

## Survey: California small businesses support statewide COVID-19 vaccine and testing mandate

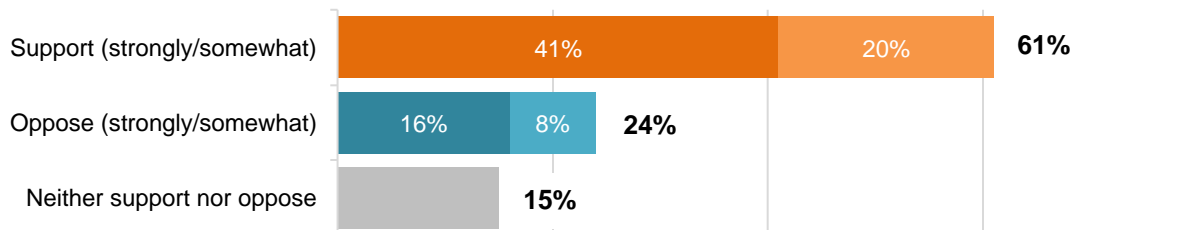
As California lawmakers consider introducing legislation to require proof of COVID-19 vaccination or testing at consumer-facing businesses and for employers, small businesses will be central to this debate. New opinion polling from Small Business Majority reveals that small businesses in California are facing setbacks from the current surge in COVID-19 cases, and they're supportive of proposals to mandate vaccinations and testing at places of business that will help ensure local economies can stay open safely.

The survey reveals that the vast majority (88%) of California small businesses are concerned about the rise of the delta variant and its effects on their business and the local economy, and more than half (53%) are very concerned. The rise in COVID-19 cases stemming from delta is also harming California businesses in a number of ways, including a decrease in customer demand (47%), disruption in plans for expansion or growth (46%), supply chain disruptions (37%), an increase in employees taking sick leave (25%), and customers and/or employees expressing safety concerns (45%). What's more, 29% of small businesses 29% report that business conditions are on the decline compared to a month ago.

With COVID-19 cases surging around the country due to the delta variant, many localities have considered implementing new public health requirements, with California policymakers [considering a law](#) to require proof of vaccination in public spaces like restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters and more. The proposal would also require employers to mandate proof of vaccination or a weekly negative COVID-19 test as a condition of employment. **The survey reveals that California small businesses are supportive of both measures, and many have already implemented vaccine requirements on their own:**

- Sixty-one percent support a state mandate requiring certain public-facing businesses like restaurants, theaters and gyms to require customers to provide proof of vaccination and/or a recent negative COVID-19 test.
- The majority (59%) of small businesses with employees would support a state law requiring businesses to mandate vaccinations and/or weekly testing for employees.
- Nearly half of small businesses in California (47%) already require all or some of their employees to be vaccinated, and another quarter (24%) are considering doing so.
- Three in 10 (29%) already require proof of vaccination from some or all of their customers, and another 11% are considering requiring it.

**Figure: Support for a state mandate requiring certain public-facing businesses to require customers to provide proof of vaccination and/or a recent negative COVID-19 test**



Additionally, small businesses continue to require masks in their place of business, with 82% requiring all or some customers to wear a mask. Three in four expressed support for state and local mask mandates.

As this survey reveals, small businesses are concerned about the delta variant's impact on their business and the economy. With more than 1 in 5 (22%) California small businesses facing a potential closure in the next six months, they need more certainty in order to keep their businesses open effectively and safely. They want officials to take steps to keep the pandemic under control and boost consumer confidence, and they support a statewide vaccination and testing policy to do just that.

**Methodology**

The survey reflects the opinions of 353 small business owners in California between August 18, 2021 through August 30, 2021. The sample comprises respondents in Small Business Majority’s network and an online panel from Momentive (formerly SurveyMonkey).

**Toplines**

**1. How many people does your business employ, including yourself? Please include full-time and part-time employees, but do not include independent contractors.**

Self-Employed.....	17%
Small Business, fewer than 10 employees .....	45%
Small Business, 10-24 employees .....	21%
Small Business, 25-49 employees .....	10%
Small Business, 50-100 employees .....	7%

**2. What is your race?**

White or Caucasian .....	45%
Black or African American .....	11%
Hispanic or Latino.....	20%
Asian or Asian American.....	14%
American Indian or Alaska Native .....	1%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander .....	1%
Another race.....	3%
Prefer not to answer.....	5%

**3. What is your gender?**

Male.....	43%
Female.....	52%
Non conforming .....	1%
Prefer not to say .....	5%

**4. In what industry do you operate your business?**

Agriculture and Mining.....	2%
Consulting and Business Services .....	9%
Education and Youth Services.....	4%
Engineering.....	1%
Food and Beverage .....	8%
Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals and Biotech .....	5%
Insurance and Financial Services.....	5%
Manufacturing.....	2%
Media and Entertainment.....	4%
Nonprofit.....	2%
Real Estate and Construction.....	8%
Retail .....	12%
Service and Consumer Services.....	12%
Software and Internet .....	2%
Technology, Computers and Electronics.....	4%
Transportation and Storage .....	1%
Travel, Recreation and Leisure .....	3%
Wholesale and Distributors.....	4%
Other .....	12%

- 5. Are you currently operating your business?**  
 Yes ..... 94%  
 No..... 6%
- 6. Given the lingering effects of the global pandemic, without additional funding or other market changes, how much longer do you think you can stay in business?**  
 Less than 1 month ..... 2%  
 1 to 3 months..... 8%  
 4 to 6 months .....12%  
 6 months to a year .....13%  
 I already have closed my business permanently .....1%  
 I will survive through the pandemic ..... 48%  
 I don't know .....16%
- 7. Compared to last month, is your business improving or declining?**  
 Greatly improving ..... 11%  
 Somewhat improving ..... 29%  
 Neither improving or declining.....31%  
 Somewhat declining ..... 20%  
 Greatly declining ..... 9%
- 8. With the rise of Covid-19 delta variant in the United States, have you experienced any of the following impacts on your business? Select all that apply.**  
 Decrease in customer demand ..... 47%  
 Increase in employees taking sick leave ..... 25%  
 Customers and/or employees expressing safety concerns ..... 45%  
 Disruption in plans for expansion or growth ..... 46%  
 Disruption in your supply chain..... 37%
- 9. How concerned are you about the rise of the delta variant and its effects on your business and the local economy?**  
 Very concerned..... 53%  
 Somewhat concerned ..... 35%  
 Not very concerned ..... 8%  
 Not concerned at all ..... 3%
- 10. Do you require customers to wear a mask?**  
 Yes, all customers ..... 62%  
 Yes, only customers who are unvaccinated .....10%  
 Yes, only certain customers both vaccinated and unvaccinated  
 (ie. those who interact with me or my employees).....10%  
 No, it is up to the customers.....16%  
 No, but I am considering implementing it ..... 2%
- 11. Do you support or oppose state and local mask mandates?**  
 Strongly support..... 64%  
 Somewhat support ..... 11%  
 Neither support nor oppose .....12%  
 Somewhat oppose ..... 5%  
 Strongly oppose..... 7%

- 12. Do you require proof of vaccination from customers?**
- Yes, all customers .....14%
  - Yes, only some customers (ie. those who interact with me or my employees) .....15%
  - No ..... 59%
  - Don't know ..... 2%
  - No, but I am considering doing so ..... 11%
- 13. Would you support or oppose a state mandate requiring certain public-facing businesses like restaurants, theaters and gyms to require customers to provide proof of vaccination and/or a recent negative Covid-19 test? (n=245)**
- Strongly support.....41%
  - Somewhat support ..... 20%
  - Neither support nor oppose .....15%
  - Somewhat oppose ..... 8%
  - Strongly oppose.....16%
- 14. Do you require employees to be vaccinated? (Asked of those with employees)**
- Yes, all employees ..... 42%
  - Yes, certain employees ..... 5%
  - No, but I am considering doing so ..... 24%
  - No, and I don't plan to ..... 29%
- 15. Would you support or oppose a state law requiring businesses to mandate vaccinations and/or weekly testing for employees? (Asked of those with employees)**
- Strongly support..... 37%
  - Somewhat support ..... 22%
  - Neither support not oppose .....16%
  - Somewhat oppose ..... 7%
  - Strongly oppose.....18%
- 16. If employee testing were mandated, who should pay for it? (Asked of those with employees)**
- The employer .....16%
  - The employee ..... 8%
  - State government ..... 71%
  - Don't know ..... 5%
- 17. Would you support a tax credit incentive for implementing a vaccination mandate at your business? (Asked of those with employees)**
- Strongly support..... 35%
  - Somewhat support ..... 24%
  - Neither support nor oppose ..... 22%
  - Somewhat oppose ..... 6%
  - Strongly oppose.....13%
- 18. Are you currently hiring, or have you hired recently? (Asked of those with employees)**
- Yes .....57%
  - No.....41%
  - Don't know ..... 2%
- 19. How difficult is it for you to find qualified workers? (Asked of those with employees)**
- Very easy ..... 8%
  - Somewhat easy .....15%
  - Neither easy nor difficult..... 20%
  - Somewhat difficult .....31%
  - Very difficult..... 27%

**20. Have you done any of the following in regards to attracting more workers?** Select all that apply. (Asked of those with employees)

Increased pay .....	48%
Increased benefits .....	27%
Created more part-time positions .....	37%
Hired younger staff than usual.....	27%
Other .....	16%

**21. On average, what wages do you pay the typical worker?** (Asked of those with employees)

Under \$10 / hour .....	1%
\$10 to \$15 / hour.....	21%
\$15 to \$20 / hour .....	39%
\$20 to \$25 / hour.....	19%
> \$25 / hour .....	20%

**22. Do you offer the following benefits to your employees?** (Asked of those with employees)

A company healthcare plan .....	28%
Informal payments to employees to cover their healthcare costs .....	16%
Formal or informal paid sick leave.....	38%
Formal or informal paid family leave.....	4%
Retirement plan .....	8%
Flexible spending / Health savings accounts .....	5%

**23. What is your political affiliation?**

Democrat or Democratic-leaning.....	42%
Independent.....	21%
Republican or Republican-leaning.....	15%
Some other party.....	1%
Decline to say .....	21%