

# Where Motivated Reasoning Withers and Looms Large: Fear and Partisan Reactions to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Supplementary Information

October 8, 2021

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## S1 Data Collection and Ethics

The panel survey data used in this project was collected in accordance with the American Political Science Association’s standards for professional ethics and principles for human subjects research. Data collection and handling protocols were approved by the Institutional Review Board at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (IRB #20-1004). This section briefly describes these procedures. Please see the main text for methodological concerns related to data collection.

This survey was programmed in Qualtrics and distributed to members of a respondent pool belonging to Survey Sampling International (SSI). Respondents are all Americans aged 18 years or older. Vulnerable populations (e.g. prisoners, respondents with a direct-dependency relationship with the researchers, decisionally impaired individuals, etc.) were unlikely to be included as respondents.

Prior to beginning the study, all respondents were informed of potential risks (minor emotional distress, embarrassment, and consequences of breach of confidentiality) in a process of informed consent. They were also informed that they had the right to refuse the study, opt out of the study at any time, or withdraw their data after completing the survey with no penalty. The survey was approximately fifteen minutes in length. We paid Qualtrics four US dollars per respondent per wave, making respondent compensation similar to what they could expect to earn for a similar amount of work at a minimum-wage job in most US cities.

The data set contains no personal identifiers and was anonymized by SSI before being sent to the researchers. A randomly generated identifier with no relation to actual identifiers was provided by SSI and was used to connect participants’ responses across waves. Respondents provided their zip code to facilitate connection with data on Covid-19 cases and deaths per capita, but care was taken to ensure that this geographic data could not be combined with other variables to probabilistically deduce respondent identity.

As discussed in the main text, one of our analyses involved asking respondents to rate the accuracy of four factual statements about Covid-19. To ensure that we did not risk propagating misinformation or casting doubt on scientific information relevant to public health, we debriefed respondents immediately after this survey block and told them that all statements were factually accurate.

## S2 Survey Items

### S2.1 Fear

How concerned are you that you will become seriously ill from the coronavirus outbreak?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not so concerned
- Not at all concerned

### S2.2 Anger

When I think about the coronavirus in the US, I feel angry.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Somewhat agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

### S2.3 Policy Positions

How much do you support each of the following government measures aimed at stopping the spread of the coronavirus/COVID-19? Some of these are currently in place, while others are not.

- Ordering people to wear masks that cover the nose and mouth when outside the home
- Requiring people to stay at home for non-essential activities
- Ordering non-essential businesses to close
- Having police officers monitor public spaces such as roads, parks, and beaches and prevent access as necessary
- Requiring citizens to submit to coronavirus testing even if they do not themselves have symptoms
  - Strongly support
  - Support
  - Oppose
  - Strongly oppose

### S2.4 Knowledge (Wave 1 Only)

To the best of your knowledge, how accurate are the following statements?

- Coronavirus is more deadly than the flu.
- Coronavirus is more contagious than the flu.
- You can be infected with coronavirus and not show symptoms for up to 12-14 days.
- Getting the flu shot does not make you less likely to get the coronavirus.
  - Very accurate
  - Somewhat accurate
  - Not so accurate
  - Not at all accurate

### S2.5 Checked Different News Source (Waves 1 and 2 Only)

In the last three days, how often have you checked a news source that's different from what you normally read?

- Very often
- Somewhat often
- Not so often
- Never

## S2.6 News Source (Waves 1, 2, and 3 Only)

If you were choosing a national news source, where would you go for trustworthy information about the coronavirus? (You can choose more than one).

- ABC News
- NBC News
- Breitbart News
- CNN News
- Fox News
- CBS News
- PBS News
- MSNBC News
- New York Times
- Wall Street Journal
- National Public Radio (NPR)
- President Trump's daily news briefings

## S2.7 Contact

In the past month, have you...

- learned of someone you know personally that has been infected with the coronavirus/COVID-19 (test confirmed)?
- learned of someone you know personally that has passed away due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 (test confirmed)?
- been in physical contact with someone that has since tested positive for the coronavirus/COVID-19?

## S2.8 Personality (Wave 1 Only)

Here are a number of personality traits that may or may not apply to you. Please choose an answer option next to each statement to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement. You should rate the extent to which the pair of traits applies to you, even if one characteristic applies more strongly than the other.

I see myself as:

- Extraverted, enthusiastic
- Critical, quarrelsome
- Dependable, self-disciplined
- Anxious, easily upset
- Open to new experiences, complex
- Reserved, quiet
- Sympathetic, warm

- Disorganized, careless
- Calm, emotionally stable
- Conventional, uncreative
  - Strongly agree
  - Agree
  - Somewhat agree
  - Neither agree nor disagree
  - Somewhat disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly disagree

## S2.9 Personal Vulnerability to Disease (Wave 2 Only)

For the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement.

- In general, I am very susceptible to colds, flus, and other infectious diseases.
- My immune system protects me from most illnesses that other people get.
- If an illness is going around, I will get it.
  - Strongly agree
  - Agree
  - Somewhat agree
  - Neither agree nor disagree
  - Somewhat disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly disagree

## S2.10 Economy vs. Public Health Tradeoff

As of now, what is more important for the government to do?

- Contain the health threat of the coronavirus
- Manage the economic pain caused by the coronavirus

## S2.11 Racial Resentment

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- The Irish, Italians, Jews and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors.
- Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for Blacks to work their way out of the lower class.
- It is really a matter of not trying hard enough; if Blacks would only try harder they could be just as well off as Whites.
- Over the past few years, Blacks have gotten less than they deserve.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

## S2.12 Gender

How would you describe your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other (specify)

## S2.13 Age

Please select your age.

- Under 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 - 74
- 75 - 84
- 85 or older

## S2.14 Religion (Wave 4 Only)

What is your present religion, if any?

- Protestant
- Catholic
- Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints/LDS)
- Orthodox (Eastern, Greek, Russian, Armenian, etc.)
- Jewish/Judaism
- Muslim/Islamic
- Buddhist
- Hindu

- Atheist
- Agnostic
- Something else (specify)
- Nothing in particular

### **S2.15 Education**

What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Less than high school degree
- High school graduate (high school diploma including GED)
- Some college but no degree
- Associate degree (2-year)
- Bachelor's degree (4-year)
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Professional degree (JD, MD)

### **S2.16 Race**

How would you describe your race or ethnicity?

- White, non-Hispanic
- Black or African American, non-Hispanic
- Latino, Latinx, or Hispanic
- Asian
- American Indian, Native American, or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other

### **S2.17 Income**

Please indicate your yearly household income.

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$69,999

- \$70,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$89,999
- \$90,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- More than \$150,000

## S2.18 Party

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a DEMOCRAT, a REPUBLICAN, an INDEPENDENT, or what?

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent
- No preference
- Other party (specify)

## S2.19 Party Strength

Would you call yourself a STRONG [Democrat/Republican] or a NOT VERY STRONG [Democrat/Republican]?

- Strong
- Not very strong

## S2.20 Ideology

In general, do you think of yourself as...

- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Moderate, middle of the road
- Conservative
- Very conservative
- I haven't thought much about this

## S2.21 Vote (Waves 2, 3, and 4 Only)

If the general election were held today, who would you vote for President?

- Joe Biden
- Donald Trump
- Other (write in)
- Unsure
- I do not plan to vote



### S3 Sample Characteristics and Response Distributions

For each cross-section, our sample was designed to be nationally representative of four key demographics: race, gender, education level, and income. Table 1 in the main text presents sample sizes and field dates for each wave. Below, Figure S1 displays descriptive statistics for the pooled cross-sectional samples and Figure S2 displays descriptive statistics for the panel sample. Please refer to section S1 for relevant survey item wordings. Note that several variables were not asked in all waves; this information can be found in section S2.

Although each cross-section is nationally representative, differential attrition may cause our panel sample to not be nationally representative. However, the panel sample does not appear to be drastically different from the cross-sections on any key variables, so we are reasonably confident that any bias introduced by the panel sampling procedure is of minimal consequence. Moreover, the benefits of being able to follow the same cohort of individuals, track their behavior and opinions as the pandemic evolves, and calculate within-unit changes outweigh the relatively small bias that may be introduced by a panel sample that does not perfectly match national demographics. Additionally, because we are primarily interested in relative effect sizes, a slightly biased panel sample is less of a concern than if we were aiming to identify and interpret absolute effect sizes.

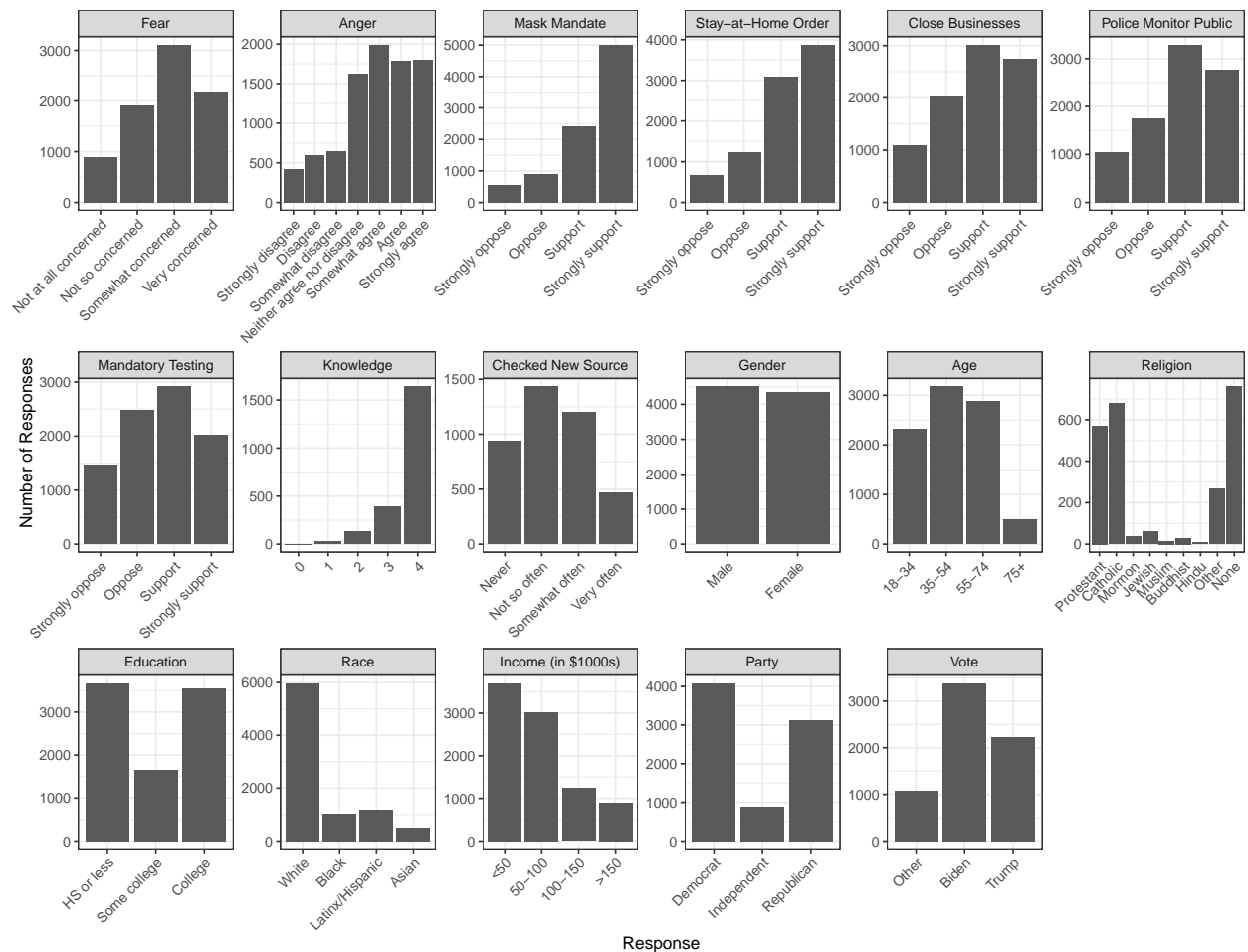


Figure S1: Response Distributions of Pooled Cross-Sections

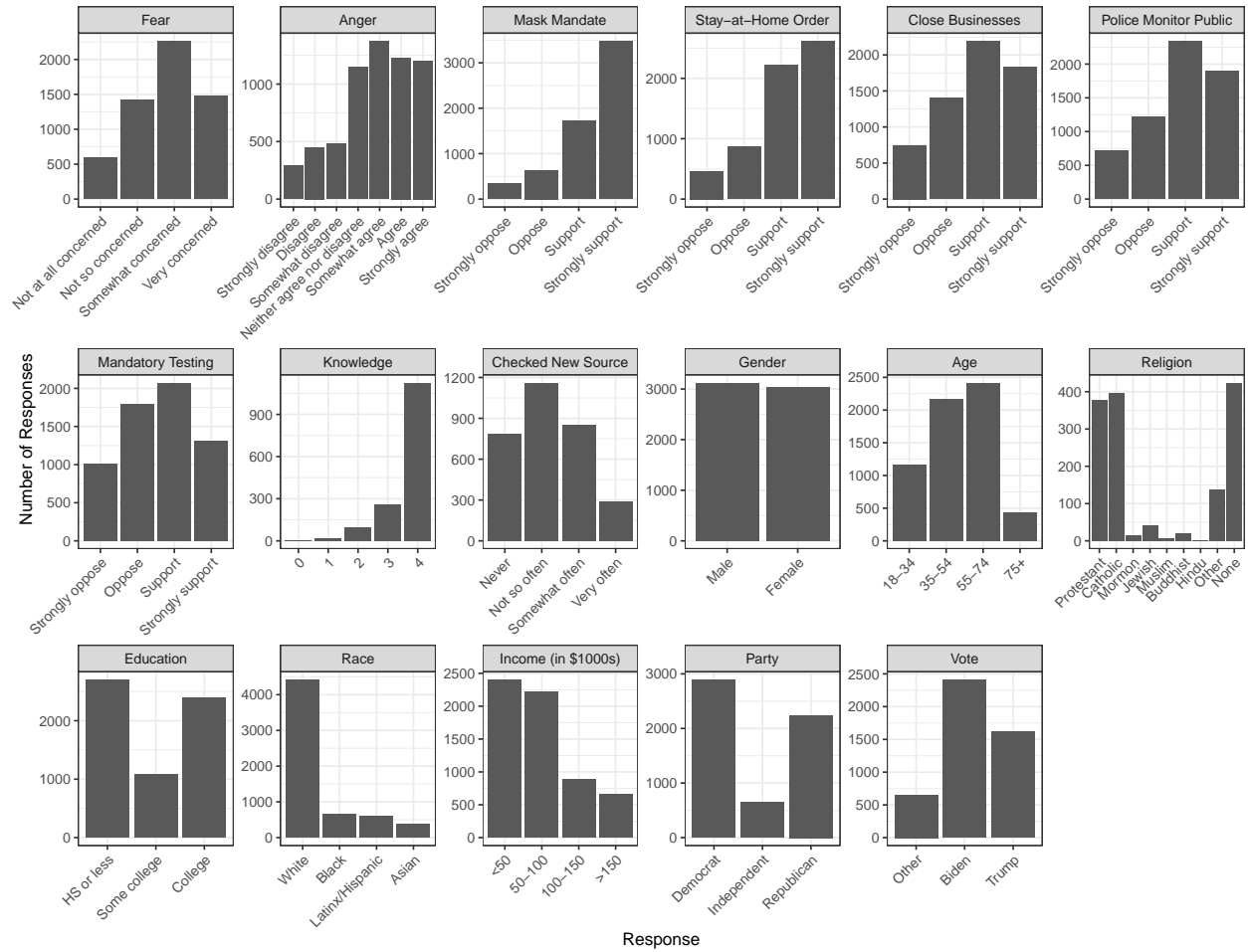


Figure S2: Response Distributions of Panel Sample

## S4 Fixed Effects Model Results

### S4.1 Continuous Dependent Variables

This section presents full model results from panel models treating the dependent variables as continuous. Tables S1 - S5 present results of two-way fixed effects models with the “within” estimator. Note that all non-categorical variables, including dependent variables, are scaled to be  $\sim N(0, 1)$ . Because coefficients cannot be estimated for time-invariant variables such as party ID, we estimate separate models on each subpopulation.

Table S1: Support Mask Mandate: Two-Way Fixed Effects with Within Estimator

<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Democrats	Support Mask Mandate Independents	Republicans
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Fear	0.069* (0.023)	0.161* (0.058)	0.136* (0.032)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
F Statistic	9.010* (df = 1; 1619)	7.579* (df = 1; 352)	17.719* (df = 1; 1283)
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S2: Support Stay-at-Home Order: Two-Way Fixed Effects with Within Estimator

<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Democrats	Support Stay-at-Home Order Independents	Republicans
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Fear	0.089* (0.025)	0.144* (0.056)	0.124* (0.030)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
F Statistic	12.343* (df = 1; 1619)	6.543* (df = 1; 352)	16.665* (df = 1; 1283)
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S3: Support Closing Businesses: Two-Way Fixed Effects with Within Estimator

<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Democrats	Support Closing Businesses Independents	Republicans
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Fear	0.088* (0.026)	0.198* (0.059)	0.125* (0.029)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
F Statistic	11.489* (df = 1; 1619)	11.111* (df = 1; 352)	19.105* (df = 1; 1283)
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S4: Support Monitoring Public Spaces: Two-Way Fixed Effects with Within Estimator

<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
Support Monitoring Public Spaces			
	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Fear	0.025 (0.029)	0.083 (0.062)	0.124* (0.030)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
F Statistic	0.749 (df = 1; 1619)	1.792 (df = 1; 352)	16.788* (df = 1; 1283)
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S5: Support Mandatory Testing: Two-Way Fixed Effects with Within Estimator

<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
Support Mandatory Testing			
	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Fear	0.040 (0.030)	0.147* (0.063)	0.079* (0.030)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
F Statistic	1.756 (df = 1; 1619)	5.494* (df = 1; 352)	7.116* (df = 1; 1283)
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

## S4.2 Binary Dependent Variables

Tables S6 - S10 present the results of models estimated using conditional logits with robust standard errors clustered by respondent, where the dependent variable has been coerced to binary (Chamberlain 1980). We code the dependent variables as 0 if the respondent answers “strongly oppose” or “oppose” and 1 if the respondent answers “support” or “strongly support.” Note that all non-categorical explanatory variables are scaled to be  $\sim N(0, 1)$ .

Table S6: Support Mask Mandate: Conditional Logit

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Mask Mandate		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.145* (0.019)	0.400* (0.038)	0.484* (0.022)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
Log Likelihood	-25,969.370	-4,053.147	-15,055.030
Wald Test (df = 1)	57.550*	103.820*	495.540*
LR Test (df = 1)	59.062*	115.756*	524.255*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	57.801*	113.945*	525.400*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S7: Support Stay-at-Home Order: Conditional Logit

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Stay-at-Home Order		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.169* (0.020)	0.396* (0.041)	0.518* (0.023)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
Log Likelihood	-25,341.890	-3,778.831	-13,439.690
Wald Test (df = 1)	73.290*	95.790*	476.500*
LR Test (df = 1)	76.978*	99.515*	523.484*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	75.074*	97.499*	521.265*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S8: Support Closing Businesses: Conditional Logit

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Closing Businesses		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.190* (0.021)	0.443* (0.046)	0.588* (0.027)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
Log Likelihood	-22,523.890	-3,060.344	-10,440.340
Wald Test (df = 1)	68.690*	89.560*	420.380*
LR Test (df = 1)	81.676*	97.647*	499.022*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	79.398*	95.029*	490.739*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S9: Support Monitoring Public Spaces: Conditional Logit

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Monitoring Public Spaces		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.201* (0.021)	0.457* (0.044)	0.576* (0.026)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
Log Likelihood	-22,532.170	-3,362.354	-11,751.380
Wald Test (df = 1)	78.820*	104.240*	455.230*
LR Test (df = 1)	91.681*	114.945*	541.085*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	88.982*	111.681*	535.340*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S10: Support Mandatory Testing: Conditional Logit

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Mandatory Testing		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.256* (0.024)	0.430* (0.049)	0.573* (0.029)
Observations	3,725	832	2,831
Log Likelihood	-18,882.890	-2,784.520	-9,275.850
Wald Test (df = 1)	95.710*	70.070*	320.320*
LR Test (df = 1)	117.672*	82.580*	411.309*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	113.306*	80.149*	402.809*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

### S4.3 Ordinal Dependent Variables

This section presents the results of models where the dependent variable is treated as an ordered discrete variable and fixed effects ordered logits are estimated using the “blow-up-and-cluster” estimator (Baetschmann, Staub, and Winkelmann 2015; Muris 2017; Riedl and Geishecker 2014). This estimation strategy “blows up” the sample by duplicating each observation  $K - 1$  times, where  $K$  is the number of response categories. The categorical dependent variable is then converted to a binary indicator, the value of which takes a 1 if the respondent chose the response option corresponding with that row and a 0 otherwise. A consistent estimator can then be derived by fitting a conditional logit to this expanded data set and estimating cluster-robust standard errors at the level of the respondent, since observations are now dependent by design. All variables are coded such that “strongly supporting” policies are coded as the highest category. Note that all non-categorical explanatory variables are scaled to be  $\sim N(0, 1)$ .

Table S11: Support Mask Mandate: Conditional Logit with Blow-Up-and-Cluster Estimator

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Mask Mandate		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.156* (0.012)	0.361* (0.023)	0.420* (0.013)
Observations	11,175	2,496	8,493
Log Likelihood	-85,186.190	-13,337.460	-48,584.900
Wald Test (df = 1)	164.710*	205.190*	864.920*
LR Test (df = 1)	186.750*	251.042*	1,096.684*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	182.469*	245.890*	1,091.468*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S12: Support Stay-at-Home Order: Conditional Logit with Blow-Up-and-Cluster Estimator

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Stay-at-Home Order		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.176* (0.012)	0.356* (0.024)	0.437* (0.014)
Observations	11,175	2,496	8,493
Log Likelihood	-79,349.660	-12,397.710	-43,836.800
Wald Test (df = 1)	179.570*	179.930*	816.890*
LR Test (df = 1)	212.984*	221.447*	1,055.583*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	207.448*	216.713*	1,046.900*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S13: Support Closing Businesses: Conditional Logit with Blow-Up-and-Cluster Estimator

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Closing Businesses		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.188* (0.013)	0.372* (0.027)	0.489* (0.016)
Observations	11,175	2,496	8,493
Log Likelihood	-70,639.780	-10,527.640	-36,141.280
Wald Test (df = 1)	157.640*	160.490*	779.560*
LR Test (df = 1)	209.946*	201.864*	1,053.638*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	204.144*	196.724*	1,037.539*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S14: Support Monitoring Public Spaces: Conditional Logit with Blow-Up-and-Cluster Estimator

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Monitoring Public Spaces		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.172* (0.013)	0.351* (0.026)	0.461* (0.015)
Observations	11,175	2,496	8,493
Log Likelihood	-69,809.610	-11,101.420	-39,031.310
Wald Test (df = 1)	130.830*	147.480*	763.420*
LR Test (df = 1)	175.003*	192.063*	1,017.999*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	170.518*	187.350*	1,006.023*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

Table S15: Support Mandatory Testing: Conditional Logit with Blow-Up-and-Cluster Estimator

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Support Mandatory Testing		
	Democrats (1)	Independents (2)	Republicans (3)
Fear	0.210* (0.014)	0.335* (0.028)	0.445* (0.016)
Observations	11,175	2,496	8,493
Log Likelihood	-61,372.450	-9,554.472	-32,581.860
Wald Test (df = 1)	161.710*	109.770*	563.060*
LR Test (df = 1)	223.890*	148.755*	783.343*
Score (Logrank) Test (df = 1)	216.878*	145.052*	770.622*
<i>Note:</i>			*p<0.05

## S5 Anger Robustness Check

Table S16 reports the results of two-way random effects models analogous to that presented in Table 3 in the main text. Explanatory variable reference categories take the following values:

- Party: Democrat
- Age: 18-34
- Education: College Degree

These models also include a measure of pandemic-related anger to test the possibility that the results presented in Table 3 in the main text are driven by anger instead of fear. Note that all non-categorical variables, including dependent variables, are scaled to be  $\sim N(0, 1)$ .



Table S16: Two-Way Random Effects Model Results

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>				
	Mask Mandate (1)	Stay-at-Home Order (2)	Close Businesses (3)	Monitor Public Spaces (4)	Mandatory Testing (5)
Fear	0.152*	0.180*	0.177*	0.156*	0.183*
	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.017)	(0.018)
Anger	0.044*	0.058*	0.057*	0.043*	0.056*
	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.015)	(0.016)
Independent	-0.352*	-0.329*	-0.349*	-0.232*	-0.218*
	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.041)	(0.043)
Republican	-0.538*	-0.554*	-0.549*	-0.401*	-0.400*
	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.028)	(0.029)
Female	0.087*	0.139*	0.087*	0.128*	-0.012
	(0.024)	(0.024)	(0.025)	(0.026)	(0.027)
Age: 35-54	0.005	-0.024	0.020	0.075*	-0.068*
	(0.030)	(0.030)	(0.030)	(0.032)	(0.033)
Age: 55-74	0.186*	0.064*	0.109*	0.130*	0.009
	(0.031)	(0.031)	(0.031)	(0.033)	(0.034)
Age: 75+	0.327*	0.147*	0.127*	0.235*	0.128*
	(0.053)	(0.053)	(0.054)	(0.056)	(0.059)
HS or less	-0.111*	-0.070*	-0.063*	-0.040	-0.069*
	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.029)	(0.030)
Some college	-0.104*	-0.069*	-0.058	-0.100*	-0.095*
	(0.032)	(0.031)	(0.032)	(0.033)	(0.035)
Fear*Independent	0.267*	0.184*	0.176*	0.182*	0.123*
	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.035)	(0.036)
Fear*Republican	0.337*	0.262*	0.226*	0.255*	0.151*
	(0.023)	(0.022)	(0.023)	(0.024)	(0.025)
Anger*Independent	-0.031	-0.028	-0.074*	-0.054	-0.055
	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.035)	(0.036)
Anger*Republican	-0.088*	-0.109*	-0.108*	-0.074*	-0.070*
	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.022)	(0.023)
Intercept	0.182*	0.666*	0.721*	0.437*	0.545*
	(0.034)	(0.034)	(0.034)	(0.036)	(0.037)
Observations	7,366	7,366	7,366	7,366	7,366
F Statistic	2,294.828*	3,124.265*	3,279.537*	1,988.515*	1,424.222*

*Note:* \* $p < 0.05$ ; Democrat is baseline category for party, 18-34 is baseline category for age, college degree is baseline category for education; all non-categorical variables, including all dependent variables and the key explanatory variable, fear, are scaled to be distributed standard normal

## S6 Knowledge and Information-Seeking Model Results

Tables S17 and S18 present full model results corresponding to Table 4 in the main text. Model 1 is an ordered logit with wave 1 data only. Model 2 is a random effects models with data from waves 1 and 2.

Table S17: Anxiety Influences Information-Seeking and Knowledge Accuracy (1 of 2)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Knowledge Accuracy	Checked Different News Source
	(1)	(2)
Fear	0.389*	0.147*
	(0.102)	(0.028)
Independent	-0.434*	0.074
	(0.191)	(0.063)
Republican	-0.412*	0.076
	(0.150)	(0.048)
ABC	0.222	0.017
	(0.145)	(0.040)
NBC	0.159	-0.064
	(0.155)	(0.042)
Breitbart	-0.017	0.438*
	(0.316)	(0.102)
CNN	0.463*	0.081*
	(0.148)	(0.040)
Fox	-0.104	0.128*
	(0.126)	(0.040)
CBS	0.042	0.002
	(0.157)	(0.043)
PBS	0.272	-0.015
	(0.201)	(0.050)
MSNBC	-0.131	0.016
	(0.194)	(0.052)
New York Times	0.169	0.139*
	(0.183)	(0.050)
Wall Street Journal	-0.240	0.140*
	(0.189)	(0.054)
NPR	0.161	0.089
	(0.184)	(0.051)
Trump briefings	-0.163	0.017
	(0.133)	(0.049)
Asian	-0.061	-0.056
	(0.262)	(0.078)
Black	-0.054	-0.003
	(0.251)	(0.064)
Latinx/Hispanic	-0.509*	0.041
	(0.224)	(0.065)
Female	0.313*	-0.105*
	(0.128)	(0.040)
Age: 35-54	0.227	-0.060
	(0.161)	(0.052)

Table S18: Anxiety Influences Information-Seeking and Knowledge Accuracy (2 of 2)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Knowledge Accuracy	Checked Different News Source
	(1)	(2)
Age: 55-74	0.459* (0.178)	-0.348* (0.055)
Age: 75+	0.568* (0.274)	-0.333* (0.086)
HS or less	-0.294 (0.157)	-0.215* (0.048)
Some college	-0.505* (0.165)	-0.033 (0.054)
Fear*Independent	0.018 (0.180)	-0.099 (0.056)
Fear*Republican	0.264* (0.129)	-0.017 (0.038)
Intercept		0.159* (0.063)
Observations	1,933	3,381
F Statistic		373.093*

*Note:* \*p<0.05

## S7 Vote Choice Model Results

This section presents the results of vote choice models fitted using multinomial, binomial, and ordered logits. Explanatory variable reference categories take the following values:

- Party: Democrat
- Age: 18-34
- Religion: None
- Education: College Degree
- Income: < 50 (in thousands of dollars)

### S7.1 Binomial Logits

Tables S19 and S20 present the results of a series of binomial logits on vote choice. The dependent variables in the binomial models take the value of 1 if the respondent indicates intent to vote for Trump. Figure 3 in the main text was produced using Model 3. Analogous plots are presented in Figure S3 below for Models 1, 2, and 4.

Table S19: Vote Choice: Binomial Logit (1 of 2)

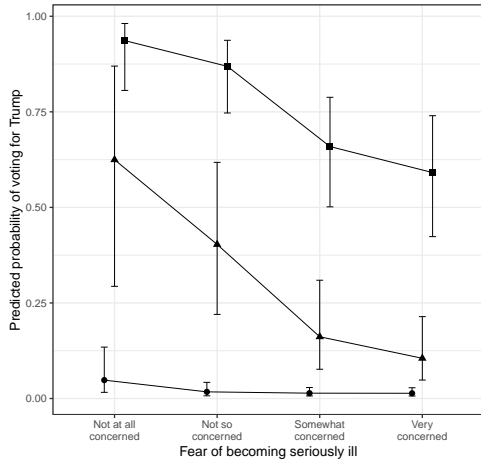
	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Vote for Trump			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Not so concerned	-0.915*	-0.864*	-0.878*	-0.688
	(0.387)	(0.410)	(0.415)	(0.428)
Somewhat concerned	0.512	0.422	0.424	0.301
	(0.355)	(0.373)	(0.384)	(0.396)
Very concerned	-0.138	-0.035	-0.117	-0.256
	(0.323)	(0.336)	(0.353)	(0.364)
Independent	2.968*	2.605*	2.406*	2.506*
	(0.294)	(0.319)	(0.324)	(0.340)
Republican	5.288*	4.658*	4.291*	4.299*
	(0.269)	(0.281)	(0.290)	(0.305)
Racial resentment		1.189*	1.108*	0.992*
		(0.117)	(0.121)	(0.125)
Ideology			0.610*	0.564*
			(0.126)	(0.128)
Economy vs. health				1.427*
				(0.222)
Female	0.140	0.193	0.253	0.224
	(0.190)	(0.203)	(0.212)	(0.218)
Age: 35-54	0.637*	0.359	0.307	0.375
	(0.243)	(0.256)	(0.268)	(0.275)
Age: 55-74	-0.023	-0.493	-0.596*	-0.390
	(0.246)	(0.263)	(0.275)	(0.284)
Age: 75+	-0.194	-0.614	-0.752	-0.319
	(0.395)	(0.422)	(0.445)	(0.467)
Buddhist	0.897	0.535	0.534	0.783
	(0.679)	(0.702)	(0.753)	(0.708)
Catholic	0.947*	0.732*	0.722*	0.770*
	(0.245)	(0.261)	(0.269)	(0.278)
Hindu	1.852	1.856	2.051	2.265
	(1.057)	(1.056)	(1.175)	(1.246)
Jewish	0.207	0.692	0.575	0.776
	(0.592)	(0.569)	(0.579)	(0.628)
Mormon	-0.107	0.043	0.201	0.500
	(0.782)	(0.782)	(0.785)	(0.793)
Muslim	1.920	1.713	2.121	2.366*
	(1.082)	(1.116)	(1.142)	(1.175)
Orthodox Christian	0.644	0.448	1.099	0.657
	(1.438)	(1.785)	(1.728)	(1.715)
Other	0.708*	0.745*	0.591	0.679
	(0.331)	(0.359)	(0.380)	(0.392)
Protestant	0.326	0.257	0.086	0.102
	(0.250)	(0.270)	(0.282)	(0.291)
HS or less	0.678*	0.487*	0.420	0.467
	(0.222)	(0.241)	(0.247)	(0.256)
Some college	0.768*	0.883*	0.845*	0.955*
	(0.256)	(0.283)	(0.291)	(0.301)
Income: 150+	-0.220	-0.239	-0.336	-0.340
	(0.356)	(0.384)	(0.391)	(0.404)

Table S20: Vote Choice: Binomial Logit (2 of 2)

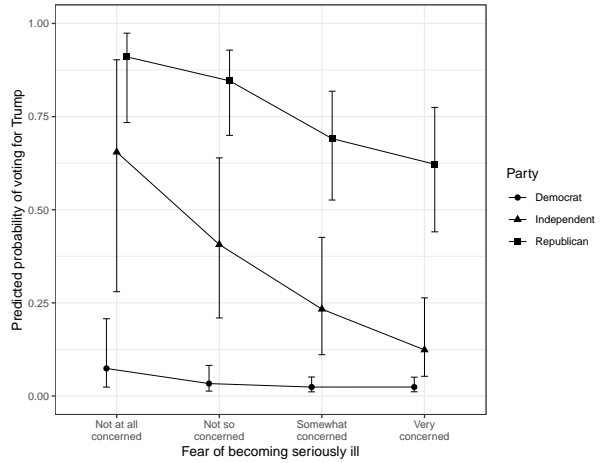
	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Vote for Trump			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Income: 100-150	-0.464 (0.289)	-0.545 (0.316)	-0.561 (0.323)	-0.489 (0.331)
Income: 50-100	0.187 (0.213)	0.035 (0.232)	-0.018 (0.242)	0.007 (0.251)
South	0.081 (0.212)	0.132 (0.233)	0.206 (0.245)	0.180 (0.252)
Not so concerned*Independent	-1.143 (0.645)	-1.060 (0.716)	-0.960 (0.720)	-0.672 (0.746)
Somewhat concerned*Independent	-0.308 (0.575)	-0.296 (0.630)	-0.404 (0.638)	-0.248 (0.662)
Very concerned*Independent	0.386 (0.502)	-0.001 (0.536)	0.232 (0.552)	0.175 (0.571)
Not so concerned*Republican	-0.917 (0.579)	-0.558 (0.607)	-0.378 (0.614)	-0.181 (0.631)
Somewhat concerned*Republican	-0.260 (0.511)	-0.268 (0.535)	-0.285 (0.546)	-0.133 (0.563)
Very concerned*Republican	0.446 (0.430)	0.232 (0.450)	0.341 (0.466)	0.393 (0.484)
Intercept	-3.973* (0.354)	-3.456* (0.372)	-3.243* (0.385)	-4.037* (0.430)
Observations	1,800	1,800	1,745	1,745
Log Likelihood	-469.116	-408.742	-379.838	-358.240
Akaike Inf. Crit.	1,000.233	881.484	825.676	784.480

*Note:*

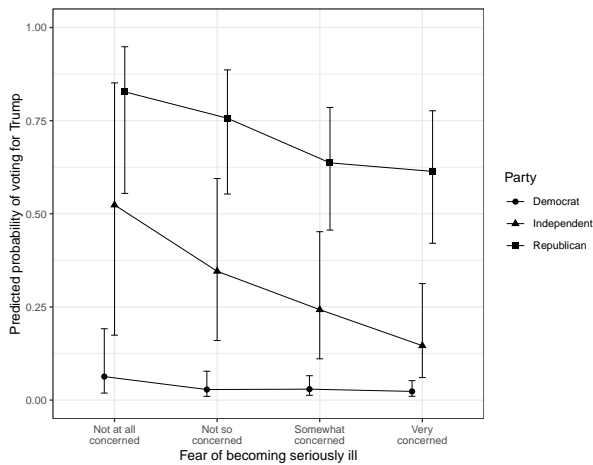
\*p&lt;0.05



(a) Model 1



(b) Model 2



(c) Model 4

Figure S3: Predicted probabilities estimated from binomial logit model of vote choice between Trump and Biden. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Estimates calculated using wave 4 sample targeted to meet Census benchmarks. Full model results are presented in Tables S19 and S20.

## S7.2 Multinomial Logit

Table S21 presents the results of a multinomial logit on vote choice. Response categories “Other,” “Unsure,” and “Abstain” are combined into one category. Biden is the reference category for the dependent variable.

Table S21: Vote Choice: Multinomial Logit

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Other (1)	Trump (2)		Other (1)	Trump (2)
Not so concerned	-0.848*	-0.962*	Other	0.259	0.663*
	(0.408)	(0.385)		(0.340)	(0.304)
Somewhat concerned	0.298	0.526	Protestant	0.145	0.229
	(0.358)	(0.353)		(0.279)	(0.239)
Very concerned	0.300	-0.133	HS or less	0.400	0.678*
	(0.300)	(0.322)		(0.239)	(0.209)
Independent	2.934*	2.898*	Some college	0.444	0.688*
	(0.296)	(0.290)		(0.268)	(0.240)
Republican	2.269*	5.272*	Income: 150+	0.262	-0.233
	(0.380)	(0.266)		(0.373)	(0.329)
Female	0.365	0.142	Income: 100-150	-0.370	-0.471
	(0.203)	(0.178)		(0.329)	(0.275)
Age: 35-54	-0.207	0.670*	Income: 50-100	0.123	0.125
	(0.234)	(0.225)		(0.230)	(0.202)
Age: 55-74	-1.092*	0.041	South	0.131	0.091
	(0.260)	(0.230)		(0.223)	(0.196)
Age: 75+	-1.207*	-0.214	Not so concerned*Independent	-0.200	-1.011
	(0.468)	(0.371)		(0.678)	(0.642)
Buddhist	-0.868	1.001	Somewhat concerned*Independent	-0.422	-0.275
	(1.125)	(0.682)		(0.585)	(0.572)
Catholic	0.784*	0.814*	Very concerned*Independent	-0.455	0.423
	(0.243)	(0.228)		(0.473)	(0.496)
Hindu	-12.018*	1.716	Not so concerned*Republican	1.064	-0.901
	(0.00000)	(1.050)		(0.914)	(0.578)
Jewish	-0.500	-0.139	Somewhat concerned*Republican	-1.270	-0.276
	(0.801)	(0.577)		(0.744)	(0.510)
Mormon	0.677	-0.465	Very concerned*Republican	0.357	0.455
	(0.705)	(0.661)		(0.518)	(0.429)
Muslim	-10.816*	1.870	Intercept	-3.024*	-3.864*
	(0.00000)	(1.079)		(0.339)	(0.331)
Orthodox Christian	-13.802*	0.576	Akaike Inf. Crit.	2,042.513	2,042.513
	(0.00000)	(1.422)			

*Note:*

\*p&lt;0.05

### S7.3 Ordered Logit

Table S22 presents the results of an ordered logit on vote choice. The dependent variable is coded Trump → Other → Biden, with Biden therefore coded as the highest category and Trump as the lowest.

Table S22: Vote Choice: Ordered Logit

<i>Dependent variable:</i>		<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Vote Choice		Vote Choice
Not so concerned	0.923* (0.293)	Other	-0.393 (0.229)
Somewhat concerned	-0.438 (0.260)	Protestant	-0.106 (0.188)
Very concerned	-0.093 (0.224)	HS or less	-0.539* (0.163)
Independent	-2.523* (0.201)	Some college	-0.524* (0.185)
Republican	-4.828* (0.214)	Income: 150+	0.166 (0.259)
Female	-0.160 (0.139)	Income: 100-150	0.392 (0.216)
Age: 35-54	-0.452* (0.171)	Income: 50-100	-0.091 (0.158)
Age: 55-74	0.041 (0.176)	South	-0.086 (0.152)
Age: 75+	0.315 (0.293)	Not so concerned*Independent	0.302 (0.445)
Buddhist	-0.679 (0.573)	Somewhat concerned*Independent	0.303 (0.394)
Catholic	-0.574* (0.174)	Very concerned*Independent	-0.045 (0.336)
Hindu	-1.152 (0.947)	Not so concerned*Republican	0.977* (0.472)
Jewish	0.373 (0.471)	Somewhat concerned*Republican	-0.138 (0.399)
Mormon	0.704 (0.484)	Very concerned*Republican	0.061 (0.309)
Muslim	-1.122 (0.997)	Observations	1,974
Orthodox Christian	-0.356 (1.168)	<i>Note:</i>	*p<0.05

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