Governmental Pandemic Response Survey Protocol

An online survey will be conducted in March/April 2020, with one panel (N=1,500). CloudResearch, formerly TurkPrime, will be used to recruit respondents with a project title which stated "*Answer a survey about your opinions on government responses to pandemics*." Unlike Amazon Mechanical Turk (Mturk), CloudResearch is an online platform designed specifically for scientific research which can post studies and instantaneously make them available to thousands of participants. Respondents will be assigned to one of 10 groups (2 x 5 factorial design) and presented with a hypothetical message from public officials related to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing. Respondents will then be presented with a choice of whether to go to a grocery store that for ingredients needed for that night's dinner. Respondents will be based in the United States and screened to prevent repeat responses. Respondents will be paid $1.25 for completing the survey, and allotted 30 minutes to do so (average time for completion is expected to be approximately 10 minutes).

The consent form states: *You are invited to participate in a research study that is being conducted by Dr. Aaron Deslatte who is a professor in the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington. The purpose of this research is to shed light on citizens' perceptions of governmental resilience and responses to pandemic threats, such as the Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19. This research is confidential. This means that I will not record your name, address, phone number, date of birth, etc. The research team and the Institutional Review Board at Indiana University are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, only group results will be stated. All study data will be kept for three years. Participation should not take more than 10 minutes. Participants will be paid $1.25 for successfully completing the study, including successfully answering an attention check question. Participation in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, and you may withdraw at any time during the study procedures without any penalty to you. In addition, you may choose not to answer any questions with which you are not comfortable. If you have any questions about the study or study procedures, you may contact myself at adeslatt@iu.edu or call at (812) 856-4647. My physical address is: 1315 E. Tenth Street, Bloomington, IN 47405-1701. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact the Office of Research Compliance (IRB Study #2003971341) at Indiana University at (812) 856-4242 or email at irb@iu.edu.*

Before you begin, please note that the data you provide may be collected and used by Amazon as per its privacy agreement. Additionally, this research is for residents of the United States over the age of 18; if you are not a resident of the United States and/or under the age of 18, please do not complete this survey.

By participating in the above stated procedures, you agree to participation in this study. If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and will consent to participate in the study, click on the "I Agree" button to begin the survey/experiment. If not, please click on the "I Do Not Agree" button and you will exit this program.

I agree (proceed to study) (1) I do not agree (Proceed to end of study) (2)

The study description states: *"We are conducting a research study to shed light on citizens' views of governmental responses to resiliency threats such as pandemics and climate change. This study consists of two short parts. In the first part, you will be asked to answer some questions about yourself. In the second part, you will be asked some questions about your views on government activity related to resilience. Resilience is a term which means the ability of society or a community to maintain continuity through all shocks or disturbances, while positively adapting toward sustainability. The survey is designed to shed light on how information provision to citizens shapes their views on government activity in this area. Participating in this study should take no more than 10 minutes of your time. Please respond honestly to all questions."*

Survey Questions:

What is your gender?

Male (1)
Female (2)

What is your highest level of education?

High school or less (1)
Some college, but no degree (2)
Associates degree (3)
Bachelor's degree (4)
Graduate degree (5)

What is your yearly household income?

Less than $30,000 (1)
$30,000 to $44,999 (2)
$45,000 to $59,999 (3)
$60,000 to $74,999 (4)

$75,000 to $89,999 (5)
$90,000 to $104,999 (6)
$105,000 or more (7)

What is your age?

18-24 years old (1)
25-34 years old (2)
35-44 years old (3)
45-54 years old (4)
55-64 years old (5)
65-74 years old (6)
75 years or older (7)

Please specify your ethnicity.

White (1)
Hispanic or Latino (2)
Black or African American (3)
Native American or American Indian (4)
Asian / Pacific Islander (5)
Other (6)

Who did you vote for in the last presidential election?

Donald Trump (1)
Hillary Clinton (2)
Other (3)
Did not vote (4)

What is your political affiliation?

Democrat (1)
Republican (2)
Independent (3)
Other (4)
None (5)
Rather not say (6)

Given the World Health Organization's declaration of the Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19, the illness it causes, as a global pandemic, U.S. federal, state and local governments have encouraged residents to practice social distancing (staying at least six feet apart) as a way to reduce the spread of the disease. Has your state issued a "shelter in place" order?

Yes (1)
No (2)

Have you experienced a loss of employment as a result of COVID-19?

Yes (1)
No (2)

As previously described, resilience is defined as the ability of a human system or community to maintain continuity through all shocks or disturbances, and positively adapt to become more sustainable. For each of the following entities, please indicate whether you think they should have a great deal of responsibility, some responsibility, or no responsibility for taking actions to protect and enhance resilience in response to pandemics.

	Not at all responsible (1)	Somewhat responsible (2)	Mostly responsible (3)	Completely responsible (4)
The federal government (Q28_1)	○	○	○	○
State governments (Q28_2)	○	○	○	○
Local governments (Q28_3)	○	○	○	○
Corporations and industries (Q28_4)	○	○	○	○
Nonprofit organizations (Q28_5)	○	○	○	○
Individual citizens (Q28_6)	○	○	○	○

[Attention Check 1]

What is the current year?

- 2001 (1)
- 2020 (2)
- 2049 (3)
- 2008 (4)

[Experimental Treatments]

Procedure
Participants will be asked to consider the following scenario:
"Imagine you have enough food and supplies to last several more days, but you've run out of an essential ingredient for tonight's dinner. Grocery and retail stores nearby have remained open and relatively well-stocked with goods. Although they have been busier than usual making it difficult to practice social distancing (staying at least six feet away from others). You have two options:
"Option A is to go shopping today.
"Option B is to wait to go shopping until your food or household supplies have been exhausted.

Messenger Type Manipulation:
Participants will then be randomly presented with a one of the following four messages and an accompanying image from different messengers describing the conditions under which COVID-19 is thought to spread.

CDC: *"In a televised press conference, officials from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) state that coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is mainly spread through person-to-person contact and urged citizens to avoid close contact with one another. They also share the following information:"*

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White House: *"In a televised press conference, the President states that coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is mainly spread through person-to-person contact and urged citizens to avoid close contact with one another. He also shares the following information:"*

State and Local government officials: *"In a televised press conference, your state's governor and local government officials state that coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is mainly spread through person-to-person contact and urged citizens to avoid close contact with one another. They also share the following information:"*

Public health expert: *"In a televised press conference, a leading public health expert from Johns Hopkins University states that coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is mainly spread through person-to-person contact and urged citizens to avoid close contact with one another. She also shares the following information:"*

A fifth group will receive a control message with just the information and no messenger.

Feedback Frame Manipulation
Participants will then be randomly assigned to receive one of the two following messages about the impacts of social distancing:

Economic Feedback Frame: "If citizens generally choose to shop more, it is less likely that employers and workers will be as financially hurt by reduced consumer spending. Given this information, which option are you likely to choose?"

Public Health Feedback Frame: "If citizens generally choose to shop less and practice greater social distancing, it is likely that hospitals will be more able to handle COVID-19 cases and fewer citizens will die. Given this information, which option are you likely to choose?"

Option A (1)
Option B (2)

All respondents were then asked the following questions:

"How likely is it that you would consider going shopping less to increase social distancing?"

Not at all likely (1)

Less likely (2)
About the same (3)
More likely (4)
Extremely more likely (5)

Would you consider the source of the information on COVID-19 to be trustworthy?

Extremely (1)
Very (2)
Moderately (3)
Slightly (4)
Not at all (5)

Would you consider the source of the information on COVID-19 to be knowledgeable?

Extremely (1)
Very (2)
Moderately (3)
Slightly (4)
Not at all (5)

[Manipulation Check:]

Please rate how believable you found the previous scenario:

Extremely believable (1)
Somewhat believable (2)
Neither believable nor unbelievable (3)
Somewhat unbelievable (4)
Extremely unbelievable (5)

[Attention Check 2]

As previously defined in this study, resiliency is:

The ability of a human system or community to maintain continuity through all shocks or disturbances (1)
The longevity of an average human being (2)
The ability of organisms to adapt to their environments (4)