

Vaccines in Kentucky – The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Poll

Should the COVID-19 Vaccine be Required in Kentucky?

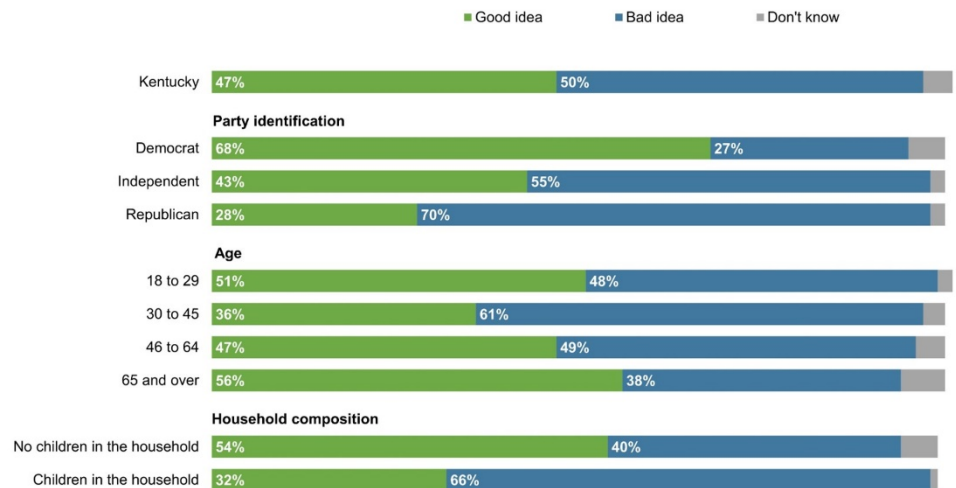
The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky sponsored **Vaccines in Kentucky**, a poll that interviewed adults across the state to learn more about their opinions on vaccines and intentions to take the COVID-19 vaccine. The Poll was conducted February 11 to March 12, 2021. At that time, COVID-19 vaccines, distributed under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) allowed by the Food and Drug Administration,¹ were available to Kentucky first responders, health care, childcare and K-12 personnel, people living in long-term care and assisted-living facilities, and adults ages 70 and older.² Although very few organizations were requiring the vaccine, the Poll asked Kentucky adults their opinion on the topic.³ At the time of the Poll, more than 8 in 10 Kentucky adults reported knowing someone who had been diagnosed with COVID-19 (83%).

School requirement

Though COVID-19 vaccinations were not yet approved for children at the time of the Poll, Kentucky adults were split on whether it would be a good idea (47%) or bad idea (50%) to require them for in-person school. Opinion on school requirements for COVID-19 vaccines for children differed by respondents' political party identification.

Opinions also differed depending on whether there were children in the household. In households with children, nearly 7 in 10 said this was a bad idea (66%), while 4 in 10 adults in households without children said the same (40%).

Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for schools to require children to get a vaccination for COVID-19 before being allowed to go to school in-person?



SOURCE: Vaccines in Kentucky – The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Poll
Conducted February 11 – March 12, 2021



¹ U.S. Food and Drug Administration. About Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs). Retrieved from www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization#abouteuas.

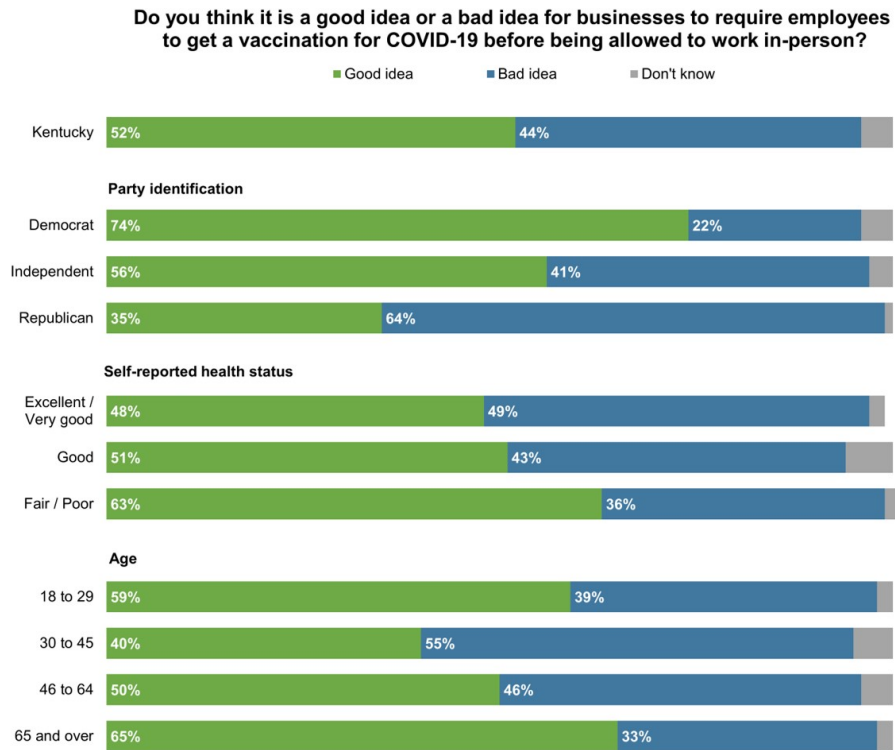
² Kentucky COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard. Frequently Asked Questions. Retrieved from govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-vaccine.

³ For a summary of mandates, see www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/key-questions-about-covid-19-vaccine-mandates/.

These findings, unless otherwise noted, are from **Vaccines in Kentucky – The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Poll**, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. This Poll was conducted February 11 - March 12, 2021, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 807 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 212 landline interviews and 595 cell phone interviews. In 95 of 100 cases, the full sample estimates will be accurate to $\pm 3.5\%$. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as nonresponse, question wording or context effects that can introduce error or bias. Note: results by race are not presented because of a small number of African American respondents in the state-wide sample. For more information about **Vaccines in Kentucky – The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Poll**, please visit www.healthy-ky.org.

Business requirement

Overall, slightly more Kentucky adults thought businesses requiring employees to get COVID-19 vaccines before working in-person was a good idea (52%) than a bad one (44%). Like opinion on requiring COVID-19 vaccines for children, 3 in 4 Democrats said this was a good idea (74%) while about 1 in 3 Republicans (35%) said the same. Adults with excellent, very good, or good health were split on whether this requirement was a good or bad idea. Six in 10 adults with fair or poor health thought it was a good idea (63%). Additionally, a majority of Kentucky adults ages 65 and older also believed a business requirement for employee COVID-19 vaccination was a good idea (65%).



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