

Russian Governors' Approvals Drop as Kremlin Distances From Virus Response – Poll

July 02, 2021



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Russians' approval of every government institution except for President Vladimir Putin has dropped in the past month, an independent poll [published](#) Friday revealed as the Kremlin distanced itself from regional authorities' unpopular coronavirus measures amid a deadly third wave.

Putin's approval rating only saw a 1% dip from 67% in May to 66% in June, according to the Levada Center polling agency. His disapproval rating stayed at 32%.

Related article: [Russia Rejects New Lockdown Despite Record Virus Deaths](#)

Governors and mayors, one-quarter of whom have mandated vaccinations for certain workers and introduced restrictions for unvaccinated residents, suffered declines from 63% to 57% in

approval. The share of respondents who said they disapprove of their regional leader went up from 34% in May to 38% in June.

In his annual Direct Line call-in with Russians on Wednesday, Putin [said](#) he didn't support compulsory vaccination.

And on Friday, the Kremlin [ruled out](#) the idea of a new nationwide lockdown.

The share of respondents who told Levada that Russia is on the right track has also declined from 51% in May to 49% last month. Those who say that Russia is on the wrong track have gone up from 40% to 43% over the same period.

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's approval ratings dropped from 59% to 54%, though his disapproval also dropped from 36% to 32%, the pollster said.

Mishustin's cabinet, which includes his deputy Tatiana Golikova who oversees the national Covid-19 response effort, also suffered a reversal from 51% approve and 47% disapprove in May to 47% approve and 50% disapprove in June.

The State Duma, the lower house of Russian parliament, remained Russians' least-trusted institution and had its approval ratings decline further from 43% to 39% and disapproval increase from 54% to 57%.

Levada conducted its survey among 1,630 respondents across 137 Russian towns and cities between June 24-30.

Russia has confirmed a record number of Covid-19 deaths for four consecutive days starting June 29.

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