

# *COVID Vaccines Poll*

March 2021

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## Full Poll Results

### Views on COVID-19 and comfort level doing activities

- Most respondents (83%) think the coronavirus pandemic is a major problem while only 5% do not think it is a problem at all.
- 43% are very concerned about contracting the coronavirus, 37% are only somewhat concerned, and 19% are not at all concerned about contracting it.
- People are most comfortable going to see a doctor and going to the grocery store. For the most part, people were less comfortable visiting friends and family in their homes, eating at restaurants indoors, and being in large crowds.

	Comfortable	Uncomfortable
Going to the grocery store	70%	28%
Visiting friends and family in their homes	54%	43%
Eating at restaurants indoors	38%	60%
Seeing a doctor	75%	23%
Being in large crowds	20%	77%

- Most NJ residents (59%) support schools being open for in-person learning while 27% oppose.
- Although most respondents are taking the same precautions they took at the beginning of the pandemic or more, 12% said they are taking fewer precautions one year into the crisis.

### Appointment Process

- Most respondents (87%) were at least somewhat aware of how to make an appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccine in NJ, but 13% were not at all aware.
- Just under half of respondents (47%) had made or attempted to make an appointment at the time of the poll.
  - o Of these respondents, most (65%) found the process difficult while 29% said it was easy to make an appointment.
  - o When asked why they found the process to make an appointment difficult, the top three reasons people identified were the lack of availability (57%), the fact that they did not know how or where to go to make one (18%), and that their selected appointment was taken before they could finish the process (15%).

- Some other reasons cited were a lack of communication when it comes to having questions answered or being notified of new appointments (9%), the amount of time the process takes (7%), and that they preferred to speak to someone on the phone because they are not computer-literate or the internet is not accessible to them (11%).

## Vaccines

- One in four respondents (25%) had received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Of those who had not yet received it, more than half (55%) said they would definitely get it if it were available to them right now and 11% said they probably would.
- 30% indicated they would probably (11%) or definitely (19%) not get the vaccine if it were available to them right now at no cost.
  - Of those who said they would not get the vaccine, the top reason indicated was concern over side effects (34%); 13% felt the vaccine was rushed and that not enough research was done, 12% said they prefer to wait to see how it goes for others, and 11% felt it unnecessary as they are not concerned about contracting the virus; 10% said they are against all vaccines.
- Among those who *had* received at least one dose of the vaccine, the vast majority (90%) described the experience of physically getting it as positive, while only 2% described it as negative.
- Of those who already received the vaccine or intended to, 94% said they'd continue to take at least some of the precautions they took prior to getting vaccinated and 95% indicated they were at least somewhat likely to continue wearing a mask. Only 6% said they would return to normal activity and 5% said they were either somewhat or very unlikely to continue wearing a mask.

## Rollout

- Just over half (51%) of respondents said they were satisfied with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in NJ while 36% were dissatisfied.
- A greater majority of respondents (59%) did support NJ's determination of who is eligible in each phase of the rollout while 26% opposed the eligibility determinations.

## Trust in Institutions

- Most NJ residents trust the vaccines, medical professionals and government officials at least somewhat.
  - 77% of respondents agreed, at least somewhat, that the vaccines are safe and effective and that the medical industry acts in their best interest.
  - However, a slimmer majority of 54% expressed trust that the government acts in their best interests, while 37% strongly disagreed with that sentiment.

## Cross-tabulation Comparisons by Group

### Age

- The rate of respondents who are uncomfortable with various activities (eating at restaurants indoors, being in large crowds, etc.) increases slightly in tandem with age.
  - o For example, while 51% of respondents age 18-29 are uncomfortable eating at restaurants indoors, 69% of those age 65 and older are uncomfortable with this.
- Younger respondents are more likely to have tested positive for COVID-19 at any point.
- Younger respondents are more likely to be taking fewer precautions now a year into the pandemic with 24% of those 18-29 taking fewer vs. 5% of those 65 and older.
- While 96% of those 65 and older were aware of how to make an appointment for the vaccine, one in 5 respondents age 18-29 were not at all aware.
- Older respondents had a harder time making an appointment to get vaccinated.
  - o Of those who have made or attempted to make an appointment, as the age of respondents increased the rate of those who found the process difficult increased.
  - o 77% of those 65 and older found the process difficult compared to 58% of those 30-49 and 40% of those 18-29.
- Of those who haven't been vaccinated, older respondents were far more likely to say they would if the vaccine were available to them now at no cost.

Willingness to get the vaccine	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Definitely or probably would	51%	59%	73%	90%
Definitely or probably would not	42%	36%	22%	10%

- 65+ respondents more likely to agree that the vaccines are safe and effective.
  - o While 66% of those 18-29 and 73% of those 30-49 trusted the vaccines, 94% of those 65+ did.

### Party

- Republicans more likely than Democrats to view COVID-19 as a minor problem or not a problem at all, with 62% saying it is major vs. 93% of Democrats.
- 37% of Republicans are not at all concerned about contracting COVID-19 as opposed to only 10% of Democrats.
- Republicans are far more comfortable doing all the activities asked about in the poll:

- 51% of Republicans are very comfortable going to the homes of friends and family vs. 14% of democrats
- 41% of Republicans are very comfortable eating at restaurants indoors vs. 7% of Democrats.
- Nearly half (45%) of Republicans are comfortable being in large crowds vs. 7% of Democrats.
- Republicans support in-person learning at higher rates than Democrats (84% vs. 46%)
- Republicans are less likely than Democrats to have made an appointment or attempted to make an appointment for the vaccine, less likely to have received at least one dose of a vaccine, and the majority of Republicans said they would not get vaccinated if it were available to them now at no cost.

Willingness to get the vaccine	Republicans	Democrats
Definitely or probably would	47%	81%
Definitely or probably would not	52%	15%

- 88% of Democrat respondents were vaccinated vs 29% of Republicans.
- Republicans also demonstrated less trust in government, the medical industry, and the vaccines.

	Republicans		Democrats	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Trust the vaccines are safe and effective	67%	28%	88%	10%
Trust the medical industry to act in your best interest	67%	30%	88%	11%
Trust the government to act in your best interests	35%	64%	72%	24%

Race and Ethnicity

- Despite there being no significant differences in the views of Hispanic or Latino respondents and non-Hispanic or Latino respondents when it comes to COVID-19, their comfort level doing activities during this pandemic, etc., there are large differences in the rates of vaccinations between these groups.
- Hispanic or Latino respondents are slightly more concerned about contracting the virus, more willing to get the vaccine when it's available to them and testing positive for COVID-19 at slightly higher rates than their non-Hispanic counterparts. And yet, about half the rate of Hispanic or Latino respondents have received at least the first dose of the vaccine so far.

	Very/somewhat concerned about getting COVID	Would definitely/probably get vaccine	Received at least first vaccine does	Tested positive for COVID-19
Hispanics	88%	75%	14%	18%
Non-Hispanics	79%	64%	27%	12%

- The same pattern can be found when breaking the results down by race:

	Very/somewhat concerned about getting COVID	Would definitely/probably get vaccine	Received at least first vaccine does	Tested positive for COVID-19
Whites	79%	64%	30%	12%
Blacks	83%	68%	16%	15%
Asians	92%	93%	24%	10%

- This could be evidence of inequitable distribution/access to the vaccines so far.
  - o Hispanic respondents are just as willing to be vaccinated as their counterparts, and yet 14% of Hispanic respondents received at least one dose vs 27% of non-Hispanic respondents.
  - o Additionally, 16% of Black respondents received at least one dose at the time of the poll vs 30% of white respondents.

Income

- Similar to what was found between racial and ethnic groups, those with lower household incomes were just as willing, if not more willing, than those from higher income brackets to get the vaccine but less than half the rate of those with lower incomes have received the first dose so far compared to those in households earning \$100k or more.
- This demonstrated issues regarding the accessibility of vaccines in NJ.

	Very/somewhat concerned about getting COVID	Would definitely/probably get vaccine	Received at least first vaccine does	Tested positive for COVID-19
<\$50,000 income	82%	65%	15%	11%
>\$100,000 income	77%	65%	37%	10%

### Education

- Respondents with higher levels of education are slightly more willing to get vaccinated.
- Those with more education trust the vaccines and the government at higher rates than those with less education.

### Proximity to the virus

- Those who know someone who tested positive for COVID-19 at any point are more likely to have received at least the first dose of the vaccine (28% among those who do know someone who tested positive vs 13% among those who do not).
- But they also demonstrated varying levels of comfort doing activities and did not express concern over contracting the virus at higher rates than those who do not know someone who tested positive.
- It may be the case that the effects of knowing someone who tested positive vary depending on how severe the illness was for the people they know.

### Methodology

The poll of New Jersey adults was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy February 22-March 5, 2021. Live interviewers who are mostly Stockton University students called cell phones and landlines from the Stockton University campus. Overall, 90 percent of interviews were conducted on cell phones and 10 percent on landline phones. A total of 740 New Jersey adults were interviewed. Both cell and landline samples consisted of random digit dialing (RDD) sample. Data are weighted based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data for New Jersey on variables of age, ethnicity, education level, sex, and region. The poll's margin of error is +/- 3.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets.

## About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy ([www.stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://www.stockton.edu/hughescenter)) at Stockton University serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey, and promotes the civic life of New Jersey through engagement, education and research. The center is named for the late William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton. The Hughes Center can be found on [YouTube](#), and can be followed on Facebook [@StocktonHughesCenter](#), Twitter [@hughescenter](#) and Instagram [@stockton\\_hughes\\_center](#).