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*IDEA anti COVID-19 # 7*

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# Households' attitudes to infection and to the government measures: The latest survey data<sup>1</sup>

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## **Brief summary**

- This study presents Czech people's real views about the Covid-19 pandemic from a survey carried out on a representative sample of internet users around the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It thus presents very up-to-date information about people's attitudes to the ongoing infection and, moreover, to the measures imposed by the government. The findings provide new and important information to be taken into account when planning further measures. For example, if people had not considered the restrictions on free movement or the requirement to wear face masks as appropriate and had not begun implementing them voluntarily, the relevant authorities would have had to enforce these measures.

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<sup>1</sup> This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute (EI) nor of the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). We are grateful to Vojtěch Bartoš, Lubomír Cingl and Daniel Münich for their valuable advice and comments, and to Tomáš Šebek and Do Thu Trang for their willingness to work with us. This study was produced as part of a joint project between Behavio Labs and the IDEA think-tank. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme.

- More than half the population is concerned that they will catch the coronavirus. People have substantial confidence in the ability of the government measures to successfully overcome the current situation. The majority of people, around 75 %, declare themselves willing to limit their outdoor movements to essential activities and otherwise stay at home. Even so, almost 53 % of respondents go out every day. If it were to be necessary, many people are prepared to refrain from outdoor and social activities even for months. People believe that there is a moderately high chance of meeting an infected person on the street. Wearing face masks became a matter of course very quickly. 92 % of people only leave their homes with a face mask on; the majority agree that people without face masks should not be allowed into public areas; if they meet someone without a face mask, 42 % of respondents are prepared to tell the person concerned that they should wear a mask and a quarter would express their disapproval by frowning at that person.<sup>2</sup>
- Another study will follow soon after this one, which reveals how reminders about government orders and recommendations (to wear face masks and practice social distancing) affect people's willingness to abide by them and how the way the measures are communicated affects that willingness. Keep an eye out for more IDEA studies.

*The data were collected on a panel of 1 250 **Behavio Labs** regular respondents on Friday (20. 3. 2020) and Saturday (21. 3. 2020). The sample was representative of the on-line population in the Czech Republic aged 18 years and above (gender, age, income, education, settlement size, region, economic activity).*

*Data description: [Policy Communication in the Time of Covid-19 \(popis dat\)](#)<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> Which might not be visible past their face mask.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AbOjoexXyJ2jZjBCoh9amhaoiTVaigWWcm7gib1HBG4/edit?usp=sharing>