

# Americans are optimistic that the COVID-19 vaccine will be effective in combatting the pandemic

New Welltok/Ipsos Poll finds that despite widespread concerns over potential side effects, seven in ten say they plan to get vaccinated for COVID-19 once it is available

### **Topline Findings**

**Washington, DC, January 19, 2021** — A new Welltok/Ipsos poll finds that Americans are hopeful that the COVID-19 vaccine will be effective in combatting the pandemic - and 69% say they plan to get the vaccine when it is available despite widespread concerns over potential side effects. Opinions are split when it comes to when life will return to normal, with 16% saying they don't think life will *ever* go back to how it once was. Americans report being much less comfortable doing things such as traveling, attending large events, and visiting indoor businesses now compared to before the pandemic, and while comfort levels increase when thinking about life once the vaccine is widely available, these do not quite return to pre-COVID-19 levels.

#### **Detailed Findings**

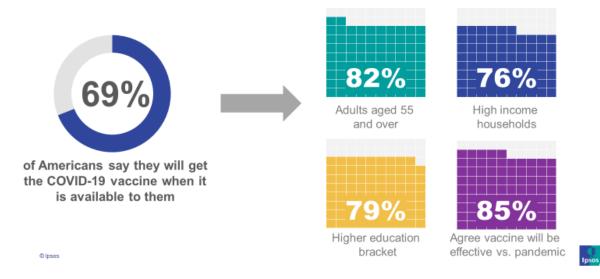
- 1. Nearly eight in ten Americans believe that the COVID-19 vaccine will be effective in combatting the pandemic (78%). However, just over half are concerned that there will not be enough COVID-19 vaccines to go around (52%).
  - Seven in ten say that they plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, with adults over the age of 55 (82% vs. 58% of those aged 18-34), the more affluent (76% of those with a household income of \$100,000 or more vs. 60% of those earning less than \$50,000), those with a college degree (79% vs. 60% of those with no degree), and those who believe the vaccine will be effective in combatting the pandemic (85% vs. 16% of those who disagree) among those most likely to agree.
  - Two thirds also believe that their immediate family members will get the vaccine once available (67%). When asked what proportion of their friends/family they think will get vaccinated, half (52%) believe that all/most will, while just over a quarter say some will get the vaccine (28%). On the other hand, one in five estimate that very few/none of the people in their social circle will get vaccinated (20%).
  - The potential side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine are a cause for concern for 71% of Americans, particularly women (75% vs. 67% of men), adults under the age of 55 (78% vs. 60% of those aged 55+), and those with children living at home (79% vs. 68% of those with no kids). In fact, concerns over side effects is the top response for not wanting to get vaccinated among those who disagree they will get the vaccine (64%). Other reasons for not wanting to get vaccinated among this audience include feeling that more testing needs to be done (53%), thinking the vaccine is a bigger risk than getting COVID-19 (38%), and distrust in the government (38%).





#### Seven in ten adults say they will get the COVID-19 vaccine

This is especially true for older adults, those with a household income of \$100,000 or more, those with a college degree, and those who believe the vaccine will be effective in combatting the pandemic.



- 2. Across the nation, opinions are split when it comes to thinking about when life will "go back to normal": 27% think it will be in the Spring/Summer 2021, 32% believe it will be in the Fall/Winter 2021, and 22% don't think this will happen until 2022. Nearly one in five, however, do not expect life to ever go back to normal (16%).
  - Those most likely to say they do not think life will ever go back to normal include women (19% vs. 12% of men), those in the lower income bracket (24% of those earning less than \$50,000 vs. 10% of those earning \$100,000 or more), those without a college degree (21% vs. 10% of those with a degree), and those who say they will not get the vaccine once it is available (32% vs. 8% who say they will get vaccinated).
  - The pandemic has had a significant impact on Americans' comfort levels when it comes to various activities. This is especially true when looking at attending large events, where 71% say that they were comfortable doing this before COVID-19 compared to 25% who are comfortable doing this today (down 46% percentage points) and traveling for leisure, where comfort levels went from 77% before COVID-19 to 37% who are currently comfortable doing this now (down 40 percentage points).
  - Whereas 84% of Americans say that they were comfortable visiting indoor businesses (e.g., hair salon, restaurants) before COVID-19, only 52% feel this way now (down 32 points).
  - Americans also express a decline in comfort (by at least 25 percentage points) when it comes to traveling for work, attending school in person, going to office/worksite, and going to the doctor's office.
  - Americans appear to feel more at ease when thinking about the future, with comfort levels increasing (though not to quite the same extent as pre-COVID-19 results) when rating these same activities once the vaccine is widely available.

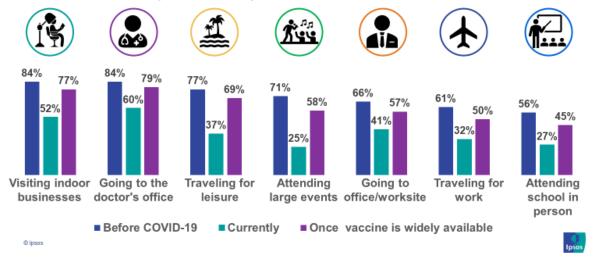
2020 K Street, NW, Suite 410 Washington DC 20006 +1 202 463-7300





# Comfort towards different activities down considerably when comparing today to before COVID-19

Using the scale below, please indicate your comfort level with the following activities before COVID-19, currently and once the vaccine is widely available. *% Very/somewhat comfortable* 



- Television news stands out as being the top source of information where Americans are getting their information about the COVID-19 vaccine (56%). Internet sites (38%) and social media sites (21%) round out the top three, as selected by at least one in five.
  - Americans are most likely to be interested in receiving information about the COVID-19 vaccine from their healthcare provider (86%), health insurance company (81%), and pharmacy (79%). For all three, personal email is the preferred communication channel for this type of information, followed by text messages and phone calls.
  - Three quarters would be interested in receiving information about COVID-19 vaccines from a government entity (73%), with personal email (37%), text message (17%) and postcards (17%) the top three preferred means.

These are the findings from an Ipsos poll conducted December 16 - 17, 2020 on behalf of Welltok. For the survey, a sample of 1,005 adults ages 18 and over from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

2020 K Street, NW, Suite 410 Washington DC 20006 +1 202 463-7300





#### **Full Annotated Questionnaire**

1. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:

%Strongly/Somewhat agree	
I believe the COVID-19 vaccine will be effective in combatting the pandemic	78%
I am concerned about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine	71%
I will get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to me	69%
My immediate family will get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available	67%
I am concerned that there will not be enough COVID-19 vaccines to go around	52%

a. I will get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to me

	Total (N=1,005)
Strongly agree	39%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	18%
Strongly/somewhat agree	69%
Strongly/somewhat disagree	31%

b. My immediate family will get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available

	Total (N=1,005)
Strongly agree	31%
Somewhat agree	37%
Somewhat disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	13%
Strongly/somewhat agree	67%
Strongly/somewhat disagree	33%

c. I am concerned that there will not be enough COVID-19 vaccines to go around

	Total (N=1,005)
Strongly agree	15%
Somewhat agree	37%
Somewhat disagree	31%
Strongly disagree	16%
Strongly/somewhat agree	52%
Strongly/somewhat disagree	48%





	Total (N=1,005)
Strongly agree	33%
Somewhat agree	45%
Somewhat disagree	16%
Strongly disagree	7%
Strongly/somewhat agree	78%
Strongly/somewhat disagree	22%

d. I believe the COVID-19 vaccine will be effective in combatting the pandemic

e. I am concerned about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine

	Total (N=1,005)
Strongly agree	32%
Somewhat agree	39%
Somewhat disagree	22%
Strongly disagree	7%
Strongly/somewhat agree	71%
Strongly/somewhat disagree	29%

2. Which of the following apply to you?

% Yes	Total (N=1,005)
I would like to get reminders about second or missed vaccine doses	64%
I got the flu shot this year	60%
I care about which COVID-19 vaccine I will get	58%
I get the flu shot every year	55%
I have not received a multi-dose vaccine in the past 10 years	49%

#### 3. Which of the following are reasons why you would NOT get the COVID-19 vaccine?

	Disagree they will get vaccine (N=326)
I'm concerned about side effects	64%
There is no way the vaccine is ready for use; more testing needs to be done	53%
The vaccine is a bigger risk than getting COVID-19	38%
I don't trust the government	38%
I don't trust pharmaceutical companies	26%
I don't like shots	16%
It requires two doses (coming back for two shots)	13%
I'm opposed to vaccines	12%
I don't believe in getting vaccines	9%

2020 K Street, NW, Suite 410 Washington DC 20006 +1 202 463-7300





	Disagree they will get vaccine (N=326)
I don't have insurance	7%
Other	6%

4. Thinking about the people in your circle of friends and family, how many do you believe will get vaccinated?

	Total
	(N=1,005)
All	13%
Most	39%
Some	28%
Very few	14%
None	6%

5. Please complete the following statement with the option that best fits your views: I believe life will "go back to normal by" ...

	Total (N=1,005)
Spring 2021	7%
Summer 2021	21%
Fall 2021	20%
Winter 2021	13%
2022	22%
Never	16%
Other	2%

6. Using the scale below, please indicate your comfort level with the following activities before COVID-19, currently and once the vaccine is widely available.

#### Before COVID-19

% Very/somewhat comfortable	Total (N=1,005)
Visiting indoor businesses (e.g., hair salon, restaurants)	84%
Going to the doctor's office	84%
Traveling for leisure	77%
Attending large events (e.g., concerts, weddings, movie theater)	71%
Going to office/worksite	66%
Traveling for work	61%
Attending school in person	56%





#### Currently

% Very/somewhat comfortable	Total (N=1,005)	
Going to the doctor's office	60%	
Visiting indoor businesses (e.g., hair salon, restaurants)	52%	
Going to office/worksite	41%	
Traveling for leisure	37%	
Traveling for work	32%	
Attending school in person	27%	
Attending large events (e.g., concerts, weddings, movie theater)	25%	

Once the vaccine is widely available

% Very/somewhat comfortable	Total (N=1,005)	
Going to the doctor's office	79%	
Visiting indoor businesses (e.g., hair salon, restaurants)	77%	
Traveling for leisure	69%	
Attending large events (e.g., concerts, weddings, movie theater)	58%	
Going to office/worksite	57%	
Traveling for work	50%	
Attending school in person	45%	

- 7. When it comes to receiving information about the COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., availability, safety, coverage, etc.) from different sources, how would you prefer to receive this information? Please select which communication preferences you have for each source of information. If you do not want to receive information from a particular source, click not interested.
  - a. Government entity

	Total (N=1,005)
Personal email	37%
Text message	17%
Postcard	17%
Phone call	10%
Social post	10%
Work email	8%
Other	5%
Not interested in receiving information from this source	27%





b. My employer

	Total (N=1,005)	
Work email	27%	
Personal email	19%	
Text message	15%	
Phone call	13%	
Social post	5%	
Postcard	3%	
Other	4%	
Not interested in receiving information from this source	42%	

#### c. My health insurance company

	Total (N=1,005)
Personal email	54%
Text message	22%
Phone call	18%
Postcard	11%
Work email	11%
Social post	6%
Other	3%
Not interested in receiving information from this source	19%

d. My pharmacy

	Total (N=1,005)
Personal email	39%
Text message	31%
Phone call	23%
Postcard	9%
Social post	6%
Work email	6%
Other	3%
Not interested in receiving information from this source	21%

e. My healthcare provider (primary care physician, health system)

	Total (N=1,005)
Personal email	52%
Phone call	30%
Text message	27%
Postcard	9%

2020 K Street, NW, Suite 410 Washington DC 20006 +1 202 463-7300





	Total (N=1,005)
Work email	9%
Social post	5%
Other	4%
Not interested in receiving information from this source	14%

	Government entity	My employer	My health insurance company	My pharmacy	My healthcare provider
Personal email	37%	19%	54%	39%	52%
Text message	17%	15%	22%	31%	27%
Postcard	17%	3%	11%	9%	9%
Phone call	10%	13%	18%	23%	30%
Social post	10%	5%	6%	6%	5%
Work email	8%	27%	11%	6%	9%
Other	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Not interested in receiving information from this source	27%	42%	19%	21%	14%

8. Where are you getting the majority of information about the COVID-19 vaccine today?

	Total (N=1,005)
Television news	56%
Internet sites (including news sites)	38%
Social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	21%
Friends/family	19%
Print (newspapers, magazines, direct mail)	17%
Your doctor	17%
Your health insurance plan	10%
Your employer	10%
Radio	9%
Other	3%
None of these	4%





#### **About the Study**

These are the findings from an Ipsos poll conducted December 16 - 17, 2020 on behalf of Welltok. For the survey, a sample of 1,005 adults ages 18 and over from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see <u>link</u> for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see <u>link</u> 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 2018 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=+/-5.0 percentage points for all respondents).

#### For more information on this news release, please contact:

Marie-Pierre Lemay Director, US Public Affairs <u>Marie.Lemay@ipsos.com</u>

#### **About Ipsos**

Ipsos is the world's third largest market research company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP www.ipsos.com

