

NewsNation's *Morning in America With Adrienne Bankert*

01/13/22

7:01:51 a.m.

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: NewsNation Exclusive: Poll Finds Very Negative Views of Biden, COVID Response]

ADRIENNE BANKERT: I love you guys looking on the cheerier side of life here. That's something that we all need as we focus in on this NewsNation exclusive. Americans weighing in on the coronavirus pandemic response to a new poll. There's a big headline right now. Americans telling us that they're more concerned about inflation than the pandemic.

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: NewsNation Exclusive: Poll Finds Very Negative Views of Biden, COVID Response]

BANKERT: White House correspondent Allison Harris is live this morning breaking all of that down and that exclusive NewsNation poll and how Americans feel about of the President's handling of all of the different things on his desk. This has been a very busy, busy term for him, Allison.

ALLISON HARRIS: Absolutely, Adrienne. Let me tell you a little bit about this poll. So this is a NewsNation/Decision Desk Headquarters poll. It was conducted on Monday. It includes more than 1,000 registered voters. The margin of error is about three percent and it found that Americans in these people who are polled feel overwhelmingly negative about the President's handling of the pandemic as well as the direction the pandemic is moving in. More than half of people polled — 52 percent — think the pandemic is never going to end. Nearly 70 percent don't trust Dr. Fauci. Only half trust the messaging by the CDC and FDA. Even still, a surprising majority — more than 70 percent — support some kind of mask mandate. 55 percent don't approve of how President Biden is handling COVID. But what's even worse for the President is that even more respondents — 58 percent — disapprove of how he's doing his job as President overall. That's a stunning disapproval rate. These numbers could be motivated in part by the fact that nearly half of these people — 48 percent — say they know a family member or close friend who has either been hospitalized with COVID or has died from COVID, making this very real and close to home for them. 80 percent of people say they're concerned about future variants, a huge number of Americans with high anxiety for the future.

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HARRIS: Interestingly, this poll also shows Americans have deep distrust in receiving information about COVID about the pandemic from the President as well as Dr. Fauci as well as the CDC and the FDA. Only 30 percent of people polled trust Dr. Fauci, meaning 70 percent of Americans do not trust the information that they're getting from the president's chief medical adviser. Only half trust the messaging that's coming from the CDC as well as the FDA. Now instead, people are most likely to trust the information that's coming from their own doctor. We've heard the White House acknowledge this. That's why they've given so much education and trying to direct these doctors on the importance of vaccines are wearing masks. Now as concerning as the poll results are about Americans anxieties about COVID, they are even worse, believe it or not, when considering how Americans feel their concerns about those rising prices price hikes in inflation. 45 percent of people polled say they're more worried about rising costs than they're worried about a pandemic that more than half of respondents think is never going to end. Inflation is at its highest rate in 40 years, putting massive pressure on President Biden and the Federal Reserve chairman. President Biden saying yesterday there's more work to do on fighting price hikes. Our poll shows voters are also concerned about unemployment. Only one-fifth of voters think they're better off financially than they were a year ago. That same amount of people think they're actually worse off. All of this reads as bad news for President Biden and Democrats very early on for the midterms. Those polled favor Republican candidates by five points. A lot can change in 10 months ahead of that election, but the President and this administration have their work cut out for them, especially as our poll shows the President's disapproval rating at a stunning high. 58 percent.

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BANKERT: A NewsNation exclusive poll showing a slight majority of Americans do support vaccine mandates. However, the poll also reinforces just how divisive the issue of mandating is in this country. We found just over 56 percent are at least somewhat supportive of vaccine mandates in public places. Meanwhile, nearly 44 percent are at least somewhat opposed to them in particular, President Biden's vaccine mandate for businesses and health care workers has drawn a lot of push back.

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NewsNation: Rush Hour

01/13/22

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JANEL FORTE: 73.9 percent of the people we surveyed received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Seven percent said they're partially vaccinated, 43 percent fully vaccinated and about

50 percent of them fully vaccinated and boosted. We also asked about support for vaccine mandates in public places. The results? More than half — 56 percent — are at least somewhat supportive of them. We also looked across political parties and found that 86 percent of those who self-identify as Democrats support vaccine mandates. Only 33 percent of Republicans do.

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NewsNation Prime with Marnie Hughes

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MARNIE HUGHES: We wanted to dig into this tonight and the sentiment and also the confidence that the American people have in the evolving guidance from top health leaders and the federal government and I'll lump in the media into that.

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HUGHES: Trust or the lack thereof one of the elements that really stood out in our exclusive NewsNation poll nearly 80 percent of Americans admit they are concerned about the pandemic, but who they trust to tell them about it is mixed. We know one thing that they don't trust the media, unfortunately. And only about 15 percent say they trust the President right now. So who do they trust for answers that could be potentially lifesaving? NewsNation correspondent Tom Negovan live in Manhattan tonight for the answer. Tom?

TOM NEGOVAN: You know, over here in Manhattan, Marnie, feeling a little bit personally attacked right now, but that makes sense when you think about it. Shouldn't be a surprise when it comes to questions of their health, something so important. They trust someone. They have a personal relationship with about their health: their doctor, but it's the level of distrust for nearly everyone else here that really caught our eye.

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NEGOVAN: Here's the question we put to 1000 registered voters: When it comes to information about COVID-19, "which of the following sources would you say you trust? Select all that apply." The margin of error about 5.8 percent. Dr. Anthony Fauci coming in about 30.1 percent — 30.8 percent. Federal health authorities like the CDC and the FDA about 50 percent. Your doctor way out in front of 63.2 percent, President Biden 15 and a half, the media absolutely trailing at 10.2 percent. Honestly, hurts a little bit, but doctors say it's tough right now for them

too.

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NEGOVAN: So bottom line, Dr. Quinn says, stay the course, trust the numbers and make sure that, no matter who you trust, that that person and you also trust science. Numbers don't lie, he says, Marnie, although looking at those poll results, some of us, sometimes, maybe we wish they did.

HUGHES: That's right. It does sting a little, Tom. We've got some work to do.

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3 minutes and 59 seconds

HUGHES: So, I guess, Dr. Gandhi, the report card is out right now for the — for the first semester of school. We've got a really bad grade in the media. Sounds like you got an A, so good on let me start with your reaction just in trust levels because, all joking aside, it's important. It's people's health and they're split on who they trust.

DR. MONICA GANDHI: Yeah. And, you know, to be fair, the CDC, the FDA and the NIH have had really different messages at times from the pandemic and they had different messages on masks, they had different messages on booster — the necessity for booster shots. They said they were going to upgrade masks then they didn't. Testing? They didn't, so, actually, we can't blame people to say we have three major groups that help form our health — NIH, FDA, and CDC — and they have publicly played out confusion.

HUGHES: Well, I guess my question for you then is, if 63 percent of people that we surveyed trust their doctor, where are the doctors getting the information? Are — aren't you getting it from the CDC, from these federal organizations, another national and international studies [sic]?

GANDHI: No, you know, I think what's happening is that doctors are getting it from original papers and original — and — and making their own assessments of the original data and I — we do have a public health messaging problem in this country where if we only got couple people on TV and they're not saying the same things, it's really confusing. What we need — what the doctor does, should do, and have been doing, I think is, you look at the original site of the vaccine effectiveness of safety and then you sit and communicate that to your patient. Do we need to wear this type of mask? Do we not? Do we need to distance? Do we not? Like, I think it's everyone's doing your research now because I'm not getting it fro from messaging, from CDC.

HUGHES: Right and clearly that's a problem and I don't know if you have an answer to this

question. But why wouldn't the top federal health officials be getting the information from the same original data and reporting that all of the doctors are doing?

GANDHI: I think — there's been a lot of politization in this country. I think that there's a tendency to put out statements in sound bytes instead of just sitting and explaining it, so a good example is this. The CDC director a week ago Friday has her own — Dr. Walensky — had her own press conference. This was not what she'd been doing all along. This was a great idea. This was reports being able to ask questions of a specific new standard, which is the isolation and quarantine guidelines. Just that one presser alone was exactly what was needed for her to take the time and explain the INQ guidelines. That is what's needed. I mean, I was just thinking to myself like after that happened, can we have that happen every other or least once a week where the CDC director sits there and just explains it all because she knows it all? She's very smart, so she's great. So, I — I — I think that's what's been missing is clean communication by the people that we need to trust to the public and taking time and not doing soundbites on TV.

HUGHES: Well, I'm not going to pretend that the media doesn't play a major role in all of this. Clearly, in that survey, we do. Just 10 percent of people trust the media. I don't know the question if that involves social media, how large that net was cast, but what can we be doing differently in our reporting of the pandemic and how we cover it? You mention soundbites. We report the facts. We report what we're told. Sometimes we don't have all the information.

GANDHI: Actually it's something like what you do on this program, which is you do take the time to let people explain it and what were the original studies. Like, it just takes more times to — because medicine is not actually easy. It's never a soundbite thing. It takes, like, the couple minutes to explain things — the immune system or whatever needs to be explained, so giving people more time

HUGHES: Right. I think this is the 3rd time you and I have talked in the last weekend and I think five to six minutes.

GANDHI: Yeah. You do a good job.

HUGHES: And I always have more questions and I'm out of time.