

# Special Report

## Returning to Church Check-In

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MAY 15, 2020

22,712 respondents at the time of reporting

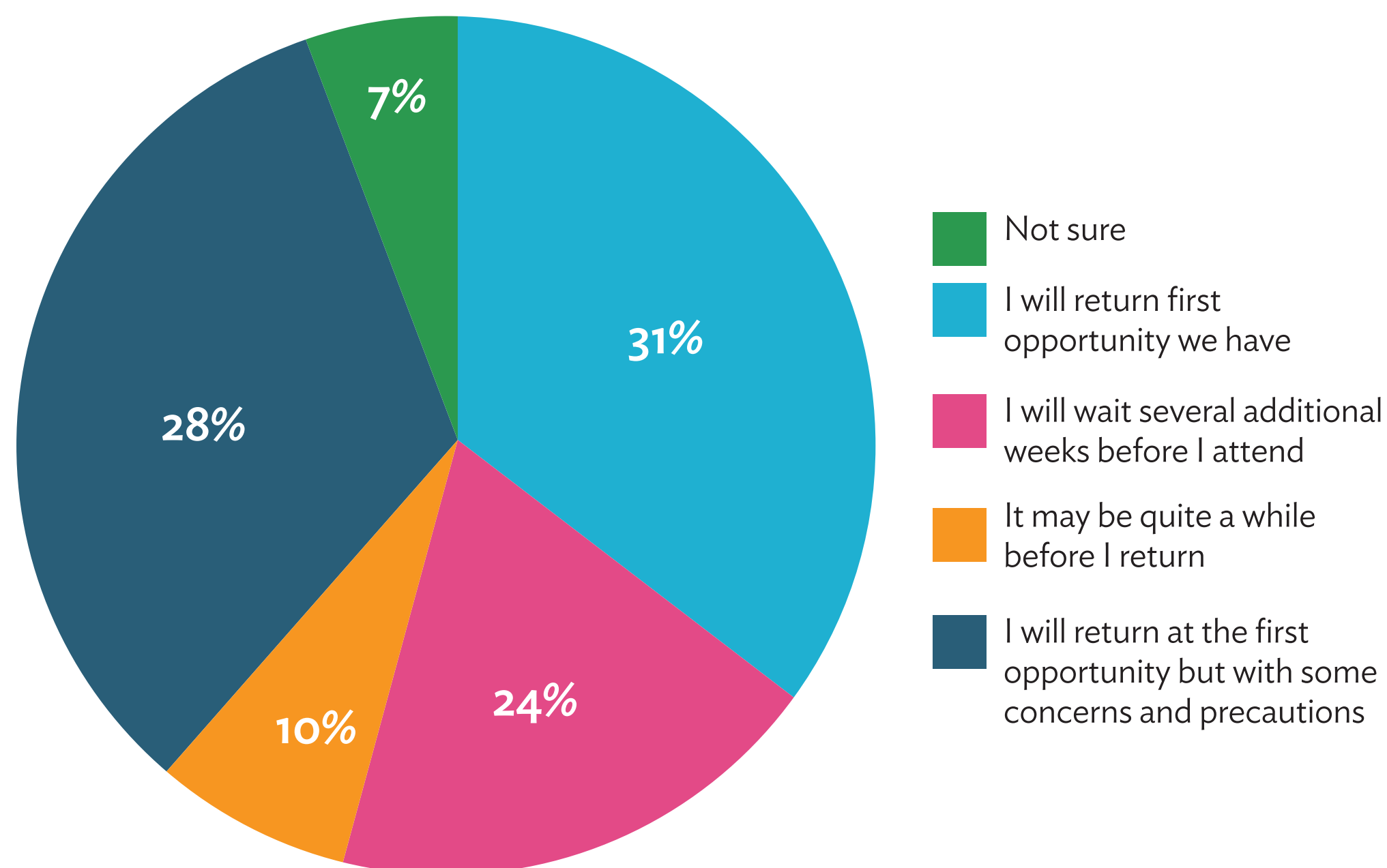
### Are congregants ready to return to in-person services?

As many states begin the journey towards re-opening, church leaders are faced with the difficult and important decision on how they will proceed with corporate worship.

Last week, we asked both church leaders and congregants how they felt about attending in-person church services and what protective measures they would be willing to take to finally come back together again. This report uncovers answers to critical questions including:

- How are leaders and congregants really feeling about returning to in-person services?
- What protective measure do congregants expect when they return?
- What are the signals that people are looking for to know it's time to re-open in-person services?

### When congregants report they will be ready to return to in-person services.

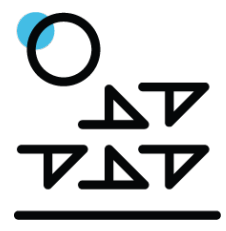


Percentages of congregants who will return to church under the following conditions

Want to know more about how your congregants feel about in-person services and the necessary safety precautions? Encourage and invite your churches to send a Returning to Church Check-In to their people for free today.

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## Congregants Are More Eager Than Pastors Anticipated



59% of congregants reported they will return at the first opportunity.



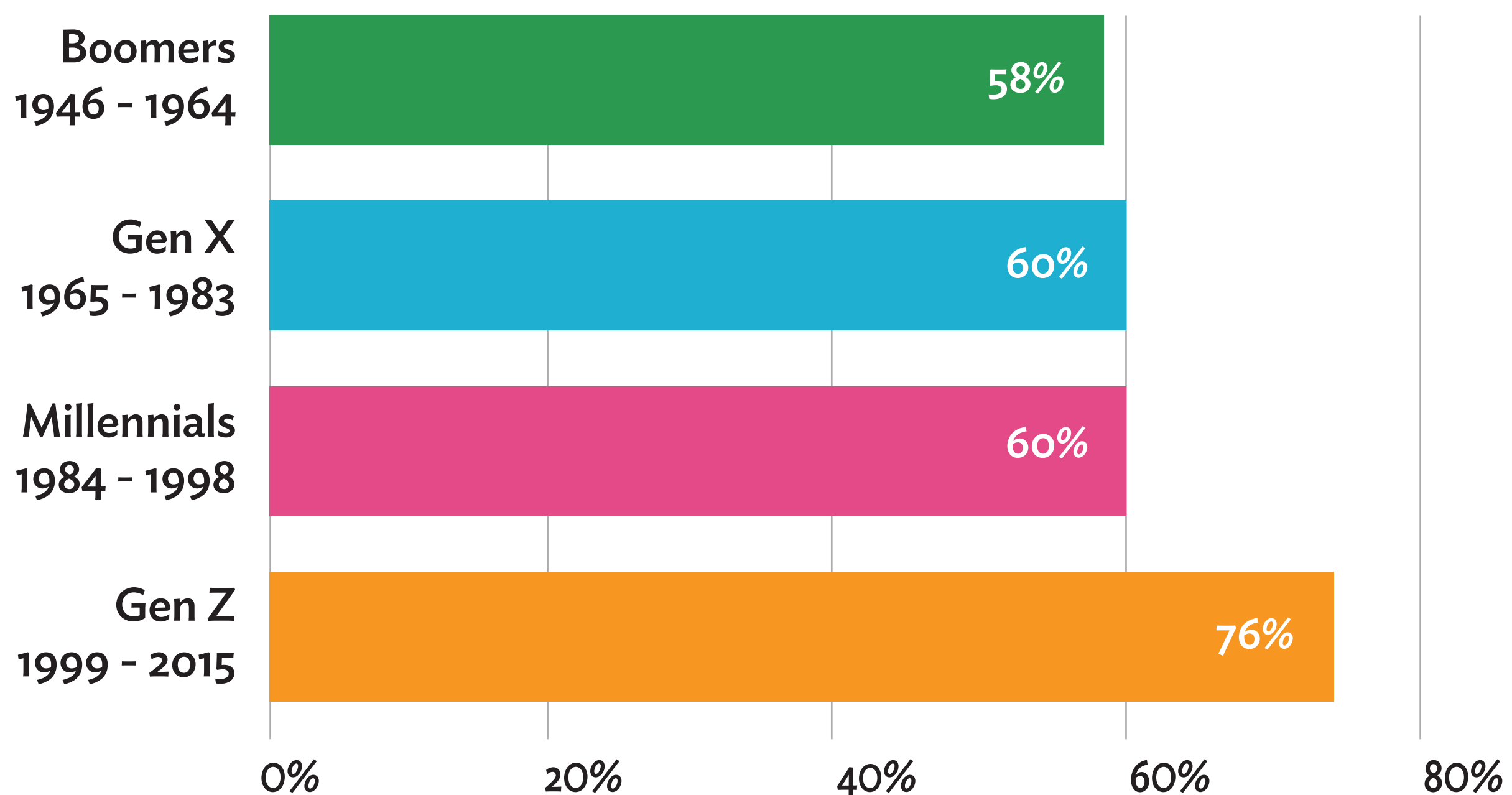
13% of pastors reported that they expect their congregation to return at the first opportunity.

### Congregants are more reserved in their requirements for returning to children's ministry.

When asked if they expect the church to offer children's and student ministries as the church resumes in-person services, here's what they said:

- 42% "Maybe, if the church can establish good precautions."
- 25% "No, have them participate in the main worship service for now."
- 19% "Not sure."
- 14% "Yes, as soon as we return."

## Across generations, people are eager to return to church-as-usual, with Gen Z leading the group by over 15 points.



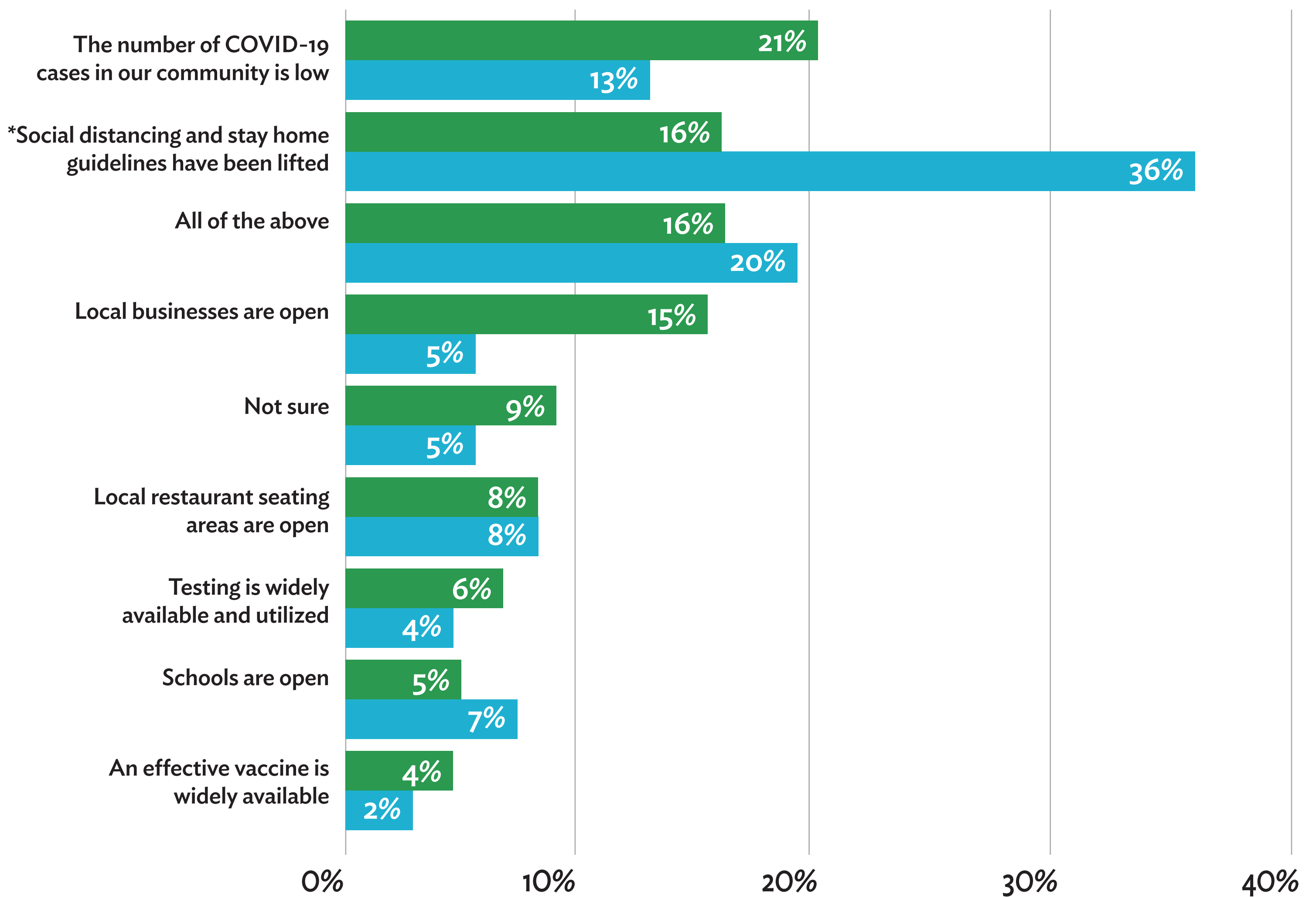
Percentage of congregants that plan to return to church at the first opportunity. Half indicated they wanted precautions in place to do so.

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# What activity best signals it's time to open in-person worship at the church?

Congregants reported various indicators that would serve as signals that it's time to return for in-person worship, with the majority (21%) reporting, "low numbers of COVID-19 cases in their community."

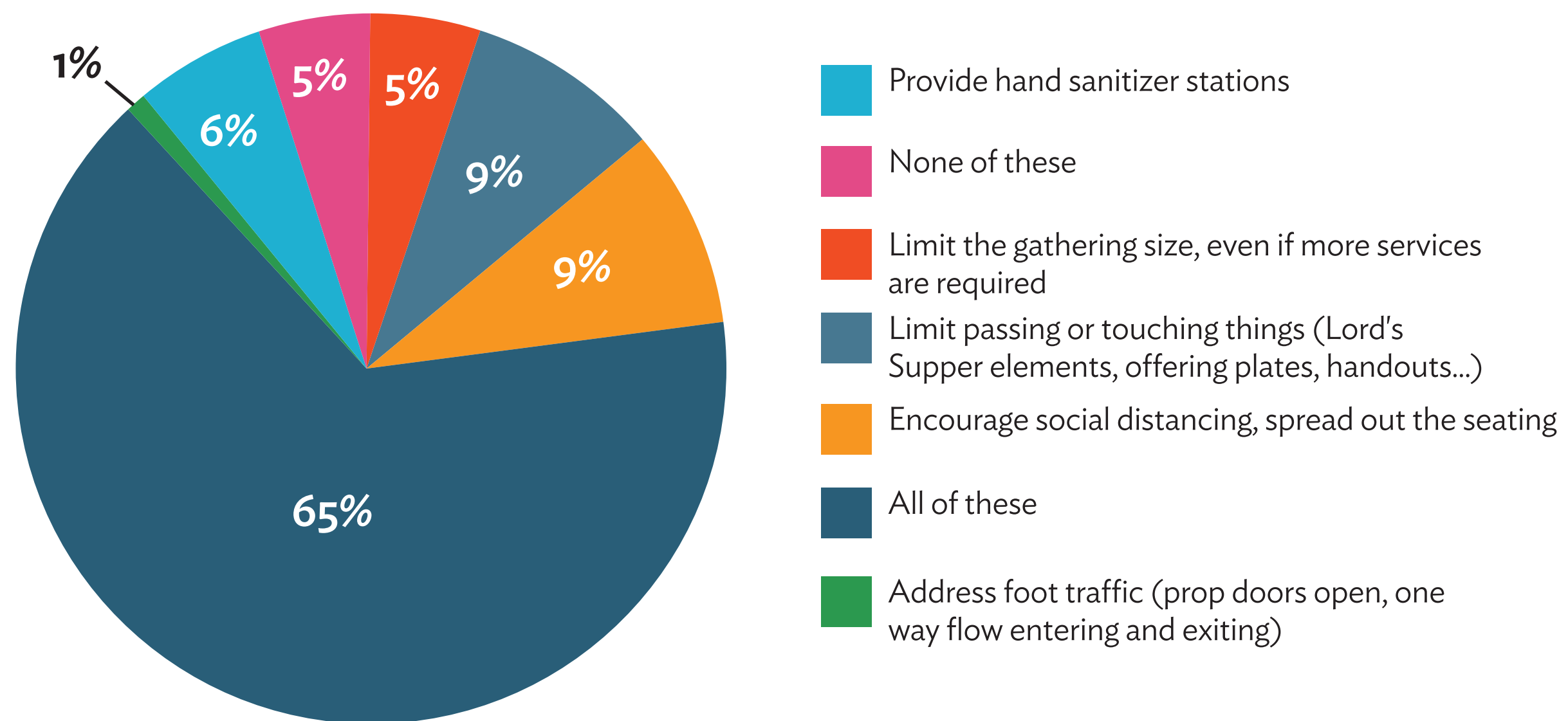


Percentages of congregants and pastors who identified a particular signal that would indicate it's time to return to in-person worship. \*Responses collected from the Weekly Pastor Poll were equally varied, with the majority of pastors reporting that "social distancing guidelines have been relaxed and shelter in place orders are lifted."

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## New Safety Measures Congregants Want Churches To Prioritize



*This graph shows the percentages of congregants who want to see certain safety measures prioritized at their church.*

**Although congregants and pastors alike continue to wait for the right signal before returning to church, data collected suggests there will be adjustments before coming back.**

**+54%** of congregants said they are ready to return for worship wearing face masks.

**+60%** of pastors said they would rather have congregants attend a physical gathering wearing face masks than have congregants worship “mask free” at home.

**+84%** of congregants said they would be willing to attend in-person worship services at different times than usual to spread out.

**Pastors and congregants differ in their eagerness to conduct protective measures over waiting for risks to ease.**

**+79%** of congregants said they would be ok with getting their temperature checked as they entered the building.

**+36%** of pastors said that they would hold services if they had to check every person’s temperature as they entered the building.

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