k - \$49.9k	80.6%	8.1%	8.2%
\$50k - \$99.9k	84.5%	7.0%	4.0%
\$100k+	86.8%	9.9%	2.6%
Total	83.8%	7.7%	5.5%

2020 PULSE Health Poll: COVID-19

Fielded July 1–July 15, 2020

Question 3: Will you avoid large gatherings/groups of people?

	Yes	No	Not Avoiding Now
<35	84.7%	8.5%	3.6%
35 - 64	86.2%	7.6%	2.7%
65+	93.1%	4.4%	1.5%
Total	87.6%	7.0%	2.6%
HS or Less	83.9%	10.3%	2.5%
Some College/Associate	87.9%	7.1%	3.2%
College+	89.4%	5.0%	2.3%
Total	87.6%	7.0%	2.6%
Silent Generation	92.5%	5.4%	1.3%
Baby Boomers	91.5%	4.6%	1.8%
Generation X	86.3%	7.1%	2.7%
Millennials	84.6%	9.2%	3.5%
Total	87.6%	7.0%	2.6%
<\$25k	85.9%	5.8%	4.5%
\$25k - \$49.9k	87.4%	8.3%	2.5%
\$50k - \$99.9k	88.5%	6.3%	2.5%
\$100k+	90.0%	7.3%	1.2%
Total	87.6%	7.0%	2.6%

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Question 4: When a vaccine for COVID-19 becomes available, will you get it?

	Yes	No	Don't Know/Not Avoiding Now
<35	48.0%	28.0%	23.6%
35 - 64	60.1%	19.8%	20.0%
65+	69.6%	12.6%	17.3%
Total	59.4%	20.0%	20.2%
HS or Less	48.7%	23.7%	27.5%
Some College/Associate	50.8%	26.2%	22.7%
College+	71.3%	13.8%	14.6%
Total	59.4%	20.0%	20.2%
Silent Generation	68.4%	11.8%	18.9%
Baby Boomers	66.7%	14.8%	18.4%
Generation X	59.9%	19.0%	21.0%
Millennials	50.7%	27.5%	21.4%
Total	59.4%	20.0%	20.2%
<\$25k	45.9%	27.3%	26.4%
\$25k - \$49.9k	51.3%	23.0%	25.3%
\$50k - \$99.9k	66.7%	17.8%	15.5%
\$100k+	76.9%	11.5%	11.4%
Total	59.4%	20.0%	20.2%

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Question 5: Will you get the vaccine for your child/children? (Small sample size)

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total	60.5%	20.4%	18.1%

Note:
Care should be taken when interpreting Q5 and Q6 due to small sample sizes.

Question 6: What is the main reason you will not get the COVID-19 vaccine? (Small sample size)

	Cost	Don't Need	Had COVID	Side Effects
Total	3.2%	17.1%	3.1%	19.3%

	Give COVID	Don't Believe	Questions/Concerns	Other
Total	9.4%	3.4%	37.6%	7.0%

Question 7: How would you rate your overall mental well-being? Would you say...?

	July, 2020				
	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
<35	6.8%	18.2%	25.9%	25.8%	23.2%
35 - 64	3.7%	10.2%	24.2%	32.0%	29.8%
65+	2.7%	5.7%	23.3%	31.4%	36.9%
Total	4.2%	11.1%	24.4%	30.2%	30.0%
HS or Less	6.0%	11.3%	30.0%	28.0%	24.8%
Some College/Associate	7.0%	18.2%	26.2%	28.1%	20.4%
College+	1.4%	6.2%	20.1%	32.8%	39.4%
Total	4.2%	11.1%	24.4%	30.2%	30.0%

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Silent Generation	2.1%	8.0%	20.2%	38.0%	31.6%
Baby Boomers	2.1%	5.4%	26.1%	29.0%	37.3%
Generation X	4.8%	10.6%	22.9%	32.3%	29.3%
Millennials	5.9%	17.4%	25.5%	27.2%	23.9%
Total	4.2%	11.1%	24.4%	30.2%	30.0%
<\$25k	7.7%	16.5%	29.5%	26.5%	19.9%
\$25k - \$49.9k	3.9%	13.9%	30.3%	27.5%	24.4%
\$50k - \$99.9k	2.9%	9.1%	21.3%	35.3%	31.3%
\$100k+	3.1%	5.7%	17.5%	29.3%	44.3%
Total	4.2%	11.1%	24.4%	30.2%	30.0%

February,
2020¹

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
<35	5.1%	19.6%	25.8%	23.9%	25.2%
35 - 64	4.0%	10.2%	21.9%	33.8%	29.9%
65+	0.5%	5.7%	26.6%	32.2%	35.0%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%
HS or Less	3.6%	13.8%	28.0%	28.0%	26.6%
Some College/Associate	4.4%	16.5%	24.0%	30.2%	24.5%
College+	3.0%	8.2%	22.3%	31.9%	34.4%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Silent Generation	0.1%	5.6%	23.6%	36.5%	34.3%
Baby Boomers	1.8%	6.7%	26.0%	31.3%	34.2%
Generation X	4.3%	12.1%	21.0%	33.7%	28.7%
Millennials	4.6%	16.7%	25.7%	26.2%	26.6%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%
<\$25k	6.6%	19.7%	27.9%	23.8%	22.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	5.0%	14.4%	30.1%	30.6%	19.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	1.8%	8.1%	22.8%	34.9%	32.4%
\$100k+	1.9%	4.0%	15.8%	32.1%	46.0%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%

Footnotes:

1. February 2020 PULSE Survey sample size of 7,527 Americans interviewed between February 3-29, 2020, with a margin of error of +/- 1.1%

Learn More

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

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