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## 6 IN 10 FLORIDIANS SUPPORT REQUIRING MASKS IN SCHOOLS, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; $61 \%$ SAY RECENT RISE IN COVID-19 CASES IN FLORIDA WAS PREVENTABLE

As Florida deals with a surge in COVID-19 cases and a battle intensifies over an executive order issued by Governor Ron DeSantis to ban mask mandates in schools, a majority of people in Florida say $60-36$ percent that they support requiring students, teachers, and staff to wear masks in schools, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University poll of Florida adults released today. There are sharp political divides on this question as Democrats support school mask requirements $98-1$ percent, independents support them $63-32$ percent, and Republicans oppose them $72-24$ percent.

Schools should be able to require masks for all students, say 54 percent of Floridians in a separate question, while 44 percent say that parents should decide whether or not their own student will be wearing a mask.

On Gov. DeSantis' threat to withhold school leaders' salaries if they require masks for students, 69 percent say it's a bad idea, while 25 percent say it's a good idea. There is agreement across partisan lines, as Democrats say $91-8$ percent, independents say $70-26$ percent, and Republicans say $52-38$ percent that it's a bad idea.
"As COVID-19 makes a frightening resurgence, it’s Tallahassee vs. the teaching institutions. Thumbs down from Floridians on DeSantis' ban on mask requirements in public schools. Thumbs down on DeSantis' call to freeze pay of administrators who mandate mask wearing. And he gets scant support from fellow Republicans on penalizing the school leaders who defy him," said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

## MASKS

Nearly 7 in 10 ( $68-29$ percent) say they think local officials should be able to require masks in indoor public spaces if they believe it is necessary.

A majority support $59-39$ percent requiring everyone to wear masks while in indoor public spaces.
A majority believe 64-31 percent that masks or face coverings are effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Sixty-three percent of Floridians say the issue of mask wearing is primarily about public health, while 33 percent say it is an issue about personal freedom. Republicans stand alone among all groups in saying $58-39$ percent that the issue of mask wearing is primarily about personal freedom.

While 41 percent say that Governor Ron DeSantis is helping efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Florida, 46 percent say he is hurting efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. Twelve percent did not offer an opinion.

A majority of Floridians say $61-33$ percent that the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in the state was preventable.

Nearly 6 in 10 (59 percent) say the spread of COVID-19 in the state is out of control, while 34 percent say it is under control.

Almost three-quarters (73-25 percent) think the spread of COVID-19 in the state is a serious problem at this time.
"Concerns about COVID-19 are palpable, and frustration with the surge in cases is reflected in the fact that a majority of Floridians say it should never have happened," added Malloy.

VACCINATIONS
Among adults, 74 percent say they have either received a COVID-19 vaccine or are planning to receive one, while 19 percent say they do not plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Among those who say they do not plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, a majority ( $68-20$ percent) say they think that receiving a COVID-19 vaccine would be more damaging to their health than becoming infected with COVID-19. Twelve percent did not offer an opinion.

Florida adults were asked whether they support or oppose COVID-19 vaccine requirements for various groups:

- For health care workers, 62 percent support, while 33 percent oppose;
- For teachers, 60 percent support, while 36 percent oppose;
- For employees of businesses, 50 percent support, while 44 percent oppose.

Asked about different businesses requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccination:

- For passengers of cruise lines, 63 percent support, while 33 percent oppose;
- For customers of indoor businesses, 42 percent support, while 54 percent oppose.
"If you teach or administer to the sick, it is your responsibility to get vaccinated, say Florida adults. And that relaxing cruise? Roll up your sleeve," added Malloy.

More than 6 in 10 Floridians ( $63-35$ percent) say they are concerned about the strain of COVID-19 called the Delta variant.

However, a majority of Floridians ( 56 percent) say they are either not too worried ( 28 percent) or not worried at all ( 28 percent) about becoming infected and seriously ill from COVID-19. Forty-three percent say they are either very worried (17 percent) or somewhat worried ( 26 percent) about becoming infected and seriously ill from COVID-19.

More than a third of Florida adults (37 percent) say they are limiting interactions with friends and family members who don't share their views about COVID-19, while 60 percent say they are not. There are partisan divides, as Democrats say $62-35$ percent that they are limiting interactions with those friends and family members, while independents say $64-34$ percent and Republicans say $75-23$ percent that they are not limiting their interactions.

997 adults in Florida were surveyed from August $17^{\text {th }}-21^{\text {st }}$ with a margin of error of $+/-3.1$ percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on random samples of adults using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.
Visit poll.qu.edu or www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll Email poll@qu.edu, or follow us on Twitter @QuinnipiacPoll.
15. (Adults) Which comes closest to your situation: you are not planning to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, or you are planning to receive or have already received a COVID-19 vaccine?


15a. (If not planning to receive q15) In general, which do you think would be more damaging to your health: receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or becoming infected with COVID-19?

ADULTS-NOT PLANNING TO RECEIVE Q15
Receiving vaccine 68\%
Becoming infected 20
DK/NA 12
16. (Adults) How worried, if at all, are you about becoming infected and seriously ill from COVID-19: very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?


|  | North/ |  |  | DENSITY............ |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Suburb Rural |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very worried | $16 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Somewhat worried | 29 | 26 | 24 | 24 | 26 | 25 | 29 | 24 |
| Not too worried | 29 | 38 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 36 |
| Not worried at all | 25 | 22 | 34 | 35 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| DK/NA | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |

17. (Adults) Do you think that Governor DeSantis is helping or hurting efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Florida?

18. (Adults) Do you think the spread of COVID-19 in the state is a serious problem at this time, or don't you think so?

|  | ADULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | WHI | . |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 YR | LL DE |  |
|  | Tot | Rep | Dem | Ind | Men | Wom | Yes | No |  |
| Yes/Serious problem | 73\% | 47\% | 98\% | 75\% | 67\% | 78\% | 73\% | 64\% |  |
| No | 25 | 50 | 1 | 24 | 31 | 20 | 26 | 34 |  |
| DK/NA | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  |
|  | AGE IN | YRS |  |  | WHITE |  |  |  |  |
|  | 18-34 | 35-49 | 50-64 | $65+$ | Men | Wom | Wht | Blk | Hsp |
| Yes/Serious problem | 65\% | 77\% | 76\% | 72\% | 64\% | 70\% | 67\% | 88\% | 76\% |
| No | 33 | 22 | 24 | 23 | 34 | 27 | 30 | 9 | 23 |
| DK/NA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
|  | AREA. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | North/ |  |  |  |  | DENS | Y. | . |  |
|  | PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Subu | Rural |  |
| Yes/Serious problem | 70\% | 71\% | 72\% | 72\% | 76\% | 78\% | 73\% | 62\% |  |
| No | 29 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 23 | 20 | 26 | 36 |  |
| DK/NA | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 1 |  |

19. (Adults) When it comes to the spread of COVID-19 in the state, do you think that it is under control or out of control at this time?

20. (Adults) Do you think the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in Florida over the past few weeks was preventable or not preventable?

|  | ADULTS . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tot | Rep | Dem | Ind | Men | Wom | WHITE. . . . . . . 4 YR COLL DEG |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Yes | No |  |
| Preventable | 61\% | 37\% | 91\% | 61\% | 56\% | 65\% | 61\% | 52\% |  |
| Not preventable | 33 | 53 | 7 | 34 | 38 | 27 | 33 | 38 |  |
| DK/NA | 7 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 10 |  |
|  | AGE IN | YRS. |  |  | WHITE. . . . |  |  |  |  |
|  | 18-34 | 35-49 | 50-64 | $65+$ | Men | Wom | Wht | Blk | Hsp |
| Preventable | 61\% | 58\% | 60\% | 65\% | 50\% | 60\% | 55\% | 86\% | 60\% |
| Not preventable | 36 | 37 | 32 | 26 | 42 | 31 | 36 | 12 | 35 |
| DK/NA | 3 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
|  | AREA. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | North/ |  |  |  |  | DENSITY..... |  |  |  |
|  | PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Subu | Rura |  |
| Preventable | 55\% | 58\% | 63\% | 59\% | 65\% | 67\% | 61\% | 45\% |  |
| Not preventable | 38 | 32 | 32 | 34 | 30 | 26 | 36 | 44 |  |
| DK/NA | 7 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 11 |  |

21. (Adults) Are you concerned about the strain of COVID-19 called the Delta variant, or not?

22. (Adults) Do you support or oppose requiring health care workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

23. (Adults) Do you support or oppose requiring teachers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

24. (Adults) Do you support or oppose businesses requiring their employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

25. (Adults) Do you support or oppose cruise lines requiring passengers to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccine?

|  | ADULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | WHI |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 YR | LL D |  |
|  | Tot | Rep | Dem | Ind | Men | Wom | Yes | No |  |
| Support | 63\% | 44\% | 92\% | 62\% | 57\% | 68\% | 66\% | 54\% |  |
| Oppose | 33 | 51 | 7 | 34 | 39 | 28 | 32 | 40 |  |
| DK/NA | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 |  |
|  | AGE IN | YRS. |  |  | WHITE |  |  |  |  |
|  | 18-34 | 35-49 | 50-64 | $65+$ | Men | Wom | Wht | Blk | Hsp |
| Support | 52\% | 59\% | 64\% | 75\% | 53\% | 63\% | 59\% | 74\% | 67\% |
| Oppose | 42 | 39 | 34 | 20 | 41 | 34 | 37 | 22 | 31 |
| DK/NA | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
|  | AREA. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | North/ |  |  |  |  | DENSI |  |  |  |
|  | PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Subu | Rura |  |
| Support | 55\% | 63\% | 64\% | 59\% | 67\% | 63\% | 67\% | 54\% |  |
| Oppose | 40 | 34 | 31 | 36 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 42 |  |
| DK/NA | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 |  |

26. (Adults) Do you support or oppose indoor businesses requiring customers to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccine?

27. (Adults) Do you support or oppose requiring students, teachers, and staff to wear masks in schools?

28. (Adults) Do you support or oppose requiring everyone to wear masks while in indoor public spaces?

29. (Adults) In general, do you consider the issue of wearing masks to be primarily about personal freedom or primarily about public health?

30. (Adults) Do you believe that masks or face coverings are effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19, or not?

|  | ADULTS . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tot | Rep | Dem | Ind | Men | Wom | WHITE........ 4 YR COLL DEG |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Yes | No |  |
| Yes/Effective | 64\% | 40\% | 95\% | 61\% | 60\% | 69\% | 66\% | 55\% |  |
| No | 31 | 56 | 4 | 33 | 36 | 27 | 32 | 39 |  |
| DK/NA | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 |  |
|  | AGE IN | YRS. |  |  | WHITE. . . . |  |  |  |  |
|  | 18-34 | 35-49 | 50-64 | $65+$ | Men | Wom | Wht | Blk | Hsp |
| Yes/Effective | 67\% | 61\% | 65\% | 65\% | 52\% | 64\% | 58\% | 88\% | 63\% |
| No | 28 | 35 | 32 | 29 | 43 | 32 | 37 | 9 | 34 |
| DK/NA | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
|  | AREA. . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | North/ |  |  |  |  | DENSITY..... |  |  |  |
|  | PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Subu | Rural |  |
| Yes/Effective | 58\% | 62\% | 66\% | 70\% | 67\% | 72\% | 63\% | 51\% |  |
| No | 37 | 32 | 30 | 27 | 31 | 26 | 32 | 44 |  |
| DK/NA | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 |  |

31. (Adults) Do you think schools should be able to require masks for all students, or do you think parents should decide whether or not their own student will be wearing a mask?

32. (Adults) As you may know, Governor DeSantis has said that school leaders' salaries may be withheld if they require masks for students. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Tot | Rep | Dem | Ind | Men | Wom | Yes | No |  |
| Good idea | 25\% | 38\% | 8\% | 26\% | 31\% | 19\% | 26\% | 30\% |  |
| Bad idea | 69 | 52 | 91 | 70 | 63 | 74 | 69 | 60 |  |
| DK/NA | 6 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 10 |  |
|  | AGE IN | YRS. |  |  | WHITE. |  |  |  |  |
|  | 18-34 | 35-49 | 50-64 | $65+$ | Men | Wom | Wht | Blk | Hsp |
| Good idea | 23\% | 21\% | 26\% | 27\% | 35\% | 24\% | 29\% | 10\% | 24\% |
| Bad idea | 74 | 71 | 69 | 67 | 57 | 67 | 63 | 89 | 71 |
| DK/NA | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
|  | AREA. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | North/ |  |  |  |  | DENS | Y. |  |  |
|  | PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Subu | Rura |  |
| Good idea | 27\% | 24\% | 25\% | 26\% | 24\% | 19\% | 29\% | 32\% |  |
| Bad idea | 64 | 66 | 71 | 62 | 73 | 77 | 65 | 56 |  |
| DK/NA | 9 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 11 |  |

33. (Adults) In general, do you think that local officials should be able to require masks in indoor public spaces if they believe it is necessary, or not?

34. (Adults) Do you have any kids that are attending elementary, middle, or high school this year?


|  | North/ |  |  |  |  | DENSITY. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Subu | Rural |
| Yes | 30\% | 22\% | 21\% | 19\% | 30\% | 29\% | 23\% | 23\% |
| No | 68 | 77 | 79 | 79 | 70 | 71 | 77 | 77 |
| DK/NA | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |

34a. (If yes, kids in school q34) Regardless of school requirements, are your kids wearing a mask to school this year, or not?

ADULTS-WITH KIDS IN SCHOOL Q34

| Yes/Wearing mask | $70 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| No | 26 |
| DK/NA | 4 |

35. (Adults) Have you limited your interaction with friends or family members who don't share your views about COVID-19, or not?

|  | ADULTS . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tot | Rep | Dem | Ind | Men | Wom | WHITE........ <br> 4 YR COLL DEG |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Yes | No |  |
| Yes | 37\% | 23\% | 62\% | 34\% | 32\% | 43\% | 41\% | 33\% |  |
| No | 60 | 75 | 35 | 64 | 66 | 54 | 57 | 63 |  |
| DK/NA | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 |  |
|  | AGE IN | YRS. |  |  | WHITE. |  |  |  |  |
|  | 18-34 | 35-49 | 50-64 | $65+$ | Men | Wom | Wht | Blk | Hsp |
| Yes | 23\% | 47\% | 42\% | 43\% | 30\% | 41\% | 36\% | 52\% | 34\% |
| No | 74 | 51 | 57 | 53 | 67 | 56 | 61 | 45 | 66 |
| DK/NA | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | - |


| North/ |  |  |  |  | DENSITY. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PnHnd | Bay | Cntrl | Sthw | SthE | City | Sub | Rural |
| 34\% | 26\% | 40\% | 43\% | 43\% | 42\% | 36\% | 31\% |
| 63 | 70 | 58 | 54 | 54 | 54 | 63 | 67 |
| 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

