

Oregonians expect it to take months before they feel safe returning to normal activities

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From April 17–21, 2020, DHM Research conducted a survey of Oregonians. The purpose of the survey was to assess their attitudes and behaviors related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This is the second of three data releases from this survey. The newly released items focus on when Oregonians expect to return to normal activities, the criteria they will use to decide, and who they trust about making decisions about to reopen. Other new items asked about what levels the State of Oregon should report COVID-19 positive cases (e.g., by zip code and nursing homes), and whether Oregonians will self-isolate if they are in contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

The first release focused on Oregonians' support for the state's stay at home orders. The third release will share results about Oregonians' opinions and experiences with the healthcare system and support for releasing people from jails and prisons.

The research was completed as a community service by DHM Research in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

Research Methodology: The online survey consisted of 900 Oregon residents ages 18+ and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups. To include more topics, some questions were randomly assigned to half the sample, referred to as Split A and Split B in the questionnaire.

Respondents were contacted by using a professionally maintained online panel. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing, validation, and real time monitoring of responses. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data weighted by gender, age, race, education level, area of the state and political affiliation.

Statement of Limitations: Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. The margin of error is $\pm 3.3\%$ for the full sample and $\pm 4.5\%$ to $\pm 4.7\%$ for the split samples.

DHM Research & Oregon Values and Beliefs Center: The research was completed as a community service by DHM Research in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. Both organizations are independent and non-partisan. DHM is a Certified B Corporation and OVBC is an Oregon charitable nonprofit corporation.

For media inquiries, please contact John Horvick, DHM Research Director of Client Relations and Political Research, at jhorvick@dhmresearch.com or 503.757.3051.

KEY FINDINGS

Oregonians expect it to take months before they feel safe returning to normal activities.

We asked Oregonians how many months they expect it to take until they will feel safe engaging in several normal activities. The median number of months ranged from two for getting a haircut to six for attending a major sporting event. Other timeframes were three months for dining in at a restaurant and five months to travel on an airplane.

Oregonians put the most trust in public health officials when deciding if it is safe to return to normal activities. Trust in Governor Brown and President Trump is lower and much more partisan.

58% of Oregonians have a very high or high level of trust in the Centers of Control when it comes to making decisions about when it is safe to reopen businesses, schools and other places. Similarly, 55% of the state's residents have high levels of trust in the Oregon Health Authority.

Fewer people have high levels of trust in Governor Kate Brown (36%) and President Trump 28%. Moreover, trust in these elected officials is partisan. Democrats, 58% have high levels of trust in Governor Brown compared to just 6% for President Trump. Likewise, Republicans 68% have high levels of trust in President Trump versus 21% for Governor Brown.

Widespread testing, effective treatments, hospital capacity, and lowering the rate of new COVID-19 infections will be important for Oregonians deciding when it is safe to return to normal activities.

58% of Oregonians say that the availability of widespread testing will be *very* important when deciding to return to normal activities. 56% say a low number of new infections will also be very important, which can only be known if testing is available.

Effective treatments, hospital capacity, and vaccines are also important to Oregonians. But these results make clear that without widespread testing most Oregonians will be reluctant to return to normal activities.

Oregonians would support the state reporting positive COVID-19 cases at multiple levels.

The State of Oregon currently reports positive COVID-19 cases at the county level. Between 77% to 89% of Oregonians would also support the state reporting cases by city (89%), zip code (84%), specific nursing homes (83%), workplaces (82%), and jails and prisons (77%).

Large numbers of Oregonians would not immediately self-isolate if they learned they were in contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

We asked Oregonians what they would do if they learned that they were in either *close contact* or *casual contact for a short time* with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. While majorities said that they would self-isolate immediately (63% close contact; 54% casual contact), large numbers said that they would only self-isolate if they developed symptoms (22%; 31%), tested positive themselves (5%; 6%) or were uncertain what they would do (8%; 6%). This leaves nearly a third to one-half of Oregonians who could continue to spread the virus if they are positive but asymptomatic.

Oregon COVID-19 Survey 2
 April 17-21, 2020
 Oregon Adults Ages 18+
 Full sample N=900; ±3.3% margin of error
 A/B split samples N=436-464; ±4.5% to ±4.7%

DHM Research & Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

COVID-19: LEVEL OF CONCERN, BEHAVIORS, REPORTING

(New page)

Would you support or oppose the State of Oregon reporting the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 by the following categories.

(Split A)

| Response category | n=450 | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Don't know |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 12. County | | 68% | 25% | 3% | <1% | 3% |
| 13. City | | 63% | 26% | 6% | 1% | 3% |
| 14. Zip code | | 59% | 25% | 7% | 4% | 5% |

(Split B)

| Response category | n=450 | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Don't know |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 15. Specific workplaces | | 55% | 26% | 4% | 6% | 9% |
| 16. Specific nursing homes and long-term care facilities | | 62% | 21% | 6% | 4% | 7% |
| 17. Specific jails and prisons | | 55% | 22% | 6% | 7% | 10% |

(Split A)

18. If you learned that you were recently in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 what action would you take?

| Response category | n=450 |
|--|-------|
| Immediately go into self-isolation at home | 63% |
| Monitor your health and go into self-isolation only if you develop COVID-19 symptoms | 22% |
| Go into self-isolation only if you test positive for COVID-19 | 5% |
| None of the above | 2% |
| Don't know | 8% |

(Split B)

19. If you learned that you were recently in casual contact for a short time with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 what action would you take?

| Response category | n=450 |
|--|-------|
| Immediately go into self-isolation at home | 54% |
| Monitor your health and go into self-isolation only if you develop COVID-19 symptoms | 31% |
| Go into self-isolation only if you test positive for COVID-19 | 6% |
| None of the above | 4% |
| Don't know | 6% |

COVID-19: RETURNING TO NORMAL

What level of trust do you have in the following people and organizations to determine when it is safe to open businesses, schools, and other places in Oregon?

| Response category | n=900 | Very high | High | Medium | Low | None | Don't know |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|--------|-----|------|------------|
| 21. President Donald Trump | | 14% | 14% | 17% | 14% | 39% | 3% |
| 22. Governor Kate Brown | | 11% | 25% | 27% | 18% | 15% | 4% |
| 23. US Centers for Disease Control | | 23% | 35% | 28% | 9% | 3% | 3% |
| 24. Oregon Health Authority | | 18% | 37% | 28% | 10% | 2% | 4% |
| 25. Your local government | | 10% | 26% | 36% | 17% | 7% | 4% |

(New page)

How many months from now do you expect it will take until it is safe for you do each of the following?
(Randomize)

Split A

n=464

| | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DK | Med |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| | Now | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12+ | | | |
| 26. Travel on an airplane | 7% | 3% | 9% | 11% | 8% | 4% | 13% | 2% | 4% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 18% | 15% | 5 | |
| 27. Stay at a hotel | 14% | 6% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 5% | 13% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 14% | 9% | 4 | |
| 28. Attend a major sporting event | 6% | 2% | 7% | 9% | 8% | 3% | 17% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 22% | 18% | 6 | |
| 29. Dine in at a restaurant | 9% | 10% | 13% | 16% | 9% | 4% | 13% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 1% | <1% | 11% | 8% | 3 | |
| 30. Go to a shopping mall | 8% | 8% | 13% | 12% | 10% | 5% | 14% | 1% | 3% | 2% | 2% | <1% | 11% | 10% | 4 | |

Split B

n=436

| | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DK | Med |
|---|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| | Now | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12+ | | | |
| 32. Ride public transportation | 14% | 7% | 10% | 12% | 9% | 6% | 10% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 1% | <1% | 12% | 14% | 4 | |
| 33. Get a haircut at a barber shop or salon | 12% | 11% | 21% | 11% | 9% | 5% | 9% | 2% | 2% | <1% | 1% | <1% | 5% | 10% | 2 | |
| 34. Attend a public meeting hosted by your local government | 8% | 7% | 9% | 16% | 10% | 5% | 11% | 2% | 3% | <1% | 1% | 1% | 11% | 16% | 4 | |
| 35. Attend a wedding of a family member | 9% | 7% | 12% | 14% | 10% | 4% | 14% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 2% | 0% | 9% | 12% | 4 | |
| 36. Go to a library. | 9% | 10% | 16% | 14% | 8% | 6% | 10% | 3% | 3% | 1% | 1% | <1% | 7% | 12% | 3 | |

(New page)

For these questions, please consider your personal behavior. You may choose not to return to normal activities even if they are allowed in Oregon. We want to know what will be important to you.

How important will the following be to you when deciding to return to normal activities. **(Randomize)**

| Response category n=900 | Very important | Somewhat important | Not too important | Not at all important | Don't know |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 48. Recommendations from elected officials | 15% | 37% | 24% | 19% | 5% |
| 49. Recommendations from public health officials | 46% | 33% | 11% | 6% | 3% |
| 50. Behavior of other people in my community | 38% | 36% | 15% | 7% | 4% |
| 51. Availability of widespread COVID-19 testing | 58% | 27% | 9% | 3% | 3% |
| 52. Availability of effective COVID-19 treatments | 58% | 29% | 7% | 3% | 3% |
| 53. Availability of an effective COVID-19 vaccine | 54% | 24% | 10% | 8% | 4% |
| 54. Low rate of new COVID-19 infections | 56% | 33% | 7% | 3% | 2% |
| 55. Low number of people who die from COVID-19 | 44% | 34% | 12% | 5% | 4% |
| 56. Capacity at hospitals and health systems to treat everybody who needs care | 53% | 32% | 10% | 3% | 3% |

DEMOGRAPHICS

(New page)

66. Would you say in general your health is:

| Response category | n=900 |
|-------------------|-------|
| Excellent | 17% |
| Very good | 38% |
| Good | 28% |
| Fair | 12% |
| Poor | 4% |
| Don't know | 1% |

67. Do you have any medical conditions that make you more vulnerable to COVID-19?

| Response category | n=900 |
|-------------------|-------|
| Yes | 33% |
| No | 57% |
| Don't know | 10% |

68. In what year were you born? (Autofill age as:)

| Response category | n=900 |
|-------------------|-------|
| 18–29 | 21% |
| 30–44 | 26% |
| 45–64 | 32% |
| 65+ | 21% |

69. I describe my gender as:

| Response category | n=900 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 49% |
| Non-binary or gender non-conforming | 2% |
| Trans | n=4 |
| Other | n=4 |

70. In what county do you live? (Dropdown box of all Oregon counties)
(Autofill area as:)

| Response category | n=900 |
|-------------------|-------|
| Tri-county | 44% |
| Willamette Valley | 27% |
| Rest of state | 29% |

71. What is your party registration?

| Response category | n=900 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Democrat | 32% |
| Republican | 22% |
| Another party | 11% |
| Not affiliated with a political party | 25% |
| Not registered to vote | 9% |

72. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

| Response category | n=900 |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Less than high school | 3% |
| High school diploma/GED | 30% |
| Some college/2-year degree | 36% |
| College degree/4-year degree | 16% |
| Graduate/professional school | 15% |

73. What was your total household income in 2019? Remember to include everyone and your best guess is okay.

| Response category | n=900 |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Less than \$25,000 | 23% |
| \$25,000 to less than \$50,000 | 22% |
| \$50,000 to less than \$75,000 | 20% |
| \$75,000 to less than \$100,000 | 13% |
| \$100,000 to less than \$150,000 | 15% |
| \$150,000 or more | 7% |

74. With which of the following races and ethnicities do you identify? Check all that apply.

| Response category | n=900 |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| African | 1% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 6% |
| Black/African American | 2% |
| Hispanic/Latino/a/x | 10% |
| Middle Eastern/North African | n=4 |
| Native American/American Indian | 6% |
| Slavic | 2% |
| White or Caucasian | 85% |
| Other | 3% |