

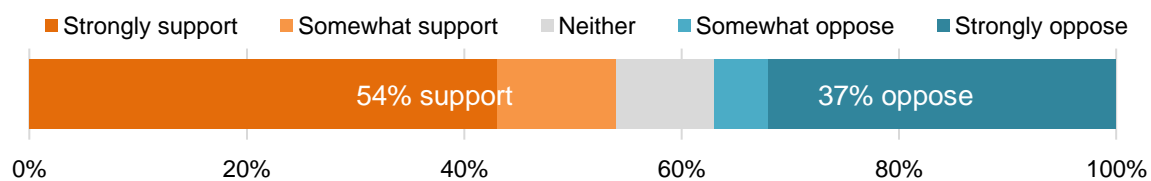
## Small businesses support COVID-19 vaccine requirements amid setbacks from the Delta variant

As the federal government implements a series of new COVID-19 vaccination requirements to mitigate the impacts of the Delta variant, new opinion polling from Small Business Majority reveals that small businesses around the country are facing setbacks from the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, and they're supportive of measures to require proof of vaccination and testing at places of business to ensure local economies can stay open safely.

The survey finds that the **vast majority (84%) of 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 is also harming small businesses in a number of ways, including a decrease in customer demand (50%), disruption in plans for expansion or growth (49%), supply chain disruptions (48%), an increase in employees taking sick leave (24%), and customers and/or employees expressing safety concerns (45%). What's more, 38% of small businesses 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, some localities have considered implementing new public health requirements, with cities like New Orleans and San Francisco requiring proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test in public spaces like restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters and more. At the same time, the White House recently announced it will require businesses with more than 100 employees to mandate proof of vaccination or a weekly negative COVID-19 test as a condition of employment. **The survey reveals that small businesses are supportive of vaccination requirements at places of business, and many have already implemented vaccine policies on their own:**

- Fifty-four percent support 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 (51%) of small businesses with employees support their state requiring businesses to mandate vaccinations and/or weekly testing for employees, compared to 42% who oppose it.
- More than 1 in 3 small businesses (36%) already require all or some of their employees to be vaccinated, and 21% are considering doing so.
- Twenty-five percent require proof of vaccination from some or all of their customers or are considering requiring it.

Additionally, many small businesses continue to require the use of face masks in their place of business, with 65% requiring all or some customers to wear a mask. An additional 65% 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 **nearly 1 in 5 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 government officials to take action to keep the pandemic under control and boost consumer confidence, and they support COVID-19 vaccination and testing policies that will do just that.

**Methodology**

The survey reflects the opinions of 488 small business owners in Small Business Majority’s network fielded between August 29, 2021 through September 19, 2021.

**Toplines**

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

Self-Employed .....	23%
Small Business, fewer than 10 employees .....	45%
Small Business, 10-24 employees .....	17%
Small Business, 25-49 employees .....	11%
Small Business, 50-100 employees .....	5%
Small Business, more than 100 employees .....	1%

**2. What is your race?**

American Indian or Alaska Native .....	0%
Another race.....	5%
Asian or Asian American.....	7%
Black or African American .....	15%
Hispanic or Latino.....	11%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander .....	1%
White or Caucasian .....	61%

**3. What is your gender?**

Female.....	67%
Male.....	29%
Non conforming .....	0%
Prefer not to say .....	3%

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

Agriculture and Mining.....	1%
Consulting and Business Services .....	11%
Education and Youth Services.....	6%
Energy and Utilities .....	1%
Engineering.....	1%
Food and Beverage .....	10%
Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals and Biotech .....	6%
Insurance and Financial Services.....	6%
Manufacturing.....	3%
Media and Entertainment.....	2%
Nonprofit.....	2%
Other .....	10%
Real Estate and Construction.....	6%
Retail .....	11%
Service and Consumer Services.....	12%
Technology, Computers and Electronics.....	3%
Transportation and Storage .....	2%
Travel, Recreation and Leisure .....	4%
Wholesale and Distributors.....	1%

- 5. Are you currently operating your business?**
- Yes ..... 98%
- No..... 2%
- 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..... 7%
- 4 to 6 months ..... 8%
- 6 months to a year .....13%
- I will survive through the pandemic ..... 45%
- I don't know ..... 24%
- 7. Compared to last month, is your business improving or declining?**
- Greatly improving ..... 5%
- Somewhat improving..... 26%
- Neither improving or declining.....31%
- Somewhat declining..... 26%
- Greatly declining .....12%
- 8. 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 .....31%
- Not very concerned ..... 9%
- Not concerned at all ..... 7%
- 9. 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 ..... 50%
- Increase in employees taking sick leave ..... 24%
- Customers and/or employees expressing safety concerns ..... 45%
- Disruption in plans for expansion or growth ..... 49%
- Disruption in your supply chain..... 48%
- 10. Do you require customers to wear a mask?**
- Yes, all customers ..... 53%
- Yes, only certain customers both vaccinated and unvaccinated  
(ie. those who interact with me or my employees)..... 5%
- Yes, only customers who are unvaccinated ..... 7%
- No, but I am considering implementing it ..... 2%
- No, it is up to the customers..... 32%
- 11. Do you support or oppose state and local mask mandates?**
- Strongly support..... 55%
- Somewhat support .....10%
- Neither support nor oppose ..... 11%
- Somewhat oppose ..... 6%
- Strongly oppose.....18%

- 12. Do you require proof of vaccination from customers?**
- Yes, all customers ..... 7%
  - Yes, only some customers (ie. those who interact with me or my employees)..... 6%
  - No, but I am considering doing so .....12%
  - No..... 73%
  - Don't know ..... 2%
- 13. Would you support or oppose a state mandate requiring certain public-facing businesses like restaurants, theaters and gyms to ask customers for proof of vaccination and/or recent negative Covid-19 test?**
- Strongly support..... 43%
  - Somewhat support ..... 11%
  - Neither support nor oppose ..... 9%
  - Somewhat oppose ..... 5%
  - Strongly oppose..... 32%
- 14. Do you require employees to be vaccinated?**
- Yes, all employees ..... 33%
  - Yes, certain employees ..... 3%
  - No, and I don't plan to ..... 44%
  - No, but I am considering doing so .....21%
- 15. Would you support or oppose a state law requiring businesses to mandate vaccinations and/or weekly testing for employees?**
- Strongly support..... 40%
  - Somewhat support ..... 11%
  - Neither support not oppose ..... 7%
  - Somewhat oppose ..... 7%
  - Strongly oppose..... 35%
- 16. If employee testing were mandated, who should pay for it?**
- The employee .....14%
  - The employer ..... 6%
  - State government ..... 66%
  - Don't know .....13%
- 17. Would you support a tax credit incentive for implementing a vaccination mandate at your business?**
- Strongly support..... 37%
  - Somewhat support ..... 11%
  - Neither support nor oppose .....15%
  - Somewhat oppose ..... 5%
  - Strongly oppose.....31%
- 18. How difficult is it for you to find qualified workers?**
- Very difficult..... 47%
  - Somewhat difficult ..... 28%
  - Neither easy nor difficult.....17%
  - Somewhat easy ..... 6%
  - Very easy ..... 2%

**19. Have you done any of the following in regards to attracting more workers?  
Select all that apply.**

Increased pay .....	62%
Increased benefits .....	24%
Created more part-time positions .....	37%
Hired younger staff than usual.....	31%

**20. On average, what wages do you pay the typical worker?**

Under \$10 / hour .....	2%
\$10 to \$15 / hour.....	26%
\$15 to \$20 / hour .....	33%
\$20 to \$25 / hour.....	17%