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NEW JERSEY: COVID EXPOSURE, CONCERN INCREASES

But few have gotten new bivalent booster

West Long Branch, NJ – A majority of New Jerseyans remain concerned about a serious Covid-related illness affecting their family nearly three years after the pandemic first hit the state. The ***Monmouth (“Mon-muth”) University Poll*** also finds that the number of Garden State residents who report testing positive for Covid has surpassed a majority. Still, New Jerseyans oppose, by a 2 to 1 margin, bringing back mask and social distancing guidelines. Fewer than 1 in 4 have received the bivalent booster shot that became available last fall.

A majority of New Jersey adults are concerned (27% very and 30% somewhat) about someone in their family becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus outbreak. This level of concern (57% combined) is up slightly from last year (50% in April 2022), but is lower than in 2021 when about 2 in 3 were concerned about a serious Covid illness in their family. The number of state residents who report testing positive for Covid has risen from 38% nearly a year ago to 56% in the current poll. This increase has been seen in every demographic group.

At the same time, only 1 in 3 (32%) New Jerseyans support reinstituting general face mask and social distancing guidelines in the state, while 63% are opposed. These results are virtually unchanged from last year, although this is a reversal from polls taken in 2021 when 6 in 10 backed bringing back these measures. Support for reinstituting Covid guidelines varies across party lines – from 50% of Democrats who support bringing back social distancing measures to just 26% of independents and 15% of Republicans who feel the same. Support in New Jersey for bringing back Covid guidelines is not much higher than national opinion (25% according to a [Monmouth poll](#) conducted last fall).

“New Jersey’s attitude seems to be Covid is here to stay and we’ve just got to live with it,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

More than 8 in 10 New Jersey adults report being vaccinated for Covid, including 2 in 3 who have received a booster shot. However, only 23% of the adult population has gotten the bivalent booster

which became available last September. One-third of those age 55 and older (33%) have gotten the bivalent shot versus fewer than 1 in 5 adults under 55 years old. Uptake of the new booster is more common among Democrats (35%) than among independents (18%) and Republicans (15%). On top of the nearly 1 in 4 who have gotten the new booster, another 16% say they are very likely to get it. At the other end of the spectrum, 35% say they are not at all likely to get it. Garden State residents are only slightly more willing to get the bivalent booster than all Americans based on recent [Monmouth national polling](#).

“New Jerseyans may be vaxxed out at this point. Based on past findings, most of those who will get the new booster have already done so. If you don’t feel you are very likely to do it, you almost certainly won’t. That means it’s probable that less than half of the state population will be covered by the bivalent booster,” said Murray.

In other poll findings, Gov. Phil Murphy continues to receive broadly positive reviews for his handling of the Covid outbreak, with 66% saying he has done a good job and just 26% saying he has done a bad job. Approval of Murphy’s Covid actions come from 91% of Democrats, 61% of independents, and 37% of Republicans. His positive rating for handling Covid has never dropped below 60% since the pandemic started three years ago.

“More than a handful of Republicans give Murphy props for how he’s dealt with the pandemic, which is saying something in the current political environment. It’s just not the most important issue for state residents of any partisan stripe right now,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from January 5 to 9, 2023 with 809 New Jersey adults. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 4.7 percentage points for the full sample. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1 & Q29-37 held for future release.]

[Q2-28 previously released.]

38. How concerned are you about someone in your family becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus outbreak – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

TREND:	Jan. 2023	April 2022	Sept. 2021*	Aug. 2021*	May 2021	April 2020
Very concerned	27%	23%	43%	43%	38%	60%
Somewhat concerned	30%	27%	27%	25%	24%	26%
Not too concerned	22%	26%	17%	17%	19%	8%
Not at all concerned	19%	23%	12%	12%	17%	5%
(VOL) Has already happened	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
(VOL) Don't know	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
(n)	(809)	(802)	(804)	(810)	(706)	(704)

* Registered voters

39. At any time during the pandemic, did you ever have Covid or think you had Covid?
 [If YES: Was your Covid status confirmed with a test, were you given the diagnosis by a medical professional without a test, or did you just know you had Covid?]

TREND:	Jan. 2023	April 2022
Yes, confirmed with a test	56%	38%
Yes, without a test	2%	2%
Yes, just knew had Covid	7%	9%
No, have not had Covid	34%	50%
(VOL) Don't know	1%	1%
(n)	(809)	(802)

40. Has Governor Murphy done a good job or bad job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak?

TREND:	Jan. 2023	April 2022	Sept. 2021*	Aug. 2021*	May 2021	April 2020
Good job	66%	67%	62%	61%	66%	79%
Bad job	26%	25%	27%	28%	27%	10%
(VOL) Mixed, depends	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	2%	5%	6%	1%	3%
(n)	(809)	(802)	(804)	(810)	(706)	(704)

* Registered voters

41. Do you support or oppose reinstituting face mask and social distancing guidelines in New Jersey at the current time?

TREND:	Jan. 2023	April 2022	Sept. 2021*	Aug. 2021*
Support	32%	34%	61%	62%
Oppose	63%	64%	36%	35%
(VOL) Depends	3%	2%	n/a	n/a
(VOL) Don't know	2%	1%	4%	3%
(n)	(809)	(802)	(804)	(810)

* Registered voters

42. Have you received at least one dose of Covid vaccine, or not?

TREND:	Jan. 2023	April 2021	Sept. 2021*	Aug. 2021*	May 2021
Yes	82%	80%	84%	79%	63%
No	16%	18%	14%	17%	36%
(VOL) Don't know	1%	2%	2%	5%	2%
(n)	(809)	(802)	(804)	(810)	(706)

* Registered voters

43. Have you received a booster shot of the Covid vaccine, or not? [If YES:] Have you received a booster since September – that was when the new multi-strain boosters came out – or was your last booster shot before September?

	Jan. 2023
Boosted since Sept.	23%
Boosted before Sept.	43%
Not received booster	16%
Not vaxxed (from Q42)	16%
(VOL) Don't know	1%
(n)	(809)

44. How likely are you to get the new multi-strain Covid booster shot – very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

COMPARISON:	Jan. 2023	April 2022*
Already received booster (from Q43)	23%	59%
Very likely	16%	4%
Somewhat likely	13%	5%
Not too likely	11%	6%
Not at all likely	35%	24%
(VOL) Don't know	1%	1%
(n)	(809)	(802)

*Asked about likelihood of receiving the original booster then available.

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from January 5 to 9, 2023 with a probability-based random sample of 809 New Jersey adults age 18 and older. This includes 286 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 523 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Trolldahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (ACS 2021 one-year survey). Interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, with sample obtained from Dynata. For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 4.7 percentage points (adjusted for sample design effects). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

NJ Regions (by county)

North – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, Warren

Central – Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset

South – Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, Salem

DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)

Self-Reported

23% Republican

39% Independent

38% Democrat

49% Male

51% Female

27% 18-34

34% 35-54

39% 55+

55% White

13% Black

20% Hispanic

12% Asian/Other

59% No degree

41% 4 year degree

MARGIN OF ERROR		unweighted sample	moe (+/-)
TOTAL		809	4.7%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	756	4.8%
	No	53	18.3%
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	Republican	176	10.0%
	Independent	315	7.5%
	Democrat	294	7.8%
REGION	North	360	7.0%
	Central	248	8.5%
	South	186	9.8%
GENDER	Male	396	6.7%
	Female	413	6.6%
AGE	18-34	141	11.2%
	35-54	302	7.7%
	55+	350	7.1%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	515	5.9%
	Other	271	8.1%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	335	7.3%
	4 year degree	469	6.1%
INCOME	<\$50K	118	12.2%
	\$50 to <\$100K	194	9.6%
	\$100K+	427	6.4%
CHILDREN IN HOME	Yes	239	8.6%
	No	566	5.6%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 1/24/23

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
38. How concerned are you about someone in your family becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus outbreak – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?	Very concerned	27%	26%	33%	16%	20%	39%	25%	30%	25%
	Somewhat concerned	30%	31%	27%	21%	27%	39%	33%	30%	27%
	Not too concerned	22%	22%	25%	23%	29%	15%	22%	21%	24%
	Not at all concerned	19%	20%	12%	40%	22%	5%	17%	17%	23%
	(VOL) Has already happened	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
38. How concerned are you about someone in your family becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus outbreak – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?	Very concerned	24%	29%	29%	20%	32%	20%	36%	30%	22%
	Somewhat concerned	27%	34%	29%	29%	33%	29%	34%	29%	33%
	Not too concerned	24%	21%	21%	26%	20%	24%	19%	19%	27%
	Not at all concerned	23%	15%	21%	23%	14%	25%	10%	20%	17%
	(VOL) Has already happened	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
38. How concerned are you about someone in your family becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus outbreak – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?	Very concerned	34%	36%	18%	18%	30%
	Somewhat concerned	39%	29%	30%	22%	34%
	Not too concerned	17%	20%	27%	28%	20%
	Not at all concerned	9%	13%	24%	30%	14%
	(VOL) Has already happened	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
39. At any time during the pandemic, did you ever have Covid or think you had Covid? Was your Covid status confirmed with a test, were you given the diagnosis by a medical professional without a test, or did you just know you had Covid?	Confirmed with a test	56%	58%	39%	58%	53%	60%	59%	62%	47%
	Given the diagnosis without a test	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
	Just knew had Covid	7%	7%	14%	7%	7%	7%	7%	5%	11%
	Havent had Covid	34%	33%	43%	32%	36%	31%	32%	29%	39%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	4%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 1/24/23

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
39. At any time during the pandemic, did you ever have Covid or think you had Covid? Was your Covid status confirmed with a test, were you given the diagnosis by a medical professional without a test, or did you just know you had Covid?	Confirmed with a test	55%	57%	62%	61%	50%	55%	58%	56%	58%
	Given the diagnosis without a test	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%
	Just knew had Covid	9%	6%	10%	9%	5%	7%	8%	7%	8%
	Havent had Covid	33%	34%	25%	27%	44%	35%	31%	36%	30%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
39. At any time during the pandemic, did you ever have Covid or think you had Covid? Was your Covid status confirmed with a test, were you given the diagnosis by a medical professional without a test, or did you just know you had Covid?	Confirmed with a test	51%	54%	61%	63%	54%
	Given the diagnosis without a test	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Just knew had Covid	7%	8%	7%	10%	7%
	Havent had Covid	41%	35%	28%	24%	37%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
40. Has Governor Murphy done a good job or bad job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak?	Good job	66%	65%	81%	37%	61%	91%	67%	70%	59%
	Bad job	26%	27%	14%	49%	32%	5%	24%	21%	34%
	(VOL) Mixed, depends	5%	5%	2%	10%	5%	3%	5%	7%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	4%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
40. Has Governor Murphy done a good job or bad job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak?	Good job	61%	70%	71%	64%	64%	55%	81%	66%	67%
	Bad job	30%	23%	23%	28%	26%	36%	14%	26%	26%
	(VOL) Mixed, depends	6%	4%	5%	4%	6%	6%	3%	5%	5%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	1%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
40. Has Governor Murphy done a good job or bad job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak?	Good job	70%	67%	68%	62%	68%
	Bad job	20%	26%	27%	30%	24%
	(VOL) Mixed, depends	3%	5%	4%	6%	5%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	2%	1%	2%	3%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 1/24/23

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
41. Do you support or oppose reinstituting face mask and social distancing guidelines in New Jersey at the current time?	Support	32%	32%	37%	15%	26%	50%	34%	32%	30%
	Oppose	63%	63%	58%	82%	69%	46%	61%	65%	63%
	(VOL) Depends	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	5%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
41. Do you support or oppose reinstituting face mask and social distancing guidelines in New Jersey at the current time?	Support	27%	37%	33%	26%	37%	21%	47%	35%	30%
	Oppose	67%	58%	63%	70%	56%	73%	50%	61%	67%
	(VOL) Depends	3%	3%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	3%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
41. Do you support or oppose reinstituting face mask and social distancing guidelines in New Jersey at the current time?	Support	41%	37%	26%	21%	37%
	Oppose	53%	59%	71%	76%	58%
	(VOL) Depends	5%	3%	2%	1%	4%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
42. Have you received at least one dose of Covid vaccine, or not?	Yes	82%	83%	79%	64%	80%	98%	87%	83%	75%
	No	16%	16%	18%	33%	19%	2%	13%	14%	24%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
42. Have you received at least one dose of Covid vaccine, or not?	Yes	80%	84%	84%	74%	89%	80%	87%	79%	88%
	No	18%	15%	16%	24%	10%	19%	12%	20%	11%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
42. Have you received at least one dose of Covid vaccine, or not?	Yes	81%	83%	84%	71%	87%
	No	19%	15%	15%	27%	12%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 1/24/23

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
43. Have you received a booster shot of the Covid vaccine, or not? [IF YES: Have you received a booster since September – that was when the new multi-strain boosters came out – or was your last booster shot before September?]	Received multi-strain booster	23%	25%	11%	15%	18%	35%	26%	24%	19%
	Received earlier booster	43%	43%	40%	29%	43%	52%	42%	45%	42%
	Vaxxed but no booster	16%	15%	28%	20%	19%	12%	19%	15%	14%
	Not vaxxed	16%	16%	18%	33%	19%	2%	13%	14%	24%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
43. Have you received a booster shot of the Covid vaccine, or not? [IF YES: Have you received a booster since September – that was when the new multi-strain boosters came out – or was your last booster shot before September?]	Received multi-strain booster	22%	24%	15%	19%	33%	26%	20%	18%	31%
	Received earlier booster	41%	45%	47%	39%	44%	39%	50%	44%	41%
	Vaxxed but no booster	17%	15%	22%	16%	12%	16%	17%	16%	17%
	Not vaxxed	18%	15%	16%	24%	10%	19%	12%	20%	11%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
43. Have you received a booster shot of the Covid vaccine, or not? [IF YES: Have you received a booster since September – that was when the new multi-strain boosters came out – or was your last booster shot before September?]	Received multi-strain booster	24%	22%	23%	16%	26%
	Received earlier booster	42%	41%	46%	34%	46%
	Vaxxed but no booster	15%	20%	15%	21%	14%
	Not vaxxed	19%	15%	15%	27%	12%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
44. How likely are you to get the new multi-strain Covid booster shot – very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?	Already received	23%	25%	11%	15%	18%	35%	26%	24%	19%
	Very likely	16%	16%	15%	6%	12%	27%	16%	17%	14%
	Somewhat likely	13%	14%	6%	5%	13%	19%	11%	16%	16%
	Not too likely	11%	10%	21%	11%	14%	10%	11%	12%	9%
	Not at all likely	35%	34%	46%	62%	43%	7%	34%	30%	40%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 1/24/23

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
44. How likely are you to get the new multi-strain Covid booster shot – very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?	Already received	22%	24%	15%	19%	33%	26%	20%	18%	31%
	Very likely	14%	18%	17%	16%	16%	13%	20%	16%	16%
	Somewhat likely	14%	13%	18%	10%	14%	10%	19%	15%	12%
	Not too likely	10%	12%	14%	13%	8%	11%	11%	10%	13%
	Not at all likely	39%	31%	36%	41%	28%	39%	29%	40%	27%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
44. How likely are you to get the new multi-strain Covid booster shot – very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?	Already received	24%	22%	23%	16%	26%
	Very likely	12%	15%	19%	14%	17%
	Somewhat likely	18%	13%	13%	8%	15%
	Not too likely	9%	16%	11%	14%	10%
	Not at all likely	34%	34%	34%	47%	30%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	0%	0%	1%	1%