



A NATIONAL SURVEY

Physician views on the coronavirus pandemic response

Dr. Anupam Babu Jena, An Associate Professor of Health Care
Policy and Medicine at Harvard Medical School

Chris Whaley, Ph.D., Adjunct Assistant Professor at the
University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health

APRIL 2020



Study Description

The growing coronavirus pandemic presents challenges for physicians and other health care providers as they combat a pandemic of unprecedented scale in modern medicine. Although physicians are on the frontlines of pandemic care, we lack systematic data on their views on the adequacy of the government's response, access to testing and medical supplies, and the appropriateness of current social distancing policies. Potential shortages of medical supplies and equipment places both patients and health care providers at risk. The lack of information on physician experiences with the coronavirus pandemic limits the ability to design appropriate policy responses.

Methods

To better understand physicians' views on the coronavirus pandemic, we conducted a survey of physicians through Doximity, the largest online professional network of

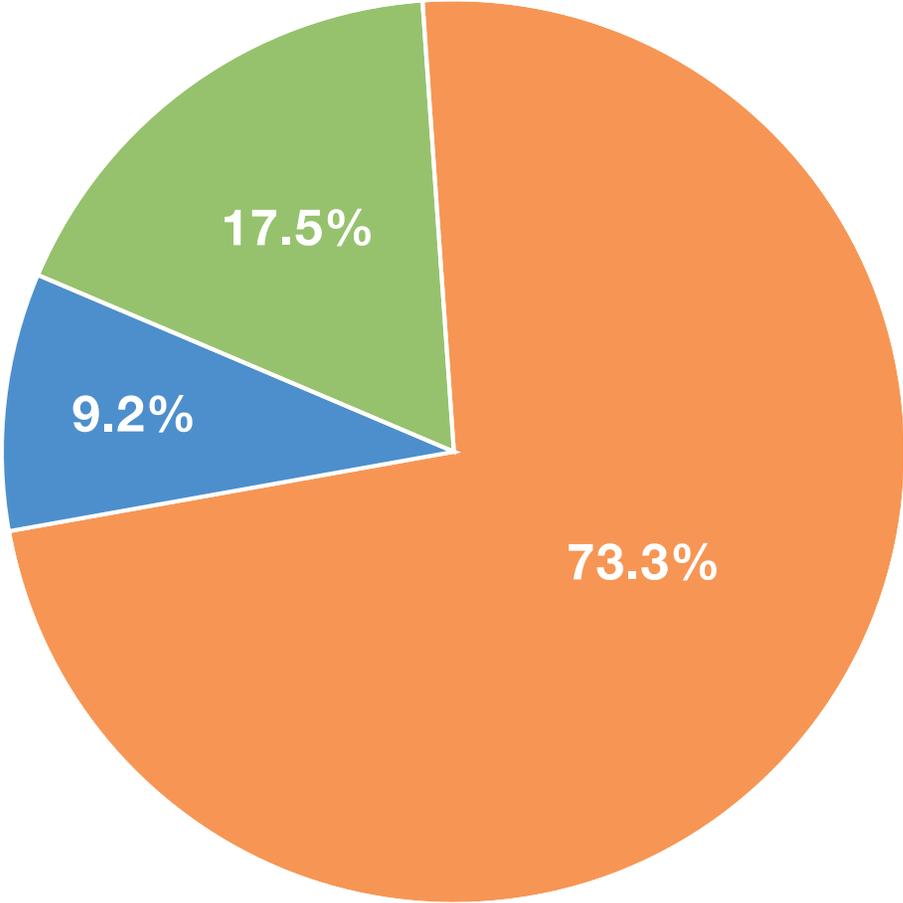
American doctors, with approximately 70% of American physicians as members. The survey was sent to registered physicians via email between March 21-24, 2020. A total of 10,750 users opened the survey, of which, 2,615 completed it for a response rate of 24.3%. No compensation was provided, and informed consent was implied. The RAND Institutional Review Board approved the study.

Results

Overall, 2,617 physicians responded, representing physicians from all major specialties and U.S. states. The number of physicians responding to the survey was large and the distribution of specialties among survey responders was similar to the specialty distribution among non-responders (the median difference in specialty share between responders and non-responders was 0.03 percentage points).

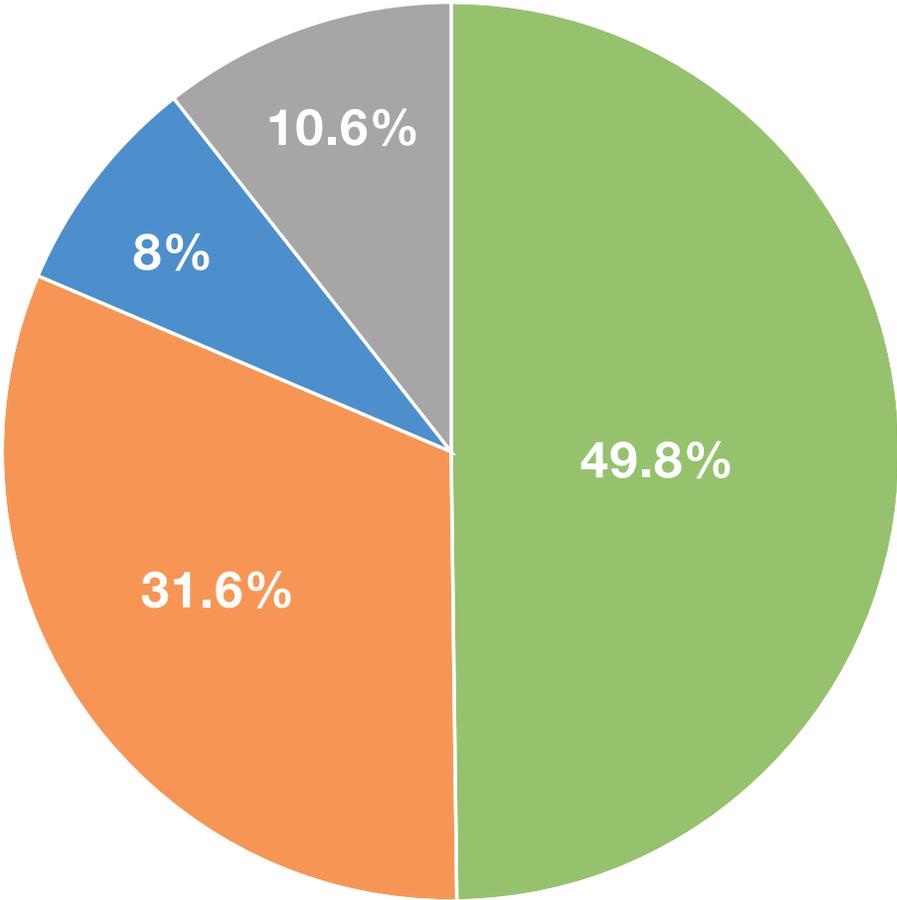
Are you currently able to test your patients for COVID-19 quickly and easily?

- Yes - 17.5%
- No - 73.3%
- Don't know - 9.2%



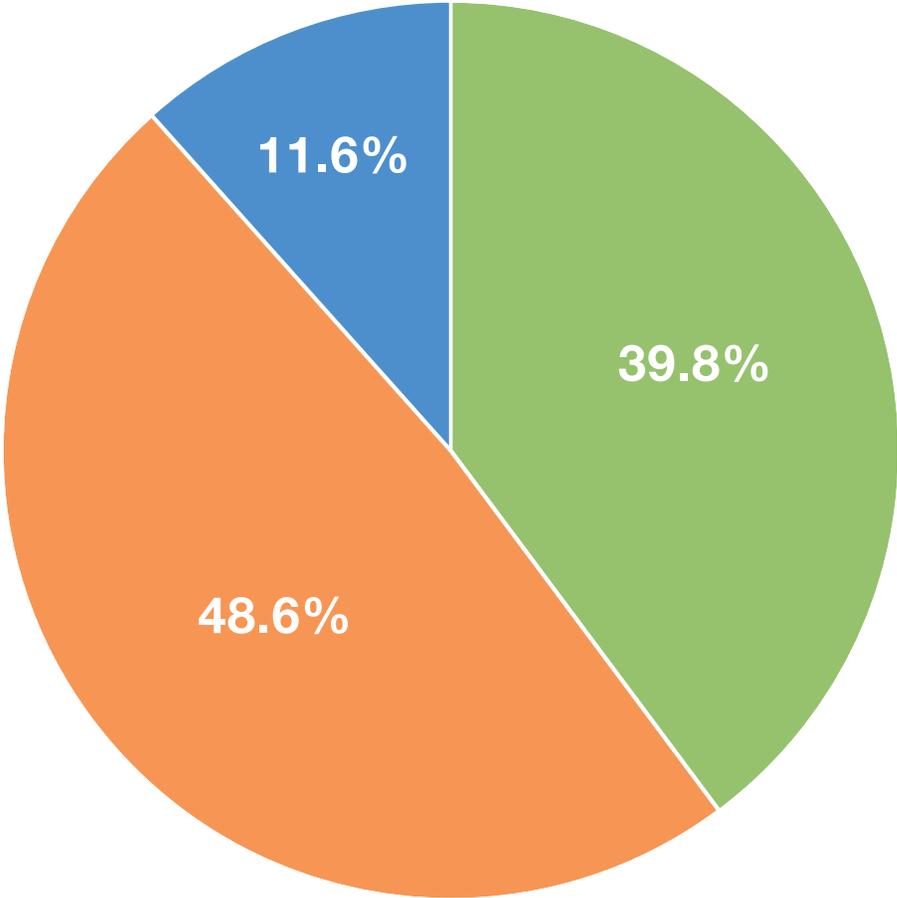
How many patients have you treated with possible COVID-19 symptoms, but have not been able to test for COVID-19?

- 0 patients - 49.8%
- 1-5 patients - 31.6%
- 5-10 patients - 8%
- 10+ patients - 10.6%



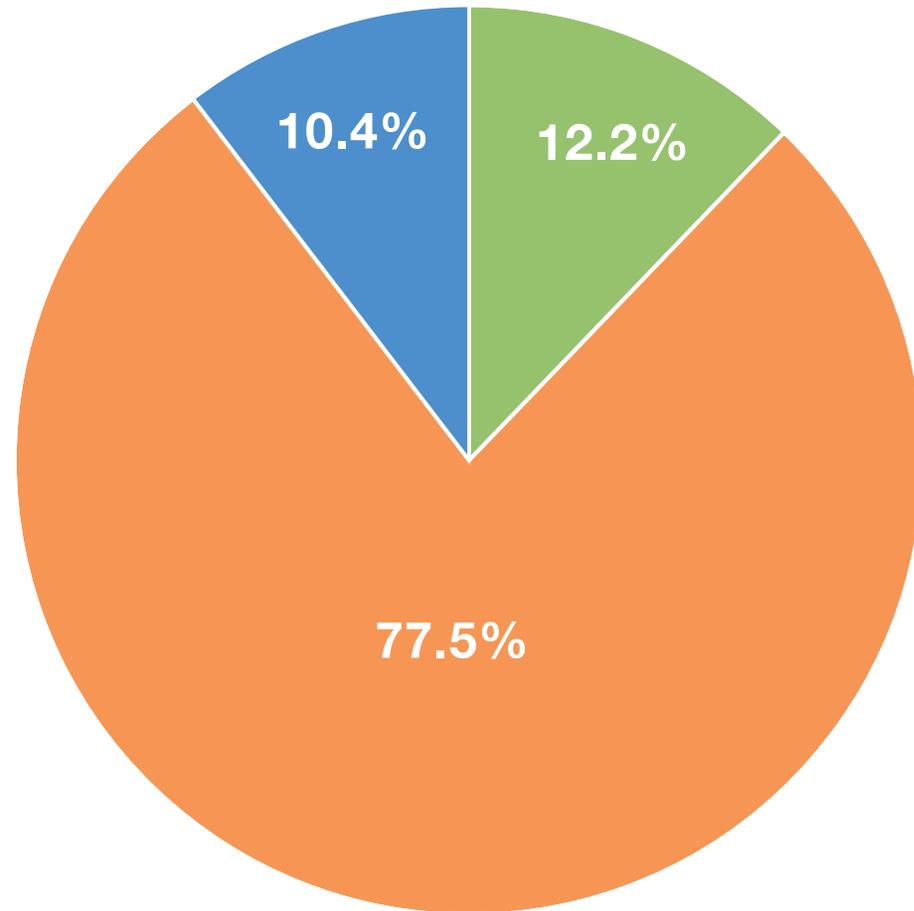
Are you concerned about patients avoiding testing or treatment due to financial or health insurance barriers?

- Yes - 39.8%
- No - 48.6%
- Don't know - 11.6%



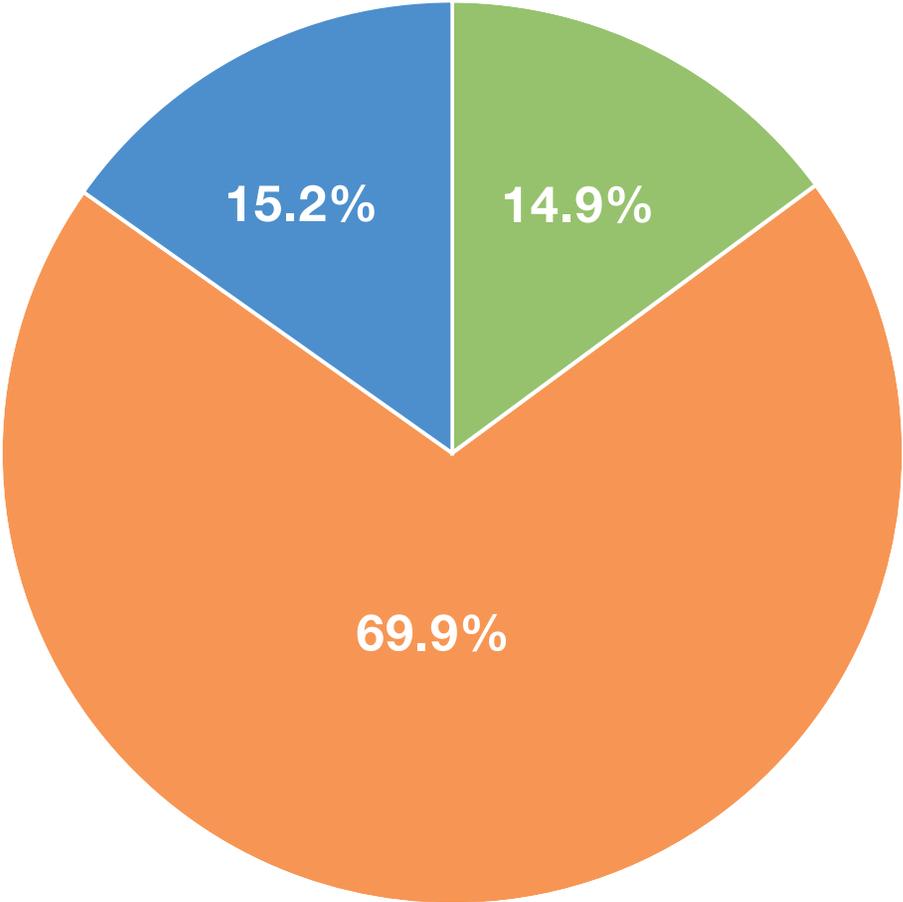
Do you believe that your hospital/clinic has adequate medical supplies and equipment if the COVID-19 pandemic worsens?

- Yes - 12.2%
- No - 77.5%
- Don't know - 10.4%



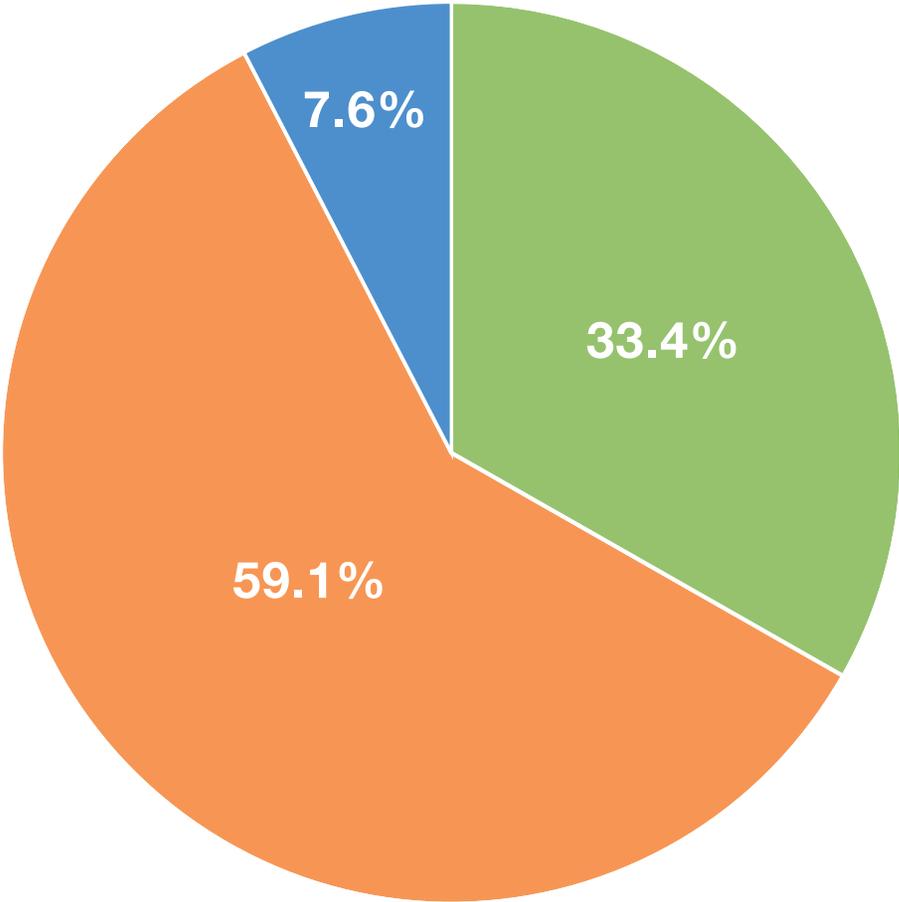
Has the government taken appropriate measures to support the medical supply chain and ensure that your hospital/clinic has the medical supplies necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes - 14.9%
- No - 69.9%
- Don't know - 15.2%



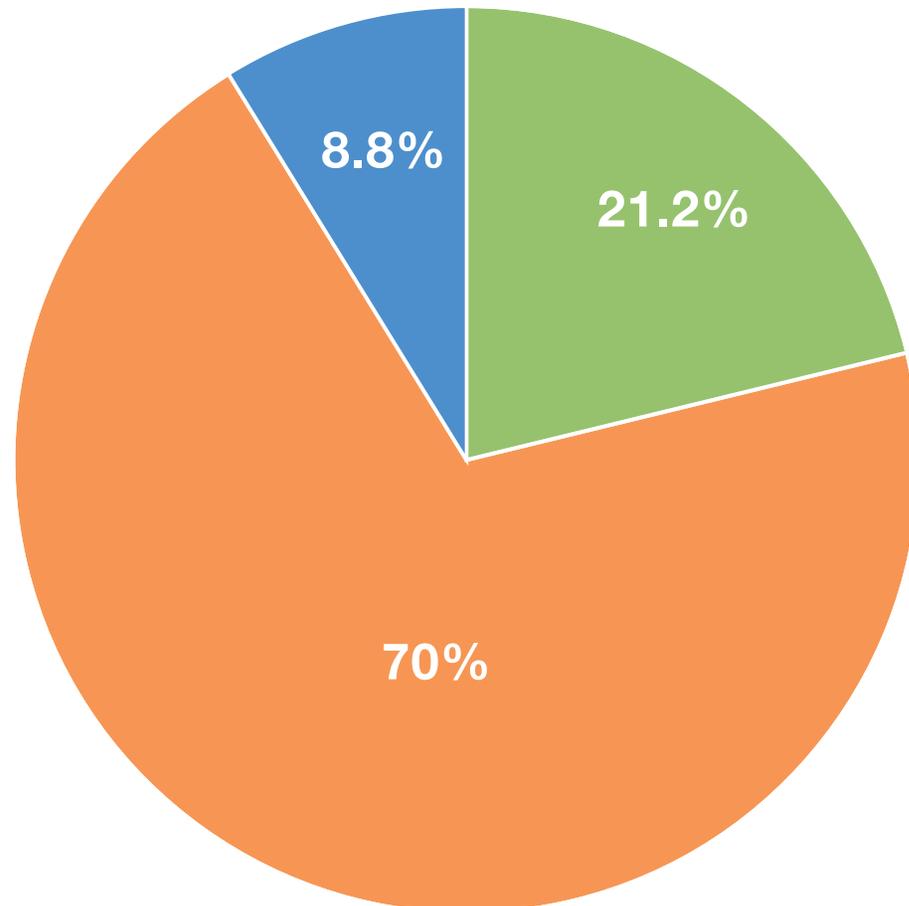
Are there enough precautions in your clinical setting that you feel protected while treating suspected COVID-19 patients?

- Yes - 33.4%
- No - 59.1%
- Don't know - 7.6%



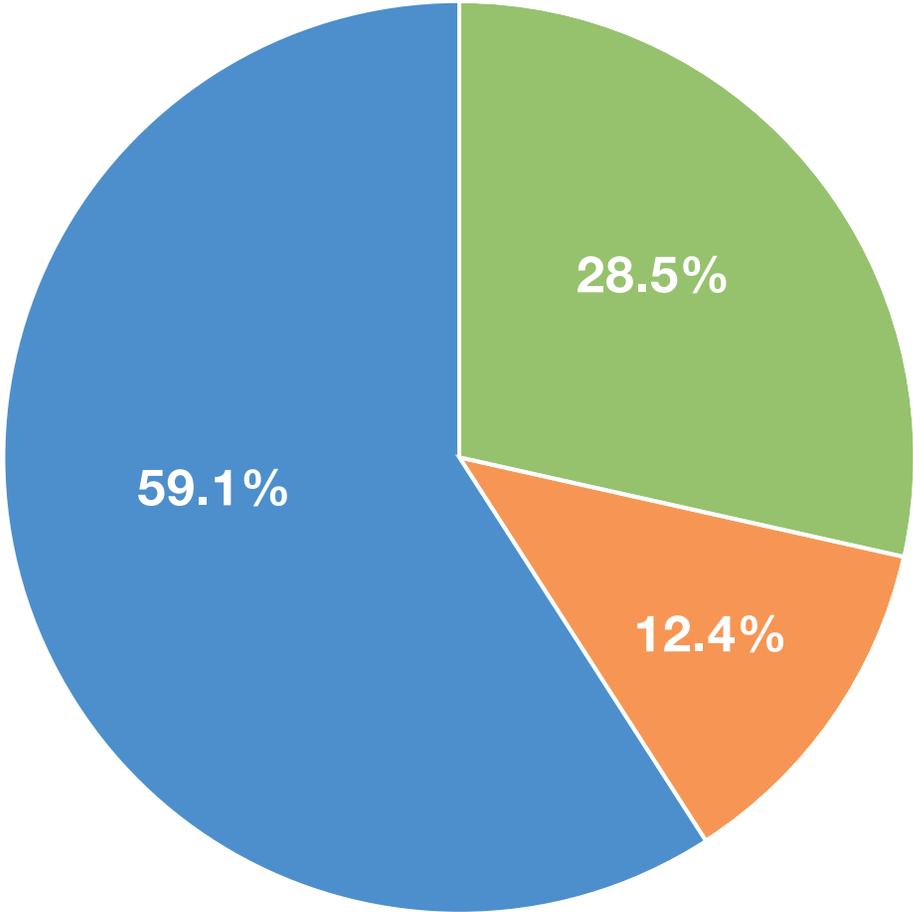
Do you believe that the U.S. government is responding adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes - the CDC and other agencies have adequately managed the crisis - 21.2%
- No - there have been significant challenges due to the government's response - 70%
- Not sure - 8.8%



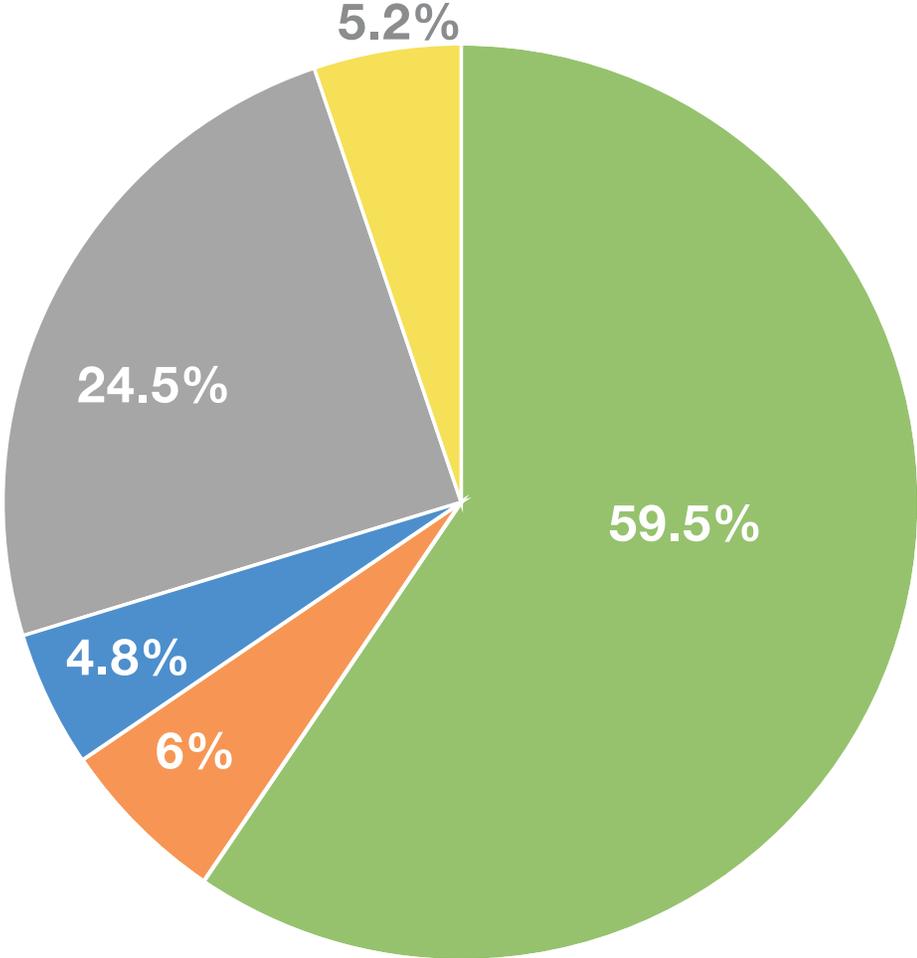
The public health response to COVID-19 has been social distancing, including discouraging travel, closing schools, and working remotely. Do you feel that the current social distancing responses are:

- An under-reaction to the potential risks? - 28.5%
- An over-reaction to the potential risks? - 12.4%
- An appropriate reaction to the potential risks? 59.1%



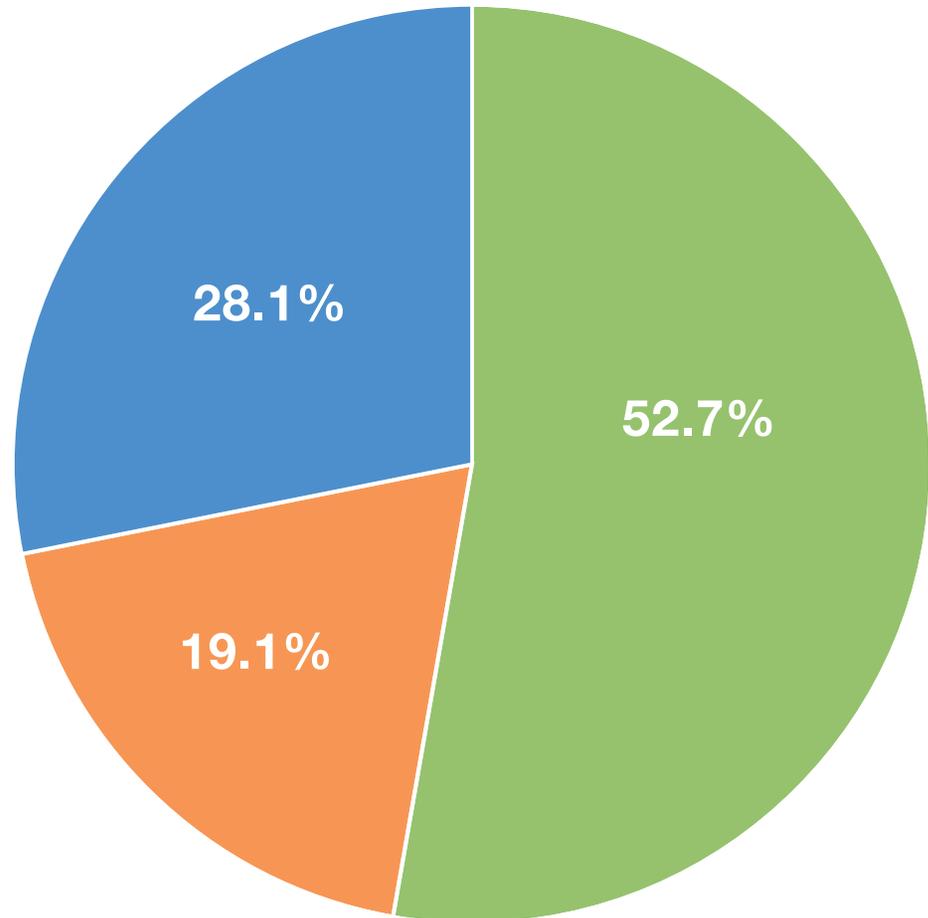
From observing your patient habits, which of the following US policy actions would “flatten the curve” the most?

- Shelter-in-place or stay-home orders - 59.5%
- Roadside testing (similar to DUI checkpoints) - 6%
- Designated fever clinics - 4.8%
- Free COVID-19 drive-thru and mail order testing - 24.5%
- Close US borders to non-essential travel - 5.2%



In response to COVID-19, have you increased your use of telemedicine technologies in your clinical practice?

- Yes, I have started seeing patients virtually - 52.7%
- No, we have not - 19.1%
- Not yet, but we're moving towards it - 28.1%





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