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Perceived level of threat COVID-19 poses to the U.S. and individuals doubles in less than a month

New USA Today/Ipsos poll shows more are wearing masks, will wait months to travel, and are more concerned over job losses.

Washington, DC, April 13, 2020 — One month after the first USA Today/Ipsos coronavirus poll, we see dramatic behavioral changes and growth in anxiety among the American public. The number that feel the virus poses a high threat to them personally, and to the United States, have both doubled, and concerns over potential job losses have risen by double digits. As a majority have started

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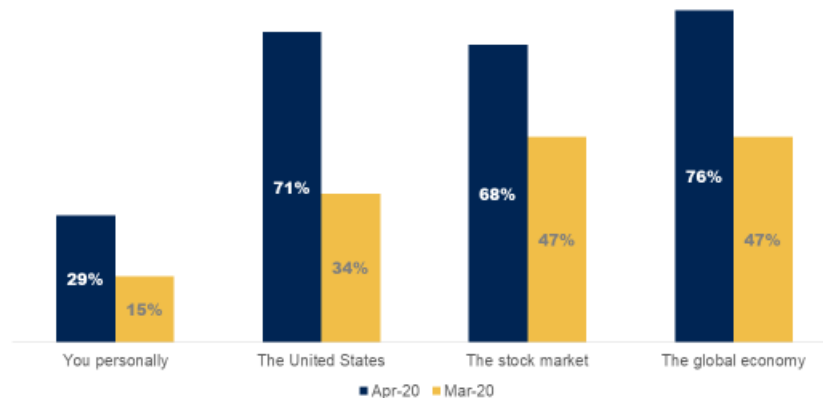
wearing a mask and/or gloves in public, the number of Americans comfortable with traveling on a plane or by public transportation has plummeted.

Detailed findings:

- More than seven in ten feel the virus poses a high threat to the United States. At the same time, 61% are concerned that their local hospital will not have the resources to treat patients.
 - In one month, the number of Americans saying COVID-19 poses a high threat to the country has more than doubled from 34% to 71%. Three in ten (29%) say the virus poses a high threat to them personally, up from 15%.
 - The perceived threat to the stock market and global economy have also significantly increased, by 21 and 29 percentage points, respectively.
 - The number that are worried their local hospital won't be able to handle the patient load has risen more than 15 percentage points to 61%, up from 44% last month.
 - Nearly half of employed people (46%) are concerned about being laid off or furloughed, while last month, 33% were concerned they would not be able to work. Presently, worry over job loss is highest among 18-34 year olds (55%).

Americans Have Greater Concern Now Compared to March

What level of threat do you think the coronavirus or COVID-19 poses to each of the following? (High threat)



USA Today/Ipsos Coronavirus Poll March 2020, April 2020

1 - © Ipsos



- A supermajority supports a nationwide lockdown, requiring people to stay home through the end of April except for essential work, and a plurality favor grounding all domestic flights.



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- Sixty-nine percent are in favor of implementing a nationwide lockdown for the rest of the month, including majorities from all political affiliations. Eight in ten Democrats favor this plan, along with 62% of Republicans, and 57% of Independents.
 - Support for grounding international and domestic flights has grown significantly over the past month. At the same time, more are in favor of providing airlines with financial assistance. Now, 70% support the U.S. government halting international travel (up from 39%), and 49% feel the government should do the same for domestic flights (up from 22%). Support for temporary financial help for airlines and other affected industries has risen 18 points, from 42% to 60%.
3. In general, people plan to avoid anything that exposes them to others – from trips, to social events, to religious services – for at least the next month.
- Just one in ten say they would be comfortable taking a personal trip in the next month or sooner. Most would feel more comfortable doing so in three to six months (50%). However, another 29% say they would not feel comfortable for at least six months.
 - At the same time, there has been a sharp decline in the number of people saying they would travel by plane or public transportation. Just 16% would travel on a plane and 17% would take public transportation right now. These numbers represent a roughly 30-point drop on each measure, as 44% said last month they would still travel on a plane, and an equal number (45%) felt the same for taking public transportation.
 - Just 14% would feel comfortable attending social events in the next month or sooner. Again, most (55%) would feel more comfortable doing so in the next three to six months. Currently, 69% of Americans report that they have stopped attending social events, compared to only 18% last month.

For full results, please refer to the following questionnaire.



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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

	April 9-10 (N=1005)	March 10-11 (N=1005)
Someone I know will be diagnosed (<i>March wave: Someone in my city or town will be diagnosed</i>)	61%	54%
My local hospital will not have the resources to treat infected patients	61%	44%
I will be unable to buy health supplies (e.g. hand sanitizer, masks)	60%	41%
I will have to cancel an upcoming trip	50%	30%
I will be laid off or furloughed from my job (<i>March wave: I will not be able to work</i>)	46%	33%
My 401k or retirement fund will lose money	42%	33%
I won't be able to pay all of my bills this month	38%	-
My child's school(s) will close (<i>Not asked in April wave</i>)	-	52%



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- a. Someone I know will be diagnosed (*March wave: Someone in my city or town will be diagnosed*)

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	28%	25%
A fair amount	33%	29%
Not very much	17%	27%
None at all	11%	14%
Don't know	10%	6%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>40%</i>

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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	26%	15%
A fair amount	33%	26%
Not very much	22%	31%
None at all	15%	23%
Don't know	3%	5%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>41%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>54%</i>

- c. I will be laid off or furloughed from my job (*March wave: I will not be able to work*)

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	23%	16%
A fair amount	23%	16%
Not very much	23%	33%
None at all	26%	30%
Don't know	5%	4%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>63%</i>



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d. I will have to cancel an upcoming trip

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	31%	15%
A fair amount	20%	15%
Not very much	15%	22%
None at all	30%	43%
Don't know	5%	6%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>65%</i>

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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	24%	20%
A fair amount	36%	24%
Not very much	19%	28%
None at all	11%	19%
Don't know	9%	8%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>48%</i>

f. My 401k or retirement fund will lose money

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	21%	16%
A fair amount	21%	18%
Not very much	18%	21%
None at all	29%	34%
Don't know	11%	12%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>54%</i>



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g. I won't be able to pay all of my bills this month

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	17%	-
A fair amount	21%	-
Not very much	25%	-
None at all	35%	-
Don't know	3%	-
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>-</i>

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

Total High Threat Summary

	April 9-10	March 10-11
The global economy	76%	47%
The United States	71%	34%
The stock market	68%	47%
You personally	29%	15%

a. You personally

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Very high threat	13%	6%
High threat	16%	9%
Moderate threat	36%	26%
Low threat	22%	32%
Very low threat	10%	22%
Don't know	2%	4%
<i>High Threat (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Low Threat (Net)</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>54%</i>



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b. The United States

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Very high threat	41%	13%
High threat	30%	21%
Moderate threat	21%	37%
Low threat	4%	21%
Very low threat	1%	5%
Don't know	2%	3%
<i>High Threat (Net)</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>34%</i>
<i>Low Threat (Net)</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>26%</i>

c. The stock market

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Very high threat	33%	19%
High threat	35%	28%
Moderate threat	21%	31%
Low threat	4%	11%
Very low threat	1%	3%
Don't know	6%	8%
<i>High Threat (Net)</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>Low Threat (Net)</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>14%</i>

d. The global economy

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Very high threat	43%	20%
High threat	33%	27%
Moderate threat	17%	34%
Low threat	4%	10%
Very low threat	1%	3%
Don't know	3%	6%
<i>High Threat (Net)</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>Low Threat (Net)</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>13%</i>



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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Started washing hands more frequently	75%	54%
Stopped attending social events (<i>March wave: Decided not to attend a social event</i>)	69%	18%
Started wearing a face mask and/or gloves in public	51%	-
Canceled a personal trip	42%	11%
Shifted more of your shopping from physical stores to online	41%	13%
Stopped attending religious services	37%	6%
Considered delaying a major purchase/spending	35%	10%
Started an emergency savings or rainy-day fund	12%	8%
Canceled a business trip	8%	4%
Made changes to a 401k	6%	4%
None of the above	7%	35%

4. **Asked of those who selected corresponding activities in Q3:** When would you personally be comfortable with doing the following again? (*Not asked in March wave*)

- a. Taking a personal trip

	April 9-10 (N=430)
In the next week	2%
In the next month	8%
In the next three months	24%
In the next six months	26%
Not for at least six months	29%
Don't know	11%

- b. Taking a business trip

	April 9-10 (N=82)
In the next week	8%
In the next month	4%
In the next three months	35%
In the next six months	21%
Not for at least six months	24%
Don't know	8%



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c. Shopping in stores

	April 9-10 (N=414)
In the next week	13%
In the next month	19%
In the next three months	34%
In the next six months	12%
Not for at least six months	10%
Don't know	12%

d. Attending religious services

	April 9-10 (N=399)
In the next week	3%
In the next month	15%
In the next three months	34%
In the next six months	19%
Not for at least six months	16%
Don't know	12%

e. Attending social events

	April 9-10 (N=718)
In the next week	3%
In the next month	11%
In the next three months	33%
In the next six months	22%
Not for at least six months	17%
Don't know	14%



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5. Do you agree or disagree with the following?

Total Agree Summary

	April 9-10	March 10-11
I would still take public transportation right now.	17%	45%
I would still travel on a plane right now.	16%	44%
I would still go on a cruise right now.	10%	22%
More universities should close to stop the spread of the virus. <i>(Not asked in April wave)</i>	-	42%
More K-12 schools should close to stop the spread of the virus. <i>(Not asked in April wave)</i>	-	42%

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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Strongly agree	6%	19%
Somewhat agree	10%	25%
Somewhat disagree	15%	18%
Strongly disagree	66%	32%
Don't know	4%	6%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>50%</i>

b. I would still take public transportation right now.

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Strongly agree	6%	18%
Somewhat agree	11%	27%
Somewhat disagree	17%	21%
Strongly disagree	63%	25%
Don't know	4%	9%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>47%</i>



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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Strongly agree	4%	9%
Somewhat agree	6%	13%
Somewhat disagree	8%	16%
Strongly disagree	79%	54%
Don't know	3%	7%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>22%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>70%</i>

6. Which of the following actions, if any, should the U.S. government take regarding coronavirus or COVID-19? (March wave: 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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Make the COVID-19 test widely available	92%	87%
Cancel all large-scale events (e.g. sporting events, music festivals)	85%	39%
Expand paid sick leave so more workers are eligible (March wave: Pass paid sick leave legislation)	81%	65%
Impose mandatory quarantines for people who have traveled to any other country	81%	60%
Temporarily stop immigration from all other countries (March wave: Temporarily stop immigration from high risk countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy))	79%	76%
Ground all international flights	70%	39%
Implement a nationwide lockdown, requiring people to stay at home except for essential work, until the end of April	69%	-
Provide temporary financial help for airlines and other affected industries	60%	42%
Ground all domestic flights	49%	22%
Provide temporary financial help for undocumented immigrants who cannot work due to layoffs or illness	40%	-
Impose mandatory quarantines for people returning from high risk countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy) (Not asked in April wave)	-	77%
Provide surgical masks for people in states with reported cases (Not asked in April wave)	-	56%



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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	81%	60%
No	10%	25%
Don't know	9%	15%

- b. Temporarily stop immigration from all other countries (*March wave: Temporarily stop immigration from high risk countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy)*)

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	79%	76%
No	11%	14%
Don't know	11%	10%

- c. Expand paid sick leave so more workers are eligible (*March wave: Pass paid sick leave legislation*)

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	81%	65%
No	8%	17%
Don't know	11%	18%

- d. Make the COVID-19 test widely available

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	92%	87%
No	4%	7%
Don't know	4%	6%

- e. Ground all international flights

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	70%	39%
No	17%	43%
Don't know	13%	18%

- f. Ground all domestic flights

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	49%	22%
No	34%	62%
Don't know	17%	17%



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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	85%	39%
No	10%	39%
Don't know	4%	22%

- h. Provide temporary financial help for airlines and other affected industries

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	60%	42%
No	21%	34%
Don't know	19%	25%

- i. Provide temporary financial help for undocumented immigrants who cannot work due to layoffs or illness

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	40%	-
No	42%	-
Don't know	18%	-

- j. Implement a nationwide lockdown, requiring people to stay at home except for essential work, until the end of April

	April 9-10	March 10-11
Yes	69%	-
No	21%	-
Don't know	10%	-



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7. 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

	April 9-10	March 10-11
The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC	80%	79%
The World Health Organization	70%	71%
The governor of your state	69%	53%
The news media	48%	39%
Vice President Mike Pence	46%	39%
President Trump	44%	38%
The U.S. Congress	41%	35%

a. The news media

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	12%	11%
A fair amount	36%	28%
Not very much	30%	30%
None at all	18%	25%
Don't know	5%	6%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	48%	39%
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	48%	55%

b. The U.S. Congress

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	7%	7%
A fair amount	34%	27%
Not very much	39%	37%
None at all	14%	19%
Don't know	6%	9%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	41%	35%
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	53%	56%



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c. President Trump

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	23%	19%
A fair amount	21%	20%
Not very much	18%	15%
None at all	34%	39%
Don't know	5%	7%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>38%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>54%</i>

d. Vice President Mike Pence

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	19%	18%
A fair amount	27%	22%
Not very much	23%	22%
None at all	23%	29%
Don't know	8%	10%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>51%</i>

e. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	41%	41%
A fair amount	39%	38%
Not very much	10%	10%
None at all	5%	5%
Don't know	4%	5%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>79%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>16%</i>



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f. The World Health Organization

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	30%	33%
A fair amount	40%	38%
Not very much	13%	15%
None at all	11%	6%
Don't know	6%	8%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>71%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>21%</i>

g. The governor of your state

	April 9-10	March 10-11
A great deal	29%	15%
A fair amount	40%	38%
Not very much	18%	26%
None at all	8%	12%
Don't know	5%	9%
<i>A great deal/A fair amount (Net)</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>38%</i>



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll of which the first wave was conducted between March 10-11, 2020 and the second wave was conducted between April 9-10, 2020, on behalf of USA Today. For this survey, samples of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii were interviewed online in English for both waves.

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, both waves of the poll have 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).

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