

Americans see coronavirus as a threat to the economy, but not their daily lives

Majority want to see more widespread diagnostic testing, mandatory quarantines, and restricted immigration.

Washington, DC, March 12, 2020 — A new USA Today/Ipsos poll finds that nearly half of Americans believe that the coronavirus outbreak poses a high threat to the stock market (47%) and to the global economy (47%), while less than one in five believe it poses a high threat to them personally (15%). Over half are concerned that someone in their city or town will be diagnosed (54%) and, for parents with children under 18, that their child's school(s) will close (52%). While a majority report that they plan to wash their hands more frequently (59%), just a quarter say that they plan to stop attending social events, and less than one in five plan to cancel a personal trip (17%). Three in ten Americans report no plans to take preventative measures against the outbreak (30%).

Half say they would not travel on a plane right now, compared to 44% who would. That number is even higher among Americans over age 55 (58% would not travel by plane). Americans are evenly split on whether they would take public transportation (45% agree they would, 47% would not). Only one in five are willing to go on a cruise right now (22%). In terms of a government response, a large majority of Americans want to see the COVID-19 test made widely available (87%), and three-quarters want the government to impose mandatory quarantines for people returning from high risk countries (77%) and temporarily stop immigration from high risk countries (76%). There is an even divide on whether all large-scale events, such as sporting events and music festivals, should be canceled (39% yes, 39% no). While a plurality support temporary financial help for airlines and other affected industries (42%), just 22% want all domestic flights grounded. More (39%) are in favor of grounding all international flights.

Among all Americans, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is the most trusted organization for providing accurate information on the coronavirus outbreak (79%), with The World Health Organization the next most trusted source (71%). Democrats are significantly more likely to trust the World Health Organization (86%) compared to Republicans (64%). About two in five Americans trust the news media to provide accurate information (39%), though Democrats are significantly more likely to trust the news media (56%) than Republicans (23%). On the other hand, Republicans are significantly more likely to trust President Trump (72%) and Vice President Mike Pence (71%) to provide accurate information compared to Democrats (14% and 16%, respectively).

For full results, please refer to the following questionnaire.





Full Annotated Questionnaire:

1. Thinking about the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak, how much concern, if any, do you have about the following items?

Total Concerned Summary

	Total (N=1005)	Republican (N=408)	Democrat (N=420)	Independent (N=109)
Someone in my city or town will be diagnosed	54%	48%	62%	52%
My child's school(s) will close	52%	37%	62%	59%
My local hospital will not have the resources to treat infected patients	44%	37%	51%	41%
I will be unable to buy health supplies (e.g. hand sanitizer, masks)	41%	38%	50%	25%
I will not be able to work	33%	30%	38%	23%
My 401k or retirement fund will lose money	33%	35%	36%	25%
I will have to cancel an upcoming trip	30%	23%	39%	25%



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a. Someone in my city or town will be diagnosed

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	25%	20%	33%	12%
A fair amount	29%	28%	29%	40%
Not very much	27%	31%	24%	28%
None at all	14%	17%	10%	11%
Haven't heard of it/Don't know	6%	4%	4%	8%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	54%	48%	62%	52%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	40%	48%	34%	39%

b. I will be unable to buy health supplies (e.g. hand sanitizer, masks)

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	15%	15%	18%	8%
A fair amount	26%	22%	32%	17%
Not very much	31%	32%	30%	34%
None at all	23%	27%	16%	36%
Haven't heard of it/Don't know	5%	4%	4%	5%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	41%	38%	50%	25%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	54%	59%	46%	70%

c. I will not be able to work

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	16%	16%	20%	7%
A fair amount	16%	15%	18%	16%
Not very much	33%	35%	33%	40%
None at all	30%	32%	27%	26%
Haven't heard of it/Don't know	4%	3%	3%	11%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	33%	30%	38%	23%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	63%	67%	60%	66%





d. I will have to cancel an upcoming trip

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	15%	11%	20%	10%
A fair amount	15%	12%	19%	15%
Not very much	22%	25%	22%	22%
None at all	43%	48%	34%	46%
Haven't heard of it/Don't know	6%	4%	5%	7%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	30%	23%	39%	25%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	65%	73%	56%	67%

e. My child's school(s) will close

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	17%	15%	19%	8%
A fair amount	35%	23%	43%	51%
Not very much	25%	26%	21%	38%
None at all	16%	24%	11%	3%
Haven't heard of it/Don't know	8%	13%	6%	-
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	52%	37%	62%	59%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	40%	50%	32%	41%

f. My local hospital will not have the resources to treat infected patients

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	20%	16%	25%	11%
A fair amount	24%	21%	25%	29%
Not very much	28%	31%	30%	25%
None at all	19%	26%	13%	26%
Haven't heard of it/Don't know	8%	6%	7%	9%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	44%	37%	51%	41%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	48%	57%	43%	51%





g. My 401k or retirement fund will lose money

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	16%	16%	19%	10%
A fair amount	18%	19%	17%	14%
Not very much	21%	24%	19%	23%
None at all	34%	30%	33%	40%
Haven't heard of it/Don't know	12%	11%	12%	12%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	33%	35%	36%	25%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	54%	54%	52%	63%

2. What level of threat do you think the coronavirus or COVID-19 poses to each of the following?

Total High Threat Summary

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
The stock market	47%	40%	58%	36%
The global economy	47%	40%	55%	37%
The United States	34%	25%	44%	29%
You personally	15%	12%	18%	14%

a. You personally

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very high threat	6%	5%	8%	4%
High threat	9%	7%	10%	9%
Moderate threat	26%	19%	33%	27%
Low threat	32%	32%	34%	31%
Very low threat	22%	33%	12%	22%
Don't know	4%	3%	3%	6%
High Threat (Net)	15%	12%	18%	14%
Low Threat (Net)	54%	65%	46%	53%





b. The United States

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very high threat	13%	10%	17%	10%
High threat	21%	14%	27%	18%
Moderate threat	37%	31%	43%	39%
Low threat	21%	34%	10%	19%
Very low threat	5%	8%	2%	9%
Don't know	3%	3%	2%	5%
High Threat (Net)	34%	25%	44%	29%
Low Threat (Net)	26%	42%	11%	28%

c. The stock market

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very high threat	19%	17%	23%	19%
High threat	28%	23%	36%	18%
Moderate threat	31%	35%	26%	35%
Low threat	11%	16%	6%	11%
Very low threat	3%	5%	1%	9%
Don't know	8%	4%	8%	8%
High Threat (Net)	47%	40%	58%	36%
Low Threat (Net)	14%	21%	7%	20%

d. The global economy

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very high threat	20%	18%	21%	17%
High threat	27%	21%	34%	20%
Moderate threat	34%	35%	36%	35%
Low threat	10%	17%	3%	12%
Very low threat	3%	4%	1%	8%
Don't know	6%	4%	5%	8%
High Threat (Net)	47%	40%	55%	37%
Low Threat (Net)	13%	21%	4%	20%





3. Which of the following things, if any, do you plan to do because of the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak? Select all that apply.

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Start washing hands more frequently	59%	52%	68%	52%
Stop attending social events	25%	20%	32%	21%
Shift more of your shopping from physical stores to online	18%	14%	24%	13%
Cancel a personal trip	17%	13%	20%	17%
Consider delaying a major purchase/spending	13%	10%	18%	12%
Start an emergency savings or rainy-day fund	12%	9%	17%	11%
Stop attending religious services	7%	6%	10%	3%
Make changes to a 401k	6%	8%	6%	7%
Cancel a business trip	5%	5%	6%	3%
None of the above	30%	37%	21%	35%

4. Which of the following things, if any, have you already done because of the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak? Select all that apply.

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Started washing hands more frequently	54%	48%	63%	49%
Decided not to attend a social event	18%	13%	21%	20%
Shifted more of your shopping from physical stores to online	13%	11%	17%	12%
Canceled a personal trip	11%	6%	14%	11%
Considered delaying a major purchase/spending	10%	7%	16%	6%
Started an emergency savings or rainy-day fund	8%	7%	11%	2%
Stopped attending religious services	6%	6%	7%	1%
Canceled a business trip	4%	4%	4%	5%
Made changes to a 401k	4%	6%	4%	4%
None of the above	35%	40%	27%	35%

5. **[IF SELECTED "MADE CHANGES TO A 401K" IN Q3 OR Q4]** What specific changes have you made, or do you plan to make, to your 401k or retirement account? Please be as specific as possible.

[VERBATIM ANSWERS REPORTED SEPARATELY]





6. Do you agree or disagree with the following?

Total Agree Summary

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
I would still take public transportation	45%	49%	44%	39%
right now.	.070			
I would still travel on a plane right	44%	49%	45%	34%
now.	44 /0	4970	43 /6	34 /0
More universities should close to	42%	32%	51%	45%
stop the spread of the virus.	42 /0	32 /0	5176	45 /0
More K-12 schools should close to	400/	220/	E00/	420/
stop the spread of the virus.	42%	32%	50%	43%
I would still go on a cruise right now.	22%	27%	20%	15%

a. I would still travel on a plane right now.

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Strongly agree	19%	20%	21%	12%
Somewhat agree	25%	29%	24%	22%
Somewhat disagree	18%	15%	19%	26%
Strongly disagree	32%	30%	32%	30%
Don't know	6%	6%	4%	9%
Agree (Net)	44%	49%	45%	34%
Disagree (Net)	50%	45%	50%	57%

b. I would still take public transportation right now.

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Strongly agree	18%	19%	19%	17%
Somewhat agree	27%	30%	26%	23%
Somewhat disagree	21%	19%	23%	24%
Strongly disagree	25%	25%	25%	21%
Don't know	9%	8%	7%	16%
Agree (Net)	45%	49%	44%	39%
Disagree (Net)	47%	44%	48%	45%





c. I would still go on a cruise right now.

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Strongly agree	9%	12%	8%	4%
Somewhat agree	13%	15%	12%	11%
Somewhat disagree	16%	16%	16%	23%
Strongly disagree	54%	51%	58%	51%
Don't know	7%	7%	6%	10%
Agree (Net)	22%	27%	20%	15%
Disagree (Net)	70%	66%	74%	75%

d. More universities should close to stop the spread of the virus.

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Strongly agree	13%	8%	19%	9%
Somewhat agree	29%	24%	32%	35%
Somewhat disagree	30%	37%	27%	26%
Strongly disagree	15%	22%	10%	16%
Don't know	13%	9%	12%	13%
Agree (Net)	42%	32%	51%	45%
Disagree (Net)	45%	59%	37%	43%

e. More K-12 schools should close to stop the spread of the virus.

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Strongly agree	13%	8%	16%	15%
Somewhat agree	29%	24%	34%	28%
Somewhat disagree	29%	35%	24%	31%
Strongly disagree	16%	23%	13%	12%
Don't know	12%	9%	13%	15%
Agree (Net)	42%	32%	50%	43%
Disagree (Net)	46%	58%	37%	43%





7. Which of the following actions, if any, should the U.S. government take to contain the spread of coronavirus or COVID-19?

Total Yes Summary

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Make the COVID-19 test widely available	87%	81%	94%	81%
Impose mandatory quarantines for people returning from high risk countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy)	77%	79%	77%	70%
Temporarily stop immigration from high risk countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy)	76%	84%	71%	65%
Pass paid sick leave legislation	65%	51%	78%	65%
Impose mandatory quarantines for people who have traveled to any other country	60%	59%	60%	58%
Provide surgical masks for people in states with reported cases	56%	47%	65%	49%
Provide temporary financial help for airlines and other affected industries	42%	33%	49%	42%
Ground all international flights	39%	36%	38%	41%
Cancel all large-scale events (e.g. sporting events, music festivals)	39%	30%	46%	40%
Ground all domestic flights	22%	18%	24%	23%

a. Impose mandatory quarantines for people returning from high risk countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy)

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	77%	79%	77%	70%
No	12%	13%	12%	16%
Don't know	10%	9%	11%	13%

b. Impose mandatory quarantines for people who have traveled to any other country

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	60%	59%	60%	58%
No	25%	27%	27%	23%
Don't know	15%	14%	13%	19%





c. Temporarily stop immigration from high risk countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy)

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	76%	84%	71%	65%
No	14%	11%	15%	19%
Don't know	10%	5%	14%	17%

d. Provide surgical masks for people in states with reported cases

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	56%	47%	65%	49%
No	31%	39%	27%	31%
Don't know	12%	14%	8%	20%

e. Pass paid sick leave legislation

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	65%	51%	78%	65%
No	17%	27%	8%	16%
Don't know	18%	21%	14%	19%

f. Make the COVID-19 test widely available

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	87%	81%	94%	81%
No	7%	10%	3%	9%
Don't know	6%	9%	3%	10%

g. Ground all international flights

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	39%	36%	38%	41%
No	43%	50%	42%	34%
Don't know	18%	14%	20%	25%

h. Ground all domestic flights

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	22%	18%	24%	23%
No	62%	71%	59%	54%
Don't know	17%	11%	17%	23%





i. Cancel all large-scale events (e.g. sporting events, music festivals)

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	39%	30%	46%	40%
No	39%	50%	32%	32%
Don't know	22%	20%	21%	28%

j. Provide temporary financial help for airlines and other affected industries

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	42%	33%	49%	42%
No	34%	42%	28%	34%
Don't know	25%	24%	23%	24%

8. How much trust do you have in each of the following to provide you with accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19?

Total Trust Summary

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC	79%	79%	86%	68%
The World Health Organization	71%	64%	86%	63%
The governor of your state	53%	54%	57%	49%
The news media	39%	23%	56%	37%
Vice President Mike Pence	39%	71%	16%	38%
President Trump	38%	72%	14%	34%
The U.S. Congress	35%	35%	39%	32%

a. The news media

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	11%	6%	18%	12%
A fair amount	28%	17%	39%	25%
Not very much	30%	35%	28%	32%
None at all	25%	37%	13%	22%
Don't know	6%	5%	3%	9%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	39%	23%	56%	37%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	55%	72%	40%	54%





b. The U.S. Congress

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	7%	8%	9%	2%
A fair amount	27%	26%	30%	30%
Not very much	37%	39%	40%	26%
None at all	19%	18%	15%	29%
Don't know	9%	8%	6%	12%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	35%	35%	39%	32%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	56%	57%	55%	56%

c. President Trump

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	19%	40%	5%	11%
A fair amount	20%	32%	9%	23%
Not very much	15%	12%	16%	15%
None at all	39%	9%	67%	40%
Don't know	7%	7%	3%	11%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	38%	72%	14%	34%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	54%	21%	83%	55%

d. Vice President Mike Pence

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	18%	36%	5%	15%
A fair amount	22%	35%	10%	23%
Not very much	22%	13%	30%	19%
None at all	29%	9%	46%	28%
Don't know	10%	7%	7%	15%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	39%	71%	16%	38%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	51%	22%	77%	47%





e. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	41%	36%	49%	35%
A fair amount	38%	43%	36%	33%
Not very much	10%	11%	9%	12%
None at all	5%	5%	4%	8%
Don't know	5%	5%	2%	12%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	79%	79%	86%	68%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	16%	16%	13%	20%

f. The World Health Organization

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	33%	23%	48%	25%
A fair amount	38%	41%	38%	37%
Not very much	15%	22%	8%	14%
None at all	6%	7%	3%	7%
Don't know	8%	7%	4%	16%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	71%	64%	86%	63%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	21%	29%	11%	21%

g. The governor of your state

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
A great deal	15%	16%	17%	12%
A fair amount	38%	38%	40%	37%
Not very much	26%	25%	28%	23%
None at all	12%	14%	8%	14%
Don't know	9%	6%	7%	14%
A great deal/A fair amount (Net)	53%	54%	57%	49%
Not very much/None at all (Net)	38%	40%	36%	37%





About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between March 10-11, 2020, on behalf of USA Today. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 408 Republicans, 420 Democrats, and 109 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,005, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.5 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 5.5 percentage points for Democrats, and plus or minus 10.7 percentage points for Independents.

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