

These measures can help reduce the number of people who are sick at the same time and they can delay the epidemic.

[Graphic showing how public health measures such as social distancing can flatten the epidemic curve and reduce the burden on the healthcare system.]

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Delaying the epidemic is important because it allows time for researchers to develop vaccines and cures and hospitals to get more equipment to treat those who are ill.

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## **E Survey Instrument Details**

### **E.I Longitudinal Survey**

The longitudinal survey is part of "Covid 19 Global Consumer Trends Report", a weekly, multi-country survey designed and administered by a consumer-research company, Dynata. It explores the opinions and attitudes of global consumers in 13 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic and is representative on first moments of age, gender, and geographic location of residence.<sup>38</sup> The survey includes the following questions:

Q1) The current pandemic is called Coronavirus by some and Covid 19 by others. What do you normally refer to it as? (*USE THE ANSWER TO Q1 IN ALL QUESTIONS WITH TEXT SUB <CV>*)

1. Coronavirus
2. Covid 19

Q2) When thinking about <CV> how worried, if at all, are you personally about:

- Your household's financial position
- Your personal health

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<sup>38</sup>The 13 countries are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States

- The health of elderly family members
- The availability of foodstuffs
- Being around strangers
- The economy in your country
- The world economy
- Healthcare systems being able to cope

1. Not at all worried
2. Slightly worried
3. Somewhat worried
4. Very worried
5. Extremely worried
98. Does not apply

Q3) Now thinking about your personal behaviour since the outbreak of <CV>. How would you say each of these has changed, if at all, in the past few weeks?

- Washing your hands
- Touching strangers
- Touching family members
- Touching friends
- Using hand sanitizer
- Going out to restaurants or bars
- Working from home
- Going shopping to physical stores
- Online shopping
- Using public transport
- Watching TV news

- Having food delivered
- Staying at home

Q4) Please indicate to what extent, if at all, you agree or disagree with these statements other people have made in light of the <CV> outbreak.

- Our government is taking the right steps to protect us
1. Disagree strongly
  2. Disagree slightly
  3. Neither agree nor disagree
  4. Agree slightly
  5. Agree strongly

Q5) When do you think the <CV> outbreak will be over, and life will return to normal?

1. Within a month
2. Within 2 months
3. Within 3 months
4. Within 6 months
5. Within a year
6. It will take longer than a year
7. Life will never be the same again
8. Don't know

After answering these pandemic-related attitudes and behavior questions, respondents were asked to answer three civil liberties-related questions, which we added to the survey starting the week of March 30, 2020 until the week of January 18, 2021<sup>39</sup>. The three questions, all of which were also included in our in-depth survey, are:

Q5) To what extent do you agree ("0: completely disagree" to "10: completely agree") with the

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<sup>39</sup>Sweden is added to the sample in the week of May 18, 2020

following statement: I am willing to sacrifice my own rights and freedoms during a crisis like the current one, in order to maintain the health and well-being of the whole society.

Q6) (*Randomly selected among the following four questions*) To what extent do you agree (“0: completely disagree” to “10: completely agree”) with the following statement:

- I am willing to suspend democratic procedures and give the President [or Prime Minister] more power during a crisis like the current one, in order to ensure swift government actions.
- I am willing to relax privacy protections and let the government access my personal data during a crisis like the current one, in order to allow the government to make timely and accurate decisions.
- I am willing to support the government controlling the media during a crisis like the current one, in order to ensure effective and uniform communication between the government and citizens.
- I am willing to endure substantial economic losses during a crisis like the current one, in order to maintain the health and well-being of society as a whole. [*Secondary outcome, since not civil-liberties-related; results reported in Appendix C.*]

Q7) On a scale of 0 (not at all worried) to 10 (extremely worried), how worried are you that the rights, freedoms, and procedures that are forgone during a crisis like the current one won’t be recovered after the crisis is over?

In addition to the questions described above, the longitudinal sample includes respondents’ demographic information, such as age, gender, geographic location of residence, household annual income level, level of educational attainment, occupation, political ideologies (U.S. and U.K. only), and party affiliation (U.S. only).

## **E.II In-depth Survey**

The in-depth sample is representative on first moments of age, gender, income, and geographic location of residence. The sampling frame is built based on Dynata’s weekly consumer trend survey infrastructure.

We pre-specified to collect 20% of data from "hotspot" areas. In most countries, one singular location clearly stood out as the area of major concern. In China, we selected the city of Wuhan as the hotspot; in Germany, the city of Munich; in France, the city of Paris; in the U.K., the city of London; in South Korea, the city of Daegu. At the time of our survey, no single location in Italy and the United States could easily be pinpointed as the hotspot; as a consequence, we selected multiple locations in each country. For Italy, we selected the cities of Milan and Bergamo; for the United States, we selected the cities of New York City, Seattle, New Orleans, and Detroit. Our choices of COVID-19 hotspots in the U.S. also coincide with various reports. For example, Kaiser News reports that "the first surge of cases was concentrated in a handful of 'hot spot' cities such as New York, Detroit, Seattle and New Orleans" (Farmer, Radio and Feibel 2020). These definitions of COVID-19 hotspots were pre-registered before the survey was administrated. We aimed to recruit 1,200 individuals from each country other than the United States and 3,600 individuals from the United States. Since some of the demographic quotas proved hard to fill, the total number of participants recruited was larger than originally planned. We use the unweighted results in our main analysis and provide nationally representative weights in the appendix.

### **E.III Links for the In-depth Survey**

Translation was performed into Italian, French, German, Korean and Mandarin by native speakers. Translation was checked by co-authors of the paper who also speak these languages.

- China: [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9H6ENqZz1n8Uklw](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9H6ENqZz1n8Uklw)
- France: [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9LDNeSHT4hkAAWa](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9LDNeSHT4hkAAWa)
- Germany: [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2n9B6ftcrddzD2S](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2n9B6ftcrddzD2S)
- Italy: [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aa6Ux0duZVR1bLM](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aa6Ux0duZVR1bLM)
- South Korea: [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6lfAmljZLrfDDMh](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6lfAmljZLrfDDMh)
- U.K.: [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3WRX8EiwURC15cN](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3WRX8EiwURC15cN)
- U.S.: [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1Rgpg6xivuwVeHb](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Rgpg6xivuwVeHb)

#### **E.IV Validation Survey**

For our Validation Survey, we recruited 220 individuals from the United States using survey company Prolific. The survey was run in April 2021. After answering a set of demographic questions and questions about pandemic-related behaviors, participants were asked our core civil liberties questions—the willingness and lives saved questions from Table I. As in the in-depth survey, the order of the statements was randomized within each question block.

Next, we asked incentivized questions about donations and petitions related to civil liberties in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. We achieved incentive compatibility by informing participants that one respondent to the survey, and one of the incentivized questions, would be selected at random, and that that respondent's decision for the chosen question would be implemented.<sup>40</sup>

In the donations block, we first elicited preferences over whether or not to make donations to three not-for-profit organizations engaged in the protection of civil liberties during the COVID-19 pandemic. The three civil liberties-related not-for-profit organizations were Privacy International, Reporters without Borders and Freedom House. For each organization, we listed a COVID-19-specific cause supported by the organization (protection of privacy, media freedom, and democratic procedures, respectively). In one question per organization, participants decided whether or not to donate \$1,000 of the researchers' funds to the organization. Next, participants were asked to rank five not-for-profit organization—three of which were the civil-liberties-related organizations above and two of which were not-for-profit organizations that were not involved in the protection of civil liberties. Participants were informed that— were this question to be randomly selected—the ranking of a randomly selected participant would determine the probability with which \$1,000 would be donated to one of the organizations. Specifically, the first organization in the ranking would have a 5/15 chance of receiving the \$1,000, the second organization a 4/15 chance, the third organization a 3/15 chance, and so on.

Next, participants were asked incentivized questions about whether or not they wanted the research team to disseminate each of three petitions advocating for civil liberties protections during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants were informed that, if one of the petition questions was randomly selected, the research team would or would not disseminate the petition to 10 people

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<sup>40</sup>For a randomly selected question, the decision of a randomly selected participant was indeed eventually implemented.

via advertisements on social media depending on the decision of the randomly selected participant. All three petitions were active on Change.org at the time in which the respondents took the survey and, conditional on gathering enough signatories, might be sent to government officials.<sup>41</sup> The first petition demanded that the government not mandate vaccinations; the second demanded that the government not impose curfews during the pandemic; and the third demanded that the government not impose lockdowns during the pandemic. Participants were also asked to rank five petitions—three of which were the civil-liberties-related petitions above and two of which were petitions about topics other than civil liberties. In a manner similar to the donation-ranking question, participants were informed that the ranking of a randomly selected participant would determine the probability with which the research team would disseminate each petition to 10 people via advertisements on social media.

Lastly, we included an additional validation block aimed at testing how elastic answers to the "lives saved" questions (listed in Table I) are to a respondent's belief over the severity of the pandemic. Participants were asked a version of the questions in which we fixed participants' beliefs about the total number of people that would die in their country due to COVID-19 in the absence of the policy stated in the question.<sup>42</sup> Specifically, participants were asked to imagine that, in the absence of any policies to curtail the spread of COVID-19, an additional 100,000 people would die in the United States due to the disease. Then they were asked to report the minimum number of people, out of those 100,000, that each policy would need to save in order for them to support it.

## **E.V Links for the Validation Survey**

- [https://crctr190.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_exGrf4yfNiXaibQ](https://crctr190.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_exGrf4yfNiXaibQ)

## **F Secondary Data Sources**

### **F.I Administrative Records of COVID-19 Mortality**

- Australia: "Coronavirus map Australia: tracking new and active cases, Covid stats and live data by state" from the Guardian (Evershed et al. 2021)

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<sup>41</sup>The petitions were not created by the research team; they already existed on Change.org.

<sup>42</sup>The version asked in the in-depth survey did not fix those beliefs.