



The Morning Call
Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion

**Survey of Pennsylvanians on the
Issue of the Swine Flu**

KEY FINDINGS REPORT

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KEY FINDINGS:

1. 4 out of 10 Pennsylvania residents are somewhat concerned about themselves or somebody in their family contracting swine flu, while over a fourth of them are very concerned about contracting it. However, over half of Pennsylvanians said they were either not too likely or not likely at all to go receive a swine flu vaccination.
2. Pennsylvanians with children are about evenly split on whether or not they will have their children immunized against the swine flu.
3. Pennsylvania residents nearly unanimously said they will wash their hands more often as a precautionary measure against the swine flu and over 8 out of 10 will use hand disinfectant.
4. Most Pennsylvanians will not stop using public transportation in an attempt to avoid contracting the swine flu, with only about 1 out of 3 Commonwealth residents not going to large gatherings of people in an attempt to avoid contracting the swine flu.
5. A slight majority of Keystone State residents plan to get the standard seasonal flu vaccine this year.

METHODOLOGY: The following key findings report summarizes data collected in a telephone survey of residents of the state of Pennsylvania between October 27 and November 10, 2009. Individual households throughout Pennsylvania were selected randomly for inclusion in the study. The sample of phone numbers used in the survey was generated by Genesys Sampling Systems of Ft. Washington, PA. Interviewing was conducted by the staff of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion, with 402 surveys completed. This number of completions results in a margin of error of +/- 4.5% at the 95% confidence interval. However the margin of errors for sub groups (i.e. women, income groups, age categories) is larger due to smaller sample size. Percentages throughout the survey have been rounded upward at the .5 mark, thus many totals in the results will not equal 100%. The survey questionnaire was designed by Christopher Borick, Ph.D of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion in consultation with staff members of the *Morning Call*. The analysis was written by Joseph Caporoso, Assistant Director of the MCIPO and Dr. Borick.

OVERVIEW: During the past six months the issue of the H1N1 or swine flu has received considerable media attention around the nation and within Pennsylvania. With a major national immunization effort in progress and numerous verified cases of the disease throughout the United States, the MCIPO and Morning Call sought to measure public opinion in Pennsylvania on this matter. The remainder of this report discusses the findings from this study.

CONCERN REGARDING THE SWINE FLU: The results of the statewide survey of Pennsylvanians indicated that a solid majority (67%) of state residents express concern regarding themselves or members of the family contracting the swine flu. Looking at the intensity of concern regarding the swine flu, over 1 out of 4 residents of the Keystone State indicated that they are very concerned about this matter, compared to just 1 in 10 that are not at all concerned about contracting the swine flu. The results in Pennsylvania closely mirror the levels of concern demonstrated in national level polls on this matter.

TABLE ONE

“How concerned are you about you or a member of your family contracting the Swine Flu this year? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all about contracting the swine flu this year?”

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Too Concerned	Not Concerned At All	Not Sure
Pennsylvanians (November 2009)	27%	40%	22%	11%	>1%
Americans (November 2009)	23%	33%	22%	19%	2%

PA results from Muhlenberg/Morning Call; National results from AP/Gfk Poll

VACCINATIONS AND THE SWINE FLU: Since the swine flu emerged as a health concern there has been a major national effort to develop, manufacture and distribute a vaccine to protect individuals from this disease. The vaccine has become available in many parts of the state during recent months. According to the poll results, just under one half of Keystone State residents plan to be immunized against the swine flu. These numbers are almost identical to national level survey results from a recent Associated Press survey.

TABLE TWO

“As you may know the government may make an additional flu vaccine available this fall that would protect against the swine flu. It would be available as a separate shot and would not be included in the regular flu vaccine this year. You would have to make a separate trip to the doctor or clinic to get this shot as it won’t be available when the regular flu shot is administered. How likely would you be to get this separate shot for yourself, if it is available? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not likely at all?”

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Too Likely	Not Likely At All	Not Sure/Vaccinated (National Poll)
Pennsylvanians (November 2009)	28%	18%	15%	37%	3%
Americans (November 2009)	23%	18%	12%	40%	6%

PA results from Muhlenberg/Morning Call; National results from AP/Gfk Poll

Note: In AP Poll, there was no ‘Not Sure’ category, it was replaced with a ‘have been vaccinated’ category’

About 3 out of 4 residents of the Commonwealth expressed confidence that the swine flu vaccine will prevent them or their family from contracting this disease. Conversely, only about 1 out of 5 residents of Pennsylvania expressed no confidence that the swine flu vaccine can protect them from this disease.

TABLE THREE

“Without knowing anything else about the swine flu vaccine being developed, how confident would you be that this vaccine would protect you and your family from the swine flu? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, or not confident at all that the swine flu vaccine will protect you and your family from the swine flu?”

Very Confident	18%
Somewhat Confident	55%
Not Confident At All	22%
Not Sure	5%

Despite expressing confidence in the swine flu vaccine, Pennsylvanians with children under the age 18 are fairly evenly split on having their children immunized at school for the swine flu. While 45% of Commonwealth residents indicated that they will permit their children to get the swine flu shot at their school, 46% will not permit this to happen.

TABLE FOUR

“Do you plan to give permission to have the additional swine flu shot administered to your children at school, on a separate date from the regular flu vaccine, if it is available?”

Permit	45%
Not Permit	46%
Not Sure	9%

BEHAVIORAL CHANGES and the SWINE FLU: The survey asked respondents to indicate if they planned to engage in or refrain from certain activities in order to reduce their chance of contracting the swine flu. The survey provides evidence that Pennsylvanians have increased the use of basic hygiene matters such as washing their hands more or using hand disinfectants in order to avoid catching the swine flu, but very few are taking more aggressive actions such as wearing a mask to prevent them from contracting this disease.

TABLE FIVE

I'm going to read you a list of precautionary measures that you make take to avoid contracting the swine flu. For each measure I mention please indicate if you will or will not take that precautionary measure to avoid contracting the swine flu

	Will	Will Not	Not Sure
Wash Hand More	97%	3%	>1%
Use Hand Disinfectants	84%	15%	1%
Avoid Public Transportation	45%	48%	7%
Avoid Large Gatherings	35%	61%	4%
Wear a Mask	14%	83%	3%

CONCLUSION: While there is substantial concern among Pennsylvania residents regarding the swine flu, residents of the state demonstrate mixed behaviors and attitudes regarding approaches to avoid contracting this disease. Concerns about the side effects of

the swine flu vaccine and doubts about the effectiveness of the immunization appear to be limiting more widespread use of vaccines by the Pennsylvania public.

***Christopher P. Borick, PhD .and Joseph Caporoso
Director, Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion***

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

Pennsylvania Public Health Survey
Swine Flu Questions (Qs 21 to 35)
Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion/Morning Call
Field Dates – October 27, 2009 to November 10, 2009
Population – Pennsylvanians 18 or Older
Sampling Procedure - RDD
402 Completed Surveys
Margin of Error = +/- 4.5% at 95% Level of Confidence
Percentages are rounded at .5 level; totals may not equal 100%

Question 21: Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the swine flu and standard seasonal flu. First would you estimate that you are highly unlikely, somewhat unlikely, somewhat likely, or highly likely to get the SWINE FLU this year?

Highly Unlikely.....31%
Somewhat Unlikely.....29%
Somewhat Likely.....21%
Highly Likely.....13%
Not Sure.....6%

Question 22: Next would you estimate that you are highly unlikely, somewhat unlikely, somewhat likely, or highly likely to get the STANDARD SEASONAL FLU this year?

Highly Unlikely.....33%
Somewhat Unlikely.....22%
Somewhat Likely.....22%
Highly Likely.....21%
Not Sure.....2%

Question 23: How concerned are you about you or a member of your family contracting the Swine Flu this year? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all about contracting the swine flu this year?

Very Concerned.....27%
Somewhat Concerned.....40%
Not Too Concerned.....22%
Not Concerned At All.....11%
Not Sure.....>1%

Question 24: Do you plan to be vaccinated against the regular flu this year, which does not include the swine flu?

Get Vaccinated.....58%
No Vaccination.....40%
Not Sure.....3%

Question 25: As you may know the government may make an additional flu vaccine available this fall that would protect against the swine flu. It would be available as a separate shot and would not be included in the regular flu vaccine this year. You would have to make a separate trip to the doctor or clinic to get this shot as it won't be available when the regular flu shot is administered. How likely would you be to get this separate shot for yourself, if it is available? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not likely at all

Very Likely.....28%
Somewhat Likely.....18%
Not Too Likely.....15%
Not Likely At All.....37%
Not Sure.....3%

Question 26: Do you have children 18 years old or younger?

Yes....29%
No.....71%

Question 27: Do you plan to have your children vaccinated against the regular flu this year, which does not include the swine flu?

Have Them Vaccinated.....54%
No Vaccination.....38%
Not Sure.....8%

Question 28: Do you plan to give permission to have the additional swine flu shot administered to your children at school, on a separate date from the regular flu vaccine, if it is available?

Permit.....45%
Not Permit...46%
Not Sure.....9%

Question 29: Without knowing anything else about the swine flu vaccine being developed, how confident would you be that this vaccine would protect you and your family from the swine flu? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, or not confident at all that the swine flu vaccine will protect you and your family from the swine flu?

Very Confident.....18%
Somewhat Confident.....55%
Not Confident At All.....22%

Not Sure.....5%

Question 30: How concerned are you that there would be side effects from this new flu vaccine for the swine flu? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all about side effects from the new swine flu vaccine?

Very Concerned.....26%
Somewhat Concerned.....36%
Not Too Concerned.....21%
Not Concerned At All.....11%
Not Sure.....6%

Question 31: Next, I'm going to read you a list of precautionary measures that you make take to avoid contracting the swine flu. For each measure I mention please indicate if you will or will not take that precautionary measure to avoid contracting the swine flu, first wash hands more often

Will.....97%
Will Not....3%
Not Sure....>1%

Question 32: Avoid Public Transportation

Will.....45%
Will Not....48%
Not Sure....7%

Question 33: Use Hand Disinfectant

Will.....84%
Will Not....15%
Not Sure....1%

Question 34: Avoid Large Gatherings of People

Will.....35%
Will Not....61%
Not Sure....4%

Question 35: Wear a Mask

Will.....14%
Will Not....83%
Not Sure....3%

SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKOUTS

Q21: Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the swine flu and standard seasonal flu. First would you estimate that you are highly unlikely, somewhat unlikely, somewhat likely, or highly likely to get the SWINE FLU this year?

	Highly Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Highly Likely	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	30%	27%	20%	12%	6%	5%
Male	31%	28%	17%	15%	5%	4%
Female	28%	27%	22%	10%	7%	7%
Democrat	33%	30%	20%	13%	5%	0%
Republican	38%	24%	21%	11%	6%	0%
18-39	22%	25%	23%	25%	3%	3%
40-64	29%	29%	24%	9%	5%	5%
65+	35%	26%	11%	10%	10%	7%
No College Degree	34%	32%	16%	11%	7%	>1%
College Degree	27%	25%	26%	17%	5%	0%

Q22: Next would you estimate that you are highly unlikely, somewhat unlikely, somewhat likely, or highly likely to get the STANDARD SEASONAL FLU this year?

	Highly Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Highly Likely	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	32%	21%	20%	20%	2%	5%
Male	31%	22%	20%	21%	2%	4%
Female	32%	20%	21%	19%	2%	7%

Democrat	32%	23%	20%	22%	3%	0%
Republican	40%	25%	19%	15%	1%	0%
18-39	23%	14%	26%	32%	2%	3%
40-64	32%	24%	22%	15%	3%	5%
65+	36%	19%	16%	21%	>1%	7%
No College Degree	35%	21%	22%	20%	2%	0%
College Degree	30%	23%	21%	23%	3%	0%

Q23: How concerned are you about you or a member of your family contracting the Swine Flu this year? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all about contracting the swine flu this year?

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Too Concerned	Not Concerned At All	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	26%	37%	21%	10%	>1%	5%
Male	24%	36%	20%	16%	0%	4%
Female	28%	38%	22%	5%	1%	7%
Democrat	35%	39%	21%	6%	0%	0%
Republican	23%	42%	18%	16%	1%	0%
18-39	28%	34%	20%	13%	2%	3%
40-64	25%	41%	21%	9%	0%	5%
65+	27%	35%	21%	9%	>1%	7%
No College Degree	33%	37%	22%	7%	1%	0%
College Degree	21%	43%	23%	14%	0%	0%

Q24: Do you plan to be vaccinated against the regular flu this year, which does not include the swine flu?

	Get Vaccinated	No Vaccination	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	55%	38%	2%	5%

Male	53%	42%	2%	4%
Female	56%	34%	3%	7%
Democrat	60%	38%	3%	0%
Republican	54%	43%	3%	0%
18-39	45%	50%	2%	3%
40-64	49%	44%	3%	5%
65+	70%	19%	4%	7%
No College Degree	58%	40%	3%	0%
College Degree	56%	41%	3%	0%

Q25: As you may know the government may make an additional flu vaccine available this fall that would protect against the swine flu. It would be available as a separate shot and would not be included in the regular flu vaccine this year. You would have to make a separate trip to the doctor or clinic to get this shot as it won't be available when the regular flu shot is administered. How likely would you be to get this separate shot for yourself, if it is available? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not likely at all?

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Too Likely	Not Likely At All	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	26%	17%	14%	35%	2%	5%
Male	28%	19%	15%	31%	2%	4%
Female	25%	14%	14%	38%	3%	7%
Democrat	35%	20%	15%	28%	3%	0%
Republican	16%	15%	21%	47%	2%	0%
18-39	22%	18%	10%	46%	2%	3%
40-64	26%	15%	13%	39%	2%	5%
65+	28%	19%	19%	23%	4%	7%
No College Degree	27%	16%	18%	35%	4%	0%
College Degree	28%	19%	12%	40%	>1%	0%

Q26: Do you have children that are 18 years or younger?

	Yes	No	Refuse
Overall	28%	67%	5%
Male	28%	68%	4%
Female	28%	66%	7%
Democrat	30%	71%	0%
Republican	30%	71%	0%
18-39	67%	30%	3%
40-64	29%	66%	5%
65+	3%	90%	7%
No College Degree	25%	75%	0%
College Degree	36%	65%	0%

Q27: Do you plan to have your children vaccinated against the regular flu this year, which does not include the swine flu?

	Have Them Vaccinated	Not Vaccinated	Not Sure
Overall	54%	38%	8%
Male	47%	39%	14%
Female	59%	37%	4%
Democrat	76%	18%	7%
Republican	35%	58%	8%
18-39	58%	42%	0%
40-64	53%	37%	11%
65+	33%	0%	67%
No College Degree	51%	40%	9%
College Degree	57%	35%	7%

Q28: Do you plan to give permission to have the additional swine flu shot administered to your children at school, on a separate date from the regular flu vaccine, if it is

available?

	Permit	Not Permit	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	44%	45%	10%	1%
Male	50%	42%	8%	0%
Female	39%	48%	11%	2%
Democrat	70%	22%	7%	2%
Republican	15%	65%	19%	0%
18-39	40%	54%	7%	0%
40-64	49%	42%	9%	0%
65+	33%	0%	33%	33%
No College Degree	42%	40%	17%	2%
College Degree	47%	51%	2%	0%

Q29: Without knowing anything else about the swine flu vaccine being developed, how confident would you be that this vaccine would protect you and your family from the swine flu? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, or not confident at all that the swine flu vaccine will protect you and your family from the swine flu?

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Confident At All	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	17%	52%	21%	5%	5%
Male	18%	55%	20%	3%	5%
Female	16%	51%	21%	6%	6%
Democrat	23%	56%	17%	5%	0%
Republican	8%	58%	28%	6%	0%
18-39	14%	48%	34%	0%	3%
40-64	16%	58%	18%	4%	5%
65+	21%	46%	16%	9%	8%
No College Degree	12%	58%	24%	6%	0%
College Degree	25%	52%	20%	3%	0%

Q30: How concerned are you that there would be side effects from this new flu vaccine for the swine flu? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned about side effects from the new swine flu vaccine?

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Too Concerned	Not Concerned At All	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	26%	35%	21%	10%	2%	5%
Male	23%	36%	20%	14%	3%	5%
Female	29%	35%	22%	7%	2%	6%
Democrat	26%	34%	25%	14%	2%	0%
Republican	28%	35%	24%	10%	3%	0%
18-39	33%	36%	16%	9%	3%	3%
40-64	27%	36%	20%	9%	3%	5%
65+	20%	34%	24%	13%	2%	8%
No College Degree	30%	40%	18%	8%	3%	0%
College Degree	24%	34%	27%	14%	1%	0%

Q31: Next, I'm going to read you a list of precautionary measures that you make take to avoid contracting the swine flu. For each measure I mention please indicate if you will or will not take that precautionary measure to avoid contracting the swine flu, first wash hands more often

	Will	Will Not	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	91%	3%	>1%	7%
Male	91%	4%	0%	5%
Female	91%	2%	1%	7%
Democrat	97%	3%	0%	0%
Republican	96%	3%	1%	0%
18-39	89%	3%	0%	8%
40-64	93%	2%	>1%	5%
65+	87%	4%	>1%	8%
No College Degree	98%	2%	>1%	0%
College Degree	96%	4%	0%	0%

Q32: Avoid Public Transportation

	Will	Will Not	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	42%	44%	7%	7%
Male	41%	46%	6%	6%
Female	44%	42%	7%	8%
Democrat	41%	54%	4%	>1%
Republican	44%	44%	9%	2%
18-39	50%	36%	6%	8%
40-64	38%	51%	5%	6%
65+	45%	36%	10%	10%
No College Degree	53%	40%	7%	0%
College Degree	36%	57%	6%	2%

Q33: Use Hand Disinfectants

	Will	Will Not	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	79%	14%	1%	6%
Male	74%	20%	2%	5%
Female	84%	9%	1%	7%
Democrat	83%	17%	>1%	0%
Republican	86%	14%	0%	0%
18-39	83%	8%	2%	8%
40-64	80%	15%	>1%	5%
65+	75%	15%	2%	8%
No College Degree	84%	16%	>1%	0%
College Degree	85%	13%	2%	0%

Q34: Avoid Large Gatherings of People

	Will	Will Not	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	33%	57%	4%	6%
Male	36%	56%	3%	5%
Female	29%	60%	5%	7%
Democrat	35%	62%	3%	0%
Republican	28%	68%	3%	0%
18-39	25%	66%	2%	7%
40-64	30%	62%	4%	5%
65+	41%	45%	5%	8%
No College Degree	45%	52%	4%	0%
College Degree	22%	74%	4%	0%

Q35: Wear a Mask

	Will	Will Not	Not Sure	Refused
Overall	13%	78%	3%	6%
Male	9%	83%	3%	5%
Female	16%	74%	3%	7%
Democrat	15%	81%	3%	0%
Republican	11%	86%	2%	0%
18-39	11%	82%	0%	8%
40-64	11%	81%	4%	5%
65+	18%	70%	4%	8%
No College Degree	17%	79%	4%	0%
College Degree	10%	88%	3%	0%

