

COVID-19:

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION CONCERNS, BEHAVIORS, BELIEFS

In a recent survey conducted by the UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education (PIE Center), Americans were asked about their ability and willingness to abide by social distancing practices and wear facial coverings, as well as COVID-19 related concerns. This survey was conducted between July 23 and August 9, 2020 nationwide with 1,538 respondents sampled to be representative of the U.S. Census. *Note, some of the data reported in this issue guide is similar to previous issue guides, but was collected at a different point in the pandemic.

ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE MASK GUIDELINES

As more cities and counties around the United States implement social distancing guidelines and mask mandates, the PIE Center sought to understand Americans' perceptions of these guidelines.

When asked about overall ability to comply with recommended social distancing practices, the overwhelming majority of respondents (97.9%) indicated they were **able** to socially distance. Similarly, the majority of respondents (96.8%) were **willing** to socially distance.



Approximately 96.7% of respondents indicated they were overall **able** to wear a mask or face covering when out in public. Ninety-six percent of respondents were overall **willing** to wear a mask.



MOST RESPONDENTS INDICATED THEY ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO WEAR A MASK.

I AM CONCERNED THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE NOT GETTING ACCURATE & FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19:



I AM CONCERNED THAT I AM NOT GETTING ACCURATE AND FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19:



I AM CONCERNED THAT MY LOVED ONES ARE NOT GETTING ACCURATE & FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19:



COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL CONCERNS

Americans were asked about their communication-related concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of respondents (69.2%) reported feeling concerned about not receiving factual and accurate information. Approximately 68.3% of respondents were concerned their loved ones were not receiving accurate information, and 78.9% were concerned other members of the general public were not receiving accurate information.

THE MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS BELIEVE COVID-19 IS CREATING A CULTURAL DIVIDE IN THE U.S.

Respondents indicated they had cultural concerns related to COVID-19. Fifty-five percent of respondents reported feeling concerned COVID-19 is making race and cultural relations worse in society. Fifty-six percent feel COVID-19 is creating a cultural divide in the United States. Fifty-eight percent believe COVID-19 is making it harder for underrepresented groups to achieve the American dream.

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