This data and analysis are not replicated in other work and we have not submitted this work to another journal. The authors do not have any conflict of interests to report. We have solicited co-author approvals of the final manuscript. The corresponding author is Beth Wittry who can be contact at xks5@cdc.gov or 4770 Buford Highway, Atlanta, GA, 30341, USA. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved the IRB for this study involving human subjects research with data collected from public by PorterNovelli through online surveys.

Our manuscript describes the characteristics associated with U.S. adults’ self-reported COVID-19 behaviors when getting food from restaurants. Respondents who were younger, had a personal COVID-19 experience, and felt safe were more likely to eat inside a restaurant during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. Visiting restaurants increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission among people who are not fully vaccinated, as it can be difficult to maintain physical distancing in these spaces and protective masks must be removed to eat and drink. Our research sheds light on respondents who are more likely to engage in riskier behaviors and highlights the need for further investigation into the barriers to and facilitators of safer dining, for both restaurants and customers, especially for people who are not fully vaccinated. The need for unvaccinated people to continue protective behaviors will be ongoing.

These findingscan inform COVID-19 prevention messaging for the public, restaurant and bar operators, and public health officials. This research is relevant to the mission and scope of PHR as it focuses on COVID-19 prevention measures to improve public health policies and practices.

***8.4.4 Three-question summary box***

1) What is the current understanding of this subject? People who are not fully vaccinated continue to eat indoors at restaurants and this can increase COVID-19 transmission risk. There is limited research on COVID-19 protective behaviors of restaurant customers.

2) What does this report add to the literature? This report describes the characteristics associated with U.S. adults’ self-reported COVID-19 behaviors when getting food from restaurants during the peak of the pandemic.

3) What are the implications for public health practice?  Public health officials should consider targeting COVID-19 public health messaging to younger adults and those with personal COVID-19 experience. Understanding restaurant-dining decisions can help preparation efforts for the ongoing and future pandemics.