

**January 14, 2021**  
**COVID-19 Vaccine and Policy Survey**

**Summary:** Researchers at the University of South Florida, in partnership with the Florida Center for Cybersecurity, conducted a nationwide survey of 1,003 U.S. adults to measure attitudes and opinions regarding COVID-19 vaccines, as well as potential federal stimulus policies. The survey included a representative sample of voting age Americans, fielded between January 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Topline results are reported below with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error +/- 3. (The second round of results from this survey is forthcoming; these will examine social media usage and online behavior related to the COVID-19 pandemic).

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**While a majority of Americans say they will probably get vaccinated, many remain concerned about the efficacy and safety of recently approved vaccines.**

- Just over a third of respondents (38%) said that they “will definitely get vaccinated” in the coming months. More than half (59%) said they would either “definitely” or “probably get vaccinated”, while roughly a quarter (23%) said they will “probably not” or “definitely not get vaccinated”.
- More than a quarter of respondents (29%) said that they are either “not very confident” or “not at all confident” that the recently approved vaccines are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Roughly one-third of respondents (33%) said that they are either “not very confident” or “not at all confident” that the recently approved vaccines are safe.
- A significant majority of respondents (71%) said that they are at least “somewhat concerned” about the potential side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 32% indicating that they are “very concerned”.

**Some minor differences in vaccination plans emerged across demographic groups.**

- Male respondents were more likely than their female counterparts to indicate that they will get vaccinated; 64% of men said they will either “probably” or “definitely get vaccinated”, compared to 53% of women.
- White and Hispanic respondents were more likely than African American respondents to indicate that they will get vaccinated. 60% of both whites and Hispanics said they will either “probably” or “definitely get vaccinated”, compared to only 49% of African Americans.
- Those over the age of 65 are most likely to get vaccinated; 76% say they “probably” or “definitely” will. A majority of the youngest respondents (between 18-24) also indicated that they will likely get vaccinated (60%). Vaccination plans were lowest among middle-aged respondents, only 48% of those between 45 and 54 indicate that they are likely to get vaccinated.

**Most Americans have not talked to their doctor about the COVID-19 vaccine.**

- Only 21% of Americans have talked to their primary care doctor about whether or not a COVID-19 vaccine is appropriate for them.
- The most commonly cited sources of information that respondents have used to learn about the COVID-19 vaccine include Television News (57%); Friends, Family, and Coworkers (40%); and Social Media (32%)
- Less than a third of respondents reported using Government Webpages such as the CDC (30%); a medical professional (28%); or Medical Webpages such as WebMD (25%) to learn about the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Americans overwhelmingly favor additional federal stimulus policies in response to COVID-19.**

- More than three-quarters of respondents (79%) indicate that they would either “somewhat support” or “strongly support” providing additional \$2,000 stimulus payments to Americans, as well as extending federal unemployment benefits for out of work Americans.
- A similar number (75%) say that they would support extending the “pause” on student loan repayments, while 71% would support extending a federal moratorium on foreclosures and evictions.
- Notable majorities would support the federal government providing financial relief to small businesses (87%), hard-hit industries (68%), and local governments (66%)
- Democrats were more supportive of potential stimulus policies, but majorities in both parties indicated support for each proposed measure.

**Many Americans continue to support stronger COVID-19 mitigation efforts.**

- Two-thirds of respondents (66%) said that they would either “somewhat support” or “strongly support” a nationwide mask mandate, including penalties for non-compliance.
- Roughly half of all respondents (51%) indicated that they would support “a national shutdown of non-essential businesses to slow the spread of COVID-19”.
- There were notable partisan differences in support for mitigation policies. Two-thirds of Democrats (65%) voiced support for a nationwide mask mandate, compared with less than half of Republicans (45%). A majority of Republicans (60%) indicated that they would also oppose a national shutdown of non-essential businesses.

### Summary of Responses

***Now that a COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for emergency use, how likely are you to get vaccinated in the coming months? (If you have already been vaccinated, please choose the first option).***

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
I will definitely get vaccinated	377	37.6
I will probably get vaccinated	211	21.0
I may or may not get vaccinated	184	18.3
I will probably not get vaccinated	93	9.3
I will definitely not get vaccinated	138	13.8

*N = 1,003*

***How confident are you that the approved vaccines are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19?***

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Very Confident	245	24.4
Somewhat Confident	471	47.0
Not Very Confident	190	18.9
Not at All Confident	97	9.7

*N = 1,003*

***How confident are you that the approved COVID-19 vaccines are safe?***

	Frequency	Percent
Very Confident	236	23.5
Somewhat Confident	445	44.4
Not Very Confident	191	19.0
Not at All Confident	131	13.1
<i>N = 1,003</i>		

***How concerned are you about the potential side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine?***

	Frequency	Percent
Very Concerned	323	32.3
Somewhat Concerned	389	38.8
Not Very Concerned	226	22.5
Not at All Concerned	64	6.4
<i>N = 1,002</i>		

***Have you spoken to your primary care doctor about whether or not a COVID-19 vaccine is appropriate for you?***

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	214	21.3
No	789	78.7
<i>N = 1,003</i>		

***Which of the following sources have you used to learn about the COVID-19 vaccine?***

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Television News	569	56.7
Friends, family, and coworkers	400	39.9
Social media	320	31.9
Government webpages (i.e. CDC, NIH, etc.)	300	29.9
Your doctor/physician	282	28.1
Medical webpages (i.e. WebMD, Mayo Clinic, etc.)	254	25.3
Newspapers (print or online)	212	21.1
Other	72	7.2

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*N = 1,003*

***Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Imposing a nationwide mask mandate (with penalties for non-compliance).*****

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly Support	450	44.9
Somewhat Support	216	21.5
Neither Support nor Oppose	138	13.8
Somewhat Oppose	63	6.3
Strongly Oppose	136	13.6

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*N = 1,003*

*Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Instituting a national shutdown of non-essential businesses to slow the spread of COVID-19***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	250	24.9
Somewhat Support	265	26.4
Neither Support nor Oppose	172	17.2
Somewhat Oppose	126	12.6
Strongly Oppose	190	18.9

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*N = 1,003*

*Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Providing additional \$2,000 direct stimulus payments to Americans.***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	605	60.3
Somewhat Support	188	18.7
Neither Support nor Oppose	145	14.5
Somewhat Oppose	31	3.1
Strongly Oppose	32	3.3

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*N = 1,001*

Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Extending federal unemployment benefits for out-of-work Americans**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	532	53.0
Somewhat Support	262	26.1
Neither Support nor Oppose	135	13.5
Somewhat Oppose	45	4.5
Strongly Oppose	29	2.9

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*N = 1,003*

Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Providing financial support to small businesses.**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	592	59.0
Somewhat Support	283	28.2
Neither Support nor Oppose	99	9.9
Somewhat Oppose	23	2.3
Strongly Oppose	6	0.6

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*N = 1,003*

*Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Providing financial support for hard-hit industries (such as airlines).***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	338	33.7
Somewhat Support	343	34.2
Neither Support nor Oppose	216	21.5
Somewhat Oppose	68	6.8
Strongly Oppose	38	3.8

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*N = 1,003*

*Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Providing financial support to state and local governments.***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	361	36.0
Somewhat Support	298	29.7
Neither Support nor Oppose	216	21.5
Somewhat Oppose	72	7.2
Strongly Oppose	56	5.6

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*N = 1,003*



Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Extending the “pause” on student loan repayments.**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	517	51.6
Somewhat Support	238	23.7
Neither Support nor Oppose	175	17.5
Somewhat Oppose	41	4.1
Strongly Oppose	32	3.2

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*N = 1,003*

Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the federal government taking each of the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis: **Extending a federal moratorium on evictions.**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Support	466	46.5
Somewhat Support	246	24.5
Neither Support nor Oppose	212	21.1
Somewhat Oppose	55	5.5
Strongly Oppose	24	2.4

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*N = 1,003*

**Vaccine Differences**

***Vaccination Plans BY Demographic Groups (Reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<b>% Who Will Definitely Get Vaccinated</b>	<b>% Who Will Definitely NOT Get Vaccinated</b>
Female	34.5	16.4
Male	40.8	11.0
African American/Black	30.4	18.4
White/Caucasian	39.9	13.1
Hispanics	39.0	14.1
<i>Age Groups</i>		
18-24	30.1	13.3
25-34	27.5	19.7
35-44	34.1	13.5
45-54	29.2	21.1
55-64	36.3	11.1
65+	60.8	5.7
Northeast	41.9	9.3
Midwest	31.3	18.5
South	38.8	13.9
West	38.2	12.6

***Vaccination Plans BY Demographic Groups (Reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<b>% Who Will Definitely or Probably Get Vaccinated</b>	<b>% Who Will Definitely or Probably NOT Get Vaccinated</b>
Female	53.2	25.5
Male	64.3	20.4
African American/Black	49.4	24.1
White/Caucasian	59.8	23.6
Hispanics	59.9	23.7
<i>Age Groups</i>		
18-24	60.2	25.7
25-34	52.3	27.5
35-44	53.5	24.1
45-54	47.8	33.5
55-64	59.1	22.2
65+	75.6	9.6
Northeast	61.6	18.6
Midwest	55.0	24.6
South	57.8	24.1
West	61.0	23.2

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*N = 1,003*

### Partisan Differences

***Imposing a nationwide mask mandate BY Party ID (reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Strongly Support	65.2	38.8	24.0
Somewhat Support	21.7	21.7	20.7
Neither Support nor Oppose	8.6	14.6	16.7
Somewhat Oppose	2.0	7.5	10.6
Strongly Oppose	2.5	17.5	28.0

***Instituting a national shutdown of non-essential businesses BY Party ID (reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Strongly Support	41.8	20.0	7.3
Somewhat Support	33.2	23.3	19.5
Neither Support nor Oppose	14.8	18.3	13.4
Somewhat Oppose	5.3	14.2	22.8
Strongly Oppose	5.0	24.2	37.0

***Provide additional \$2,000 stimulus checks BY Party ID (reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
Strongly Support	73.3	53.7	45.1
Somewhat Support	17.3	22.5	21.1
Neither Support nor Oppose	8.4	13.3	24.0
Somewhat Oppose	0.8	3.7	4.9
Strongly Oppose	0.3	6.7	4.9

***Extending federal unemployment benefits BY Party ID (reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
Strongly Support	69.6	49.6	34.2
Somewhat Support	19.8	28.3	33.7
Neither Support nor Oppose	7.8	12.1	19.5
Somewhat Oppose	2.2	5.8	7.7
Strongly Oppose	0.6	4.2	4.9

***Extending the “pause” on student loan repayments BY Party ID (reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
Strongly Support	66.9	47.5	32.5
Somewhat Support	19.5	26.3	30.5
Neither Support nor Oppose	10.6	16.7	25.6
Somewhat Oppose	2.0	3.7	7.3
Strongly Oppose	1.1	5.8	4.1

***Extending a federal moratorium on evictions BY Party ID (reported as percentage of column totals).***

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
Strongly Support	63.2	42.9	28.1
Somewhat Support	20.9	25.8	30.1
Neither Support nor Oppose	12.8	21.7	28.1
Somewhat Oppose	2.2	5.0	10.5
Strongly Oppose	0.8	4.6	3.3

## Survey Information

1,003 U.S. adults were surveyed via an online web-panel using Prodege MR, an industry leading market research provider. The survey was fielded from January 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>, and the results are reported with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of +/- 3.

Survey respondents were selected via a stratified, quota sampling approach in order to ensure a representative sample of Americans. Balanced quotas for gender, age, race, ethnicity, and education were determined based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 *American Community Survey* (ACS). The quotas were also stratified by census region to ensure geographical representativeness: [Northeast – 17.2%; Midwest – 21.0%; South – 37.3%; West – 24.5%]. Table A1 below summarizes the survey sample in comparison to the 2019 ACS.

**Table A1  
Sample Comparison**

	USF Survey Sample	American Community Survey (2019)
<i>Gender</i>		
Female	51.2%	51.1%
Male	48.8%	48.9%
<i>Age</i>		
18-24	11.3%	11.9%
25-34	17.8%	17.8%
35-44	17.0%	16.5%
45-54	16.0%	16.0%
55-64	17.1%	16.6%
65+	20.8%	21.2%
<i>Race</i>		
Black/African American	15.7%	15.1%
White/Caucasian	73.2%	76.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.9%	7.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.0%	0.8%
Other	2.2%	0.2%
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
Hispanic	17.7%	17.5%
Non-Hispanic	82.3%	82.5%
<i>Education</i>		
Less than High School	6.8%	11.4%
High School or Equivalent	25.9%	27.6%
Some College/Associates Degree	34.0%	30.4%
Four-Year Degree	21.5%	19.3%
Graduate/Professional Degree	11.7%	11.4%

### **About our Research Team**

**About Cyber Florida:** The Florida Center for Cyber Security (also known as Cyber Florida) was established by the State of Florida in 2014 to make the Sunshine State one of the most cyber-secure in the nation by promoting cybersecurity education, research, and outreach in partnership with the 12 State University System of Florida (SUS) institutions. Hosted by the University of South Florida, the Center is committed to increasing the number of K-12 students interested in and prepared for careers in cybersecurity and related STEM disciplines.

**Stephen Neely** (PhD, North Carolina State University, 2013) is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida. He is coordinator of the School's undergraduate program in *Leadership and Public Service*. His areas of specialization include survey research, quantitative data analysis, and public policy. He is a faculty researcher on the *Sunshine State Survey* project and has conducted survey research on behalf of local governments in the Tampa Bay region. Dr. Neely can be contacted by email at [srneely@usf.edu](mailto:srneely@usf.edu)

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