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Goucher College Poll results: Most vaccinated Marylanders likely to get a booster shot; Two-thirds of vaccinated residents have limited the time they spend with unvaccinated friends, family, or acquaintances; Residents still concerned about contracting COVID-19

BALTIMORE (October 27, 2021)—The Goucher College Poll asked Maryland residents about the COVID-19 pandemic, including their views on Gov. Larry Hogan’s handling of the coronavirus, whether they have received the vaccine, their concern for themselves or a close family member getting the coronavirus, and when they expect to return to their normal, pre-COVID lives. Vaccinated residents were also asked if they planned to get a booster shot and whether they’ve limited the in-person time they’ve spent with family, friends, and acquaintances who have not received the vaccine. The Goucher College Poll surveyed 700 Maryland adults from October 14 to 20, 2021, and has a margin of error of +/-3.7 percent. Results by voter registration and other key demographics are provided.

Maryland and the Coronavirus

Maryland is among the most vaccinated states in the country. Matching the vaccination rates of Maryland adults collected by the Centers for Disease Control, **78 percent** of Maryland residents say they have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and another **1 percent** plan to get it as soon as possible. **Five percent** say they will wait to see how it’s working before they get it, and **2 percent** will only get it if required. **Nine percent** will definitely not get the vaccine.

Among Marylanders who have received the vaccine:

- **83 percent** say they are likely to get a vaccine booster shot when it becomes available, and **15 percent** say they are unlikely.
- **67 percent** say that they have limited the time spent with friends, family, or acquaintances who have not been vaccinated, and **30 percent** say they have not.

Marylanders are somewhat less concerned about themselves or a close family member contracting COVID-19 than they were back in March 2021. **Forty percent** of Marylanders say they are “not at all” or “a little” concerned about themselves or a close family member contracting COVID-19, while **59 percent** are “somewhat” or “very” concerned.

Residents are mixed in their attitudes toward when Marylanders will be able to fully return to their normal, pre-COVID lives:

- **5 percent** think things are already back to normal.
- **5 percent** think within the next one to three months.
- **15 percent** think within the next four to six months.
- **28 percent** think within the next year.
- **29 percent** think more than a year from now.
- **16 percent** think never.

Gov. Larry Hogan continues to earn high marks on his handling of the coronavirus in Maryland. **Seventy-nine percent** of respondents approve of how Hogan has handled the outbreak of the coronavirus in Maryland, and **20 percent** disapprove. A year ago, **82 percent** of Marylanders approved of how Hogan was handling the outbreak.

To view archived polls, please visit www.goucher.edu/poll. The third part of this poll will be released on Thursday, October 28, at 12:01 a.m.

About the Goucher College Poll

The Goucher College Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics at Goucher College. The center is directed by Dr. Mileah Kromer, associate professor of political science.

The Goucher College Poll is funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources. The mission of the Goucher College Poll is to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, unbiased, and independent information on resident perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the poll are used to support faculty and student research.

The Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.

For more information, or to view archived polls, please visit www.goucher.edu/poll.



Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a county-level stratified random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. The sample of telephone numbers and interviewing were provided by Dynata (<https://www.dynata.com/>). The survey was conducted **October 14 to 20, 2021**. During this time, interviews were conducted from **1 to 9 p.m.**

Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Only Maryland adults—residents aged 18 years or older—were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted with adults who were reached at business or work numbers. **Eighty-four percent** of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone and **16 percent** were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with **700** Maryland adults. For a sample size of **700**, there is a **95 percent** probability the survey results have a **+/-3.7 percentage** point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. For the sample of **631 Maryland adults** identified as registered voters, there is a **95 percent** probability the survey results have a **+/-3.9 percentage** point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples. In addition to sampling error, all surveys are subject to sources of non-sampling error, including question wording effects, question order effects, and non-response bias. Margin of error is not adjusted for design effects. Data is weighted by gender, age, race, region, and educational attainment of the state to represent adult population targets established by the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Census.

Survey Question Design

The Goucher College Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which they are administered to respondents.

BRACKETED ITEMS []: Items and statements in brackets are rotated to ensure respondents do not receive a set order of response options, which maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent agreement based on question composition.

Example: [agree or disagree] or [disagree or agree]

PROBE (p): Some questions contain a “probe” maneuver to determine a respondent’s intensity of opinion/perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking respondents if their responses are more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of President Joe Biden?

PROBE: Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?

OPEN-ENDED: No response options are provided for an open-ended question, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information. Any response options provided to the interviewer are not read to the respondent; they are only used to help reduce interviewer error and time in coding the response.

VOLUNTEER (v): Volunteer responses means the interviewer did not offer that response option in the question as read to the interviewer. Interviewers are instructed not to offer “don’t know” or “refused” or “some other opinion” to the respondent, but the respondent is free to volunteer that information for the interviewer to record.

Goucher College Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Population Parameter <i>Adults</i>	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Adults</i> (n=700)	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Registered Voters</i> (n=631)
Gender			
Male	48	48	47
Female	52	52	53
Age			
18 to 24	11	11	11
25 to 34	17	17	17
35 to 44	17	17	17
45 to 54	17	17	17
55 to 64	17	17	17
65+	21	21	21
Race			
White	59	59	60
Black	31	31	31
All other	10	10	9
Education			
High school or less	34	34	32
Tech/AA/some college	25	25	26
Four-year college degree	22	22	23
Adv./professional degree	19	19	19
County/Region			
Montgomery County	17	17	17
Prince George's County	16	16	16
Baltimore County	14	14	14
Baltimore City	10	10	9
Anne Arundel County	10	10	10
Central Region	12	12	12
Western Region	6	6	7
Eastern Shore Region	7	7	7
Southern Region	8	8	8

Counties included in region

- Central: Carroll, Harford, and Howard
- Southern: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s
- Eastern Shore: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Western: Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington

Registered Voters

Registered voter screen question:

Q: REGVOTE

Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If “Yes,” follow up: Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, independent or unaffiliated, or something else?

Of the **700** Maryland adult residents surveyed, **631** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e., independent).

Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)

	Maryland Voter Registration <i>September 2021</i>	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Registered Voters (n=631)</i>
Democratic Party	55	56
Republican Party	24	25
Unaffiliated (i.e., independent)	20	17
Other party	2	2
Total=	100	631 +/-3.9%

Note: Voter registration statistics from the Maryland State Board of Elections can be found at <http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

Q: IDEO

Do you consider yourself to be politically [**conservative, moderate, or progressive**]?

	Adults	Registered Voters
Conservative	23	23
Moderate	53	54
Progressive	21	20
Don't know/refused (v)	3	3
Total=	700 +/-3.7	631 +/-3.9

The following questions were asked to the full sample of 700 Maryland adults. A link to the results by demographics are found at the bottom of page 10. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: COVIDGOV

Next, I want to ask you some questions about Maryland’s response to COVID-19, the coronavirus. To start, do you [**approve or disapprove**] of how Gov. Larry Hogan has handled the outbreak of the coronavirus in Maryland?

PROBE

	OCT 20	MAR 21	OCT 21
Strongly disapprove (p)	7	11	10
Disapprove	9	11	10
Approve	41	41	40
Strongly approve (p)	41	35	39
Don’t know (v)	2	3	1
Total=	1,002 +/-3.1	725 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7

Q: VACCINE

Have you personally received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or not?

If they haven’t received the vaccine, follow-up: When the COVID-19 vaccine is available to you, do you think **you’ll get it as soon as you can, wait and see how it’s working before you get it, only get it if required, or are you definitely not going to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

	MAR 21	OCT 21
Already received at least one dose	19	78
Will get it as soon as they can	45	1
Will wait and see how it’s working	15	5
Will only get it if it’s required	8	2
Will definitely not get the vaccine	10	9
Don’t know (v)	2	1
Refused (v)	1	4
Total=	725 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7

The 78 percent of respondents who indicated they have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered **BOOSTER** and **LIMIT**:

Q: BOOSTER

How [likely or unlikely] are you to get a COVID vaccine booster shot when it becomes available to you?

	OCT 21
Very unlikely (p)	7
Unlikely	8
Likely	17
Very Likely (p)	66
Don't know (v)	2
Refused (v)	0
Total=	546 +/-4.2

Q: LIMIT

Over the past few months, have you limited the in-person time you've spent with friends, family, or acquaintances who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19, or not?

	OCT 21
Have limited	67
Have not limited	30
Don't know (v)	3
Refused (v)	0
Total=	546 +/-4.2

Q: FAMILY

How concerned are you—[very, somewhat, a little, or not at all]—about yourself personally or a close family member getting the coronavirus?

	OCT 20	MAR 21	OCT 21
Not at all	14	13	21
A little	17	16	19
Somewhat	27	28	25
Very	42	43	34
Don't know (v)	--	1	1
Refused (v)	--	--	>1
Total=	1,002 +/-3.1	725 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7

Q: NORMAL

When do you expect that Marylanders will be able to fully return to their normal, pre-COVID lives: **within the next one to three months, within the next four to six months, within the next year, more than a full year from now, never, or are we already back to normal?**

	OCT 21
Already back to normal	5
Within the next 1 to 3 months	5
Within the next 4 to 6 months	15
Within the next year	28
More than a year from now	29
Never	16
Don't know (v)	2
Refused (v)	>1
Total=	700 +/-3.7

[See results by demographics.](#)