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# THE COVID STATES PROJECT: A 50-STATE COVID-19 SURVEY REPORT #32: UPDATE ON PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MEASURES AIMED AT CURBING COVID-19

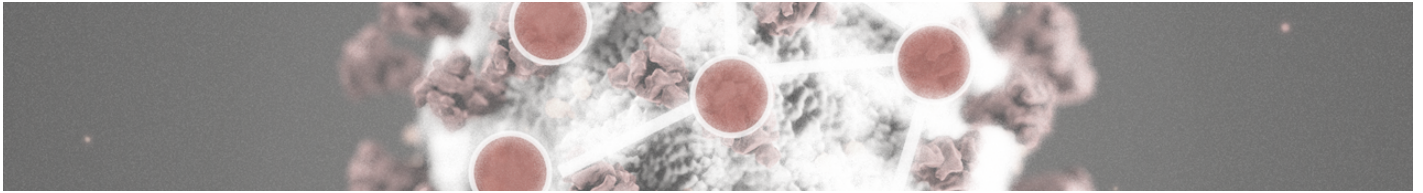
USA, January 2021

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## Report of January 15, 2021, v.1

### ***The COVID States Project***

**From:** The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States

***A joint project of:***

Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University

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MEDICAL SCHOOL



RUTGERS  
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OF NEW JERSEY



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# COVER MEMO

Summary Memo — January 15, 2020

## ***The COVID States Project***

**From:** *The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States*

**Partners:** Northeastern University, Harvard University/Harvard Medical School, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University

**Authors:** David Lazer (Northeastern University); Alexi Quintana (Northeastern University); Matthew A. Baum (Harvard University); Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University); Matthew Simonson (Northeastern University); Ata A. Uslu (Northeastern University); James Druckman (Northwestern University); Roy H. Perlis (Harvard Medical School); Jon Green (Northeastern University); Mauricio Santillana (Harvard Medical School); Adina Gitomer (Northeastern University); Jennifer Lin (Northwestern University); and Hanyu Chwe (Northeastern University)

From April 2020 through January 2021, we conducted multiple waves of a large, 50-state survey, some results of which are presented here. You can find previous reports online at [covidstates.org](https://covidstates.org).

### **Note on methods:**

Between December 16, 2020 and January 11, 2021, we surveyed 25,640 individuals across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The survey was conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample, with state-level representative quotas for race/ethnicity, age, and gender (for methodological details on the other waves, see [covidstates.org](https://covidstates.org)). In addition to balancing on these dimensions, we reweighted our data using demographic characteristics to match the U.S. population with respect to race/ethnicity, age, gender, education, and living in urban, suburban, or rural areas. This was the latest in a series of surveys we have been conducting since April 2020, examining attitudes and behaviors regarding COVID-19 in the United States.

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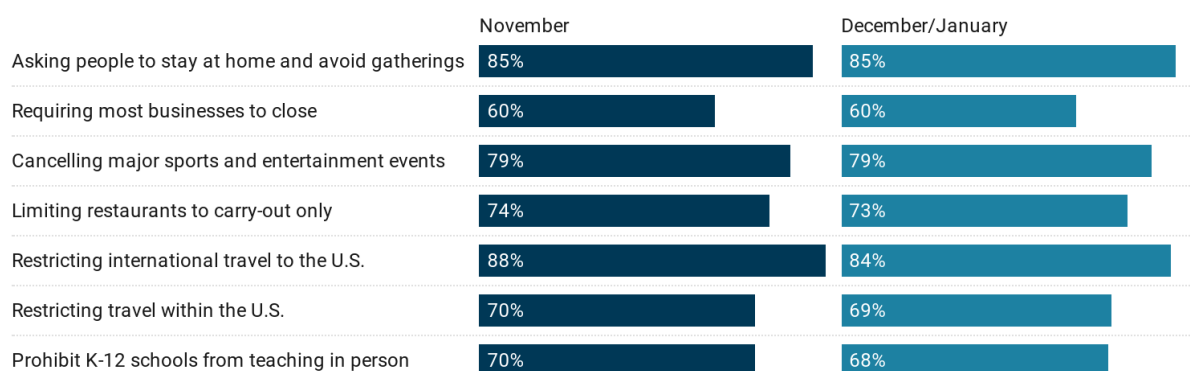
## Summary: Public support for aggressive measures to curb COVID-19 remains high across the US

In [report 25](#), published in November, we evaluated public support for taking more aggressive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. The key finding is that there is broad support for taking more steps to limit the spread of the disease. In a just completed survey, we repeated these questions, finding that opinions are virtually unchanged since November: large majorities across the 7 issue areas support taking more aggressive steps (see Figure 1). The measure with the least support, which would be the most drastic step – requiring most businesses other than grocery stores and pharmacies to close – has exactly the same level of support we observed in November: 60%. The only step that has seen statistically significant erosion in support is restricting international travel, which has edged downward from November, from 88% to a still quite high 84%.

Support across the 50 states plus DC also is quite high. In 43 states plus DC, majorities support all 7 measures; in 4 states majorities support 6 measures, and in three (Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming), majorities support 5 of 7 measures (the two exceptions being requiring most businesses to close and prohibiting K-12 schools from teaching in person). (See Table 1)

### National support for COVID-19 measures

Do you approve or disapprove of the following measures which federal, state, and local governments could take to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the next 30 days? [Percent respondents who say they "somewhat approve" or "strongly approve"]



Time period for November wave: 11/04/2020 - 11/30/2020. Time period for December/January wave: 12/16/2020 - 01/11/2021

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) [www.covidstates.org](http://www.covidstates.org)  
• Created with Datawrapper

**FIGURE 1. National Support for COVID-19 Measures**

**Table 1. State-level Support for Restrictive Measures, December/January Wave**  
**(Percent respondents who say they “somewhat approve” or “strongly approve”)**

Margins of error in parentheses

State	Restrictive Measure						
	Asking people to stay at home and avoid gathering in groups	Requiring most businesses other than grocery stores and pharmacies to close	Cancelling major sports and entertainment events	Limiting restaurants to carry-out only	Restricting international travel to the U.S.	Restricting travel within the U.S.	Prohibit K-12 schools from teaching in person
<b>National</b>	85 (1)	60 (1)	79 (1)	73 (1)	84 (1)	69 (1)	68 (1)
<b>AK</b>	76 (5)	56 (6)	72 (5)	66 (6)	79 (5)	58 (6)	62 (6)
<b>AL</b>	86 (4)	58 (6)	76 (5)	72 (5)	85 (4)	68 (5)	70 (5)
<b>AR</b>	82 (4)	55 (6)	76 (5)	73 (5)	83 (4)	63 (6)	65 (6)
<b>AZ</b>	82 (4)	56 (5)	75 (5)	70 (5)	84 (4)	69 (5)	65 (5)
<b>CA</b>	89 (3)	68 (5)	85 (4)	78 (4)	85 (4)	74 (4)	79 (4)
<b>CO</b>	82 (4)	54 (5)	77 (4)	65 (5)	74 (5)	62 (5)	60 (5)
<b>CT</b>	88 (3)	62 (5)	85 (4)	74 (4)	86 (4)	72 (5)	69 (5)
<b>DC</b>	94 (2)	82 (4)	90 (3)	86 (4)	84 (4)	80 (4)	85 (4)
<b>DE</b>	89 (3)	64 (5)	79 (4)	70 (5)	86 (4)	74 (4)	71 (5)
<b>FL</b>	85 (3)	58 (5)	76 (4)	68 (4)	85 (3)	69 (4)	64 (5)
<b>GA</b>	85 (4)	58 (5)	74 (5)	71 (5)	82 (4)	67 (5)	70 (5)
<b>HI</b>	91 (3)	65 (5)	85 (4)	78 (4)	86 (4)	77 (5)	73 (5)
<b>IA</b>	85 (4)	54 (5)	75 (5)	73 (5)	82 (4)	67 (5)	63 (5)
<b>ID</b>	74 (4)	46 (5)	73 (4)	62 (5)	78 (4)	57 (5)	54 (5)
<b>IL</b>	90 (3)	64 (5)	83 (4)	76 (4)	84 (4)	71 (5)	74 (4)
<b>IN</b>	80 (4)	58 (5)	75 (4)	69 (5)	78 (4)	65 (5)	63 (5)

<b>KS</b>	82 (4)	57 (5)	76 (4)	72 (5)	84 (4)	65 (5)	59 (5)
<b>KY</b>	86 (4)	62 (5)	83 (4)	78 (4)	89 (3)	71 (5)	73 (5)
<b>LA</b>	80 (4)	56 (5)	76 (5)	70 (5)	84 (4)	66 (5)	65 (5)
<b>MA</b>	89 (3)	68 (5)	85 (3)	79 (4)	88 (3)	76 (4)	71 (4)
<b>MD</b>	89 (3)	68 (4)	85 (3)	77 (4)	89 (3)	76 (4)	77 (4)
<b>ME</b>	85 (4)	57 (5)	81 (4)	73 (4)	87 (3)	72 (4)	64 (5)
<b>MI</b>	79 (4)	59 (5)	78 (4)	69 (4)	83 (4)	65 (5)	68 (4)
<b>MN</b>	82 (4)	54 (5)	79 (4)	65 (5)	83 (4)	62 (5)	65 (5)
<b>MO</b>	84 (4)	54 (5)	77 (4)	74 (4)	83 (4)	68 (5)	67 (5)
<b>MS</b>	86 (4)	57 (6)	78 (5)	74 (5)	83 (5)	68 (6)	69 (6)
<b>MT</b>	74 (4)	46 (5)	68 (5)	58 (5)	76 (4)	58 (5)	49 (5)
<b>NC</b>	86 (3)	65 (4)	85 (3)	79 (4)	84 (3)	71 (4)	74 (4)
<b>ND</b>	73 (5)	50 (5)	70 (5)	60 (5)	80 (4)	54 (5)	49 (5)
<b>NE</b>	79 (4)	52 (5)	71 (4)	66 (5)	81 (4)	63 (5)	56 (5)
<b>NH</b>	87 (3)	64 (4)	83 (3)	75 (4)	85 (3)	74 (4)	72 (4)
<b>NJ</b>	89 (3)	63 (5)	81 (4)	75 (4)	89 (3)	74 (4)	74 (4)
<b>NM</b>	85 (5)	58 (6)	82 (5)	74 (6)	83 (5)	66 (6)	69 (6)
<b>NV</b>	86 (4)	61 (5)	77 (4)	71 (5)	85 (4)	65 (5)	70 (5)
<b>NY</b>	93 (2)	70 (4)	87 (3)	82 (4)	91 (3)	81 (4)	75 (4)
<b>OH</b>	82 (4)	56 (5)	77 (4)	71 (5)	81 (4)	67 (5)	67 (5)
<b>OK</b>	80 (4)	49 (5)	73 (5)	66 (5)	78 (4)	61 (5)	62 (5)
<b>OR</b>	79 (4)	60 (5)	78 (4)	70 (4)	85 (3)	68 (4)	66 (4)
<b>PA</b>	85 (3)	60 (5)	77 (4)	69 (4)	86 (3)	70 (4)	68 (4)
<b>RI</b>	90 (3)	65 (5)	83 (4)	76 (4)	87 (3)	75 (4)	72 (5)
<b>SC</b>	84 (4)	62 (5)	81 (4)	74 (5)	85 (4)	68 (5)	71 (5)
<b>SD</b>	74 (5)	41 (5)	68 (5)	58 (5)	76 (4)	53 (5)	49 (5)
<b>TN</b>	85 (4)	57 (5)	78 (4)	69 (5)	83 (4)	67 (5)	71 (5)

<b>TX</b>	86 (3)	65 (5)	81 (4)	76 (4)	85 (3)	71 (4)	71 (4)
<b>UT</b>	78 (4)	47 (5)	72 (4)	66 (5)	76 (4)	58 (5)	53 (5)
<b>VA</b>	84 (4)	60 (5)	77 (4)	74 (5)	83 (4)	70 (5)	70 (5)
<b>VT</b>	85 (4)	57 (6)	82 (5)	73 (5)	88 (4)	72 (5)	61 (6)
<b>WA</b>	83 (3)	61 (5)	78 (4)	72 (4)	83 (3)	69 (4)	68 (4)
<b>WI</b>	82 (4)	58 (5)	73 (4)	68 (5)	82 (4)	63 (5)	61 (5)
<b>WV</b>	88 (4)	54 (6)	80 (4)	74 (5)	86 (4)	66 (5)	68 (5)
<b>WY</b>	69 (6)	43 (6)	68 (6)	57 (6)	77 (6)	52 (6)	48 (6)

**Table 2. State-level Support for Restrictive Measures, November Wave**  
**(Percent respondents who say they “somewhat approve” or “strongly approve”)**

Margins of error in parentheses

State	Restrictive Measure						
	Asking people to stay at home and avoid gathering in groups	Requiring most businesses other than grocery stores and pharmacies to close	Cancelling major sports and entertainment events	Limiting restaurants to carry-out only	Restricting international travel to the U.S.	Restricting travel within the U.S.	Prohibit K-12 schools from teaching in person
<b>National</b>	85 (1)	60 (1)	79 (1)	74 (1)	88 (1)	70 (1)	70 (1)
<b>AK</b>	86 (12)	60 (17)	84 (13)	75 (15)	89 (11)	65 (16)	77 (16)
<b>AL</b>	79 (5)	50 (6)	73 (5)	68 (6)	92 (3)	65 (6)	56 (8)
<b>AR</b>	84 (5)	57 (7)	78 (6)	72 (6)	88 (4)	67 (6)	69 (7)
<b>AZ</b>	84 (4)	60 (6)	73 (5)	71 (5)	88 (4)	67 (6)	67 (8)
<b>CA</b>	88 (3)	66 (4)	81 (3)	81 (3)	89 (3)	76 (4)	79 (4)
<b>CO</b>	81 (4)	56 (6)	71 (5)	69 (5)	84 (4)	69 (5)	62 (7)



<b>CT</b>	91 (3)	64 (6)	83 (4)	78 (5)	89 (4)	78 (5)	76 (5)
<b>DC</b>	95 (5)	82 (9)	91 (7)	88 (8)	88 (8)	80 (9)	92 (7)
<b>DE</b>	88 (6)	68 (9)	86 (7)	83 (7)	91 (5)	78 (8)	74 (10)
<b>FL</b>	85 (3)	57 (4)	76 (4)	69 (4)	86 (3)	68 (4)	64 (5)
<b>GA</b>	85 (4)	60 (5)	77 (4)	76 (4)	86 (3)	65 (5)	80 (7)
<b>HI</b>	93 (6)	70 (11)	82 (9)	88 (8)	94 (6)	85 (9)	81 (11)
<b>IA</b>	82 (4)	55 (6)	74 (5)	70 (5)	90 (3)	64 (6)	61 (7)
<b>ID</b>	78 (7)	49 (8)	73 (7)	66 (8)	85 (6)	62 (8)	60 (9)
<b>IL</b>	85 (4)	62 (5)	77 (4)	74 (4)	88 (3)	68 (5)	82 (7)
<b>IN</b>	80 (5)	55 (6)	73 (5)	73 (5)	87 (4)	72 (5)	63 (7)
<b>KS</b>	85 (4)	55 (6)	76 (5)	74 (5)	87 (4)	67 (6)	66 (7)
<b>KY</b>	85 (4)	62 (5)	82 (4)	74 (5)	91 (3)	72 (5)	74 (6)
<b>LA</b>	79 (5)	56 (6)	72 (5)	65 (5)	79 (5)	62 (6)	61 (7)
<b>MA</b>	88 (3)	64 (5)	83 (4)	78 (4)	88 (3)	75 (5)	71 (6)
<b>MD</b>	89 (4)	71 (5)	82 (5)	82 (5)	91 (3)	78 (5)	77 (6)
<b>ME</b>	91 (5)	66 (8)	87 (6)	85 (6)	94 (4)	85 (6)	75 (9)
<b>MI</b>	82 (4)	60 (5)	78 (4)	72 (4)	90 (3)	68 (4)	72 (5)
<b>MN</b>	81 (4)	54 (5)	80 (4)	68 (5)	89 (3)	63 (5)	65 (6)
<b>MO</b>	80 (4)	52 (5)	74 (5)	71 (5)	85 (4)	60 (5)	61 (7)
<b>MS</b>	83 (5)	60 (7)	79 (6)	78 (6)	88 (4)	70 (6)	69 (7)
<b>MT</b>	77 (12)	44 (15)	72 (13)	60 (14)	75 (13)	62 (14)	44 (16)
<b>NC</b>	86 (3)	58 (5)	80 (4)	78 (4)	86 (3)	73 (4)	70 (6)
<b>ND</b>	82 (9)	61 (12)	77 (10)	74 (11)	85 (9)	62 (12)	50 (14)



<b>NE</b>	82 (4)	51 (6)	76 (5)	75 (5)	85 (4)	65 (6)	62 (6)
<b>NH</b>	89 (4)	61 (6)	85 (4)	76 (5)	90 (3)	73 (5)	73 (6)
<b>NJ</b>	87 (4)	65 (5)	79 (5)	76 (5)	87 (4)	76 (5)	75 (6)
<b>NM</b>	81 (5)	64 (7)	78 (6)	72 (6)	88 (4)	70 (6)	71 (7)
<b>NV</b>	84 (5)	60 (6)	75 (5)	71 (6)	84 (5)	67 (6)	68 (7)
<b>NY</b>	90 (3)	66 (4)	83 (3)	81 (3)	87 (3)	75 (4)	81 (6)
<b>OH</b>	83 (4)	60 (5)	78 (4)	71 (5)	87 (3)	69 (5)	69 (8)
<b>OK</b>	82 (4)	54 (6)	76 (5)	74 (5)	85 (4)	65 (5)	68 (7)
<b>OR</b>	81 (4)	59 (5)	80 (4)	74 (5)	89 (3)	73 (5)	74 (6)
<b>PA</b>	80 (4)	55 (5)	74 (4)	68 (4)	87 (3)	70 (4)	69 (8)
<b>RI</b>	88 (8)	66 (11)	83 (9)	81 (9)	92 (7)	76 (10)	78 (11)
<b>SC</b>	79 (4)	55 (5)	77 (4)	70 (5)	88 (3)	66 (5)	67 (7)
<b>SD</b>	74 (12)	44 (13)	76 (12)	58 (13)	83 (10)	61 (13)	38 (15)
<b>TN</b>	81 (4)	55 (6)	73 (5)	70 (5)	87 (4)	68 (5)	64 (8)
<b>TX</b>	86 (3)	61 (4)	78 (4)	74 (4)	88 (3)	71 (4)	71 (6)
<b>UT</b>	80 (4)	47 (5)	76 (5)	68 (5)	82 (4)	63 (5)	63 (6)
<b>VA</b>	87 (4)	60 (6)	78 (5)	70 (5)	90 (3)	68 (5)	69 (7)
<b>VT</b>	82 (13)	59 (17)	81 (14)	75 (15)	91 (10)	76 (15)	61 (18)
<b>WA</b>	85 (4)	65 (5)	80 (4)	74 (5)	86 (4)	70 (5)	72 (6)
<b>WI</b>	84 (3)	59 (4)	76 (4)	73 (4)	88 (3)	70 (4)	67 (5)
<b>WV</b>	87 (5)	54 (7)	79 (6)	72 (6)	91 (4)	75 (6)	66 (9)
<b>WY</b>	81 (17)	57 (22)	83 (17)	69 (21)	93 (11)	67 (21)	70 (26)