

## Proposed Large Scale Surveillance Survey Instrument

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This proposed survey instrument meets the goals outlined in my March 22, 2020, proposal for a large-scale, high frequency surveillance survey to track the emergence and impact of COVID-19 and its associated restrictions.

This survey contains questions and responses for three core survey modules tracking physical health, mental/social health, and economic/financial health. Any survey will also need a module to collect basic respondent characteristics; I have not provided one here. The three modules plus characteristics questions should take approximately 15 minutes to complete, in total.

A few additional notes on factors that shaped this proposed survey:

- Because the goal is timely provision of rapidly changing conditions, the questions focus on outcomes that are likely to change meaningfully in the course of a week or even day to day. In some cases, questions are included where conditions are unlikely to change rapidly (e.g. underlying health conditions), but these are essential for gauging the implications of other, rapidly changing outcomes.
- The modules contain a mix of well-established questions from existing surveys and those that were written to gather information specific to the COVID-19 outbreak. This balances the advantages to having responses that can be compared to known benchmarks against questions that fit the unprecedented nature of this outbreak.
- Where questions are drawn from existing surveys, the abbreviated source is noted in parentheses. A list of survey sources appears at the end of this document. When the question or permitted responses was adapted, this is also noted.
- The survey focuses on outcomes that characterize respondents' conditions on the module dimensions. It does not for respondent's opinions, except as these pertain to assessment of their own situations.

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<sup>1</sup> Note about the author and this document: The author is Director of the Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute and Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. ***This proposal reflects the views of the author and does not imply endorsement or concurrence by the Federal Reserve or the Board of Governors. This document is a work in progress and may be updated. The latest version is available at <https://www.abigailwozniak.com/policyopinion>.***

- Outcomes that change at lower frequencies could be surveyed with additional modules implemented in staggered fashion to avoid respondent fatigue.
- Many people contributed to reviewing and improving these questions in a short amount of time. In two cases where I felt more review was still needed, I added a note along with the survey question. These people are thanked at the end, but this acknowledgement does not imply their endorsement. All errors are mine.

## Physical Health Module

1. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 7 days? (UAS adapted; Rossman et al. adapted)

[Randomize, check all that apply] fever or chills; runny or stuffy nose; chest congestion; skin rash; cough; sore throat; sneezing; muscle or body aches; headaches; fatigue or tiredness; shortness of breath; abdominal discomfort; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea; changed or lost sense of taste or smell

2. Which of the following have you done in the last 7 days to keep yourself safe from coronavirus in addition to what you normally do? (UAS, adapted)

[Randomize, check all that apply] cancelled a doctor appointment; worn a face mask; visited a doctor; canceled/postponed work activities; canceled/postponed school activities; avoided some or all restaurants; worked from home; studied at home; canceled/postponed pleasure, social, or recreational activities; stockpiled food/water; avoided public/crowded places; prayed; avoided contact with high-risk people; wash/sanitized hands; kept six foot distance from those outside my household; stayed home because I felt unwell

3. Have you been diagnosed with any of the following conditions? Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension, Ischemic heart disease, Asthma, chronic lung disease, Chronic kidney disease, COPD, allergies, depression. (Rossman et al, adapted)

Yes / No / Unsure

NOTE: Before fielding, further expert input into this question is warranted. It is adapted from a question fielded by Rossman et al (2020) in this yes, no, unsure format. Separate items could be identified if time allowed and experts viewed as beneficial.

4. Can you use a thermometer to take your temperature now? (various online platforms, adapted)

Yes/No

[If 5=YES] [Enter temperature]

[If 5=No] How does your body temperature feel?

I have chills; I feel a little cool or chilly; Normal; I feel a little warm; I am hot, perspiring a bit.

5. Would you say your health in general is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor? (NHIS, PSID, SIPP)

Excellent; very good; good; fair; poor

6. Are you currently covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? (ACS 2018)

[Mark Y/N for each.] Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member); Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member); TRICARE or other military health care; Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government- assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability; Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities; VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care); Indian Health Service

## Social and Mental Health Module

1. We'd like to know how much you trust people in your neighborhood. Generally speaking, would you say that you can trust all the people, most of the people, some of the people, or none of the people in your neighborhood? (CPS Civic Engagement Supplement, 2011 and 2013)

All; most; some; none.

2. Thinking back, how often did you talk with any of your neighbors? (CPS Civic Engagement Supplement)

In the past month: basically every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, once a month, not at all, don't know

During a typical month prior to March 1, 2020 (the onset of COVID-19 spread in the US): basically every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, once a month, not at all, don't know

3. Thinking back, how often, if at all, did you communicate with friends and family by phone, text, email, app, or using the Internet? (CPS Civic Engagement Supplement, adapted)

In the past month: basically every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, once a month, not at all, don't know

During a typical month prior to March 1, 2020 (the onset of COVID-19 spread in the US): basically every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, once a month, not at all, don't know

4. Thinking back, did you spend any time volunteering for any organization or association? (CPS Volunteer Supplement, 2002-15, 2017, adapted)

In the past month: yes, know, don't know

During a typical month prior to March 1, 2020 (the onset of COVID-19 spread in the US): yes, know, don't know

5. In the past 7 days, how often have you... [Adapted from the CES-D, GAD-7]

... felt nervous, anxious, or on edge? Not at all or less than 1 day; 1-2 days; 3-4 days; 5-7 days

...felt depressed? Not at all or less than 1 day; 1-2 days; 3-4 days; 5-7 days

...felt lonely? Not at all or less than 1 day; 1-2 days; 3-4 days; 5-7 days

...felt hopeful about the future? Not at all or less than 1 day; 1-2 days; 3-4 days; 5-7 days

...felt little interest or pleasure in doing things? Not at all or less than 1 day; 1-2 days; 3-4 days; 5-7 days

...not been able to stop or control worrying? Not at all or less than 1 day; 1-2 days; 3-4 days; 5-7 days

## Economic and Financial Health Module

1. In the last seven days, did you do any work for pay at a job or business? (ACS 2018 adapted)

Yes, I worked for someone else for wages, salary, piece rate, commission, tips, or payments "in kind" (for example, food or lodging received as payment for work performed); Yes, I worked in my own business, professional practice, or farm (self-employed); No, I did not work for pay last week.

2. [If 1 = YES] How many hours did you work last week at all jobs? (ACS 1990)

[Enter number of hours]

3. [If 1 = YES] If you had these jobs prior to March 1, 2020 (the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak in the US), how many hours did you usually work each week (prior to March 1, 2020)? (ACS 2018)

[Enter number of hours]

4. [If 1 = No] What was your main reason for not working for pay or profit?

Do not want to be employed at this time (voluntarily not employed) or retired; my employer did not have work for me but might next week or in the future; I could not work because I was caring for children not in school; I could not work because I was caring for an elderly person; I could not work because I was caring for someone with COVID-19; I was unemployed because I left my last employer prior to March 1, 2020 (the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic in the US); I was unemployed because I left my last employer after March 1, 2020 (the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic in the US)

5. Thinking back, please indicate whether the two statements below were often true, sometimes true, or never true for you or your household. (HFSS/USDA)

5A. We worried our food would run out before we got money to buy more.

Over the last 30 days: Often true; Sometimes true; Never true

Over the last 7 days: Often true; Sometimes true; Never true

5B. The food that we bought just didn't last, and we didn't have money to get more.

Over the last 30 days: Often true; Sometimes true; Never true

Over the last 7 days: Often true; Sometimes true; Never true

6. In the last two weeks, have you received, applied for, or tried to apply for any of the following forms of income or assistance?

[Allow these options for all forms: No / received / applied for / tried to apply for] Unemployment Insurance (UI); SNAP or Food Stamps; TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families); Social Security; Supplemental Social Security; other aid from the government; assistance from a union or other association; assistance from a church or religious organization; assistance from another community organization; a food pantry; emergency cash assistance; other assistance.

7. Suppose that you have an emergency expense that costs \$400. Based on your current financial situation, how would you pay for this expense? If you would use more than one method to cover this expense, please select all that apply. (SHED)

Put it on my credit card and pay it off in full at the next statement; put it on my credit card and pay it off over time; with money currently in my checking/savings account or with cash; using money from a bank loan or line of credit; by borrowing from a friend or family member; using a payday loan, deposit advance, or overdraft; by selling something; I wouldn't be able to pay for the expense right now

8. In the last 7 days, have your personal plans been changed or affected by the following types of restrictions (list based on policy options in Pueyo):

[Check all that apply] K-12 school closure; pre-K or child care closure; college/training closure; ban on gatherings of 250+ people; ban on gatherings of 50+ people; ban on gatherings of 10+ people; closed place of worship; reduced public transportation; other reduced public services; closed bars; closed restaurants; other closed businesses; closed/canceled sports or fitness facilities; work from home requirements; quarantine requirements; international travel restrictions/bans; domestic travel restrictions/bans

Note: This list might provide little variation if issued today. However, if local governments adapt restrictions over time to changing contagion conditions, more variation might emerge. It may also measure compliance.



## Survey Question Sources

ACS – American Community Survey, included year where available.

CPS – Current Population Survey

CES-D – Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale

GAD-7 – Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-Item Scale

GSS – General Social Survey

HFSS – Household Food Security Survey from USDA ERS

NHIS – National Health Interview Survey

PSID – Panel Study of Income Dynamics

Pueyo – Discussion of epidemiological effects of various distancing measures and restrictions.

Rossmann et al. 2020. Medrxiv, accessed March 22, 2020:

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.19.20038844v1>.

SHED – Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking

SIPP – Survey of Income and Program Participation

UAS – Understanding American Study panel questions administered the week of March 16

## **Informal Advisory Group and Contributors to Instrument**

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