



San Francisco Village

COVID - 19

**Research and Advisory Team:
Report and Recommendations
April 19, 2020**

SFV Members:

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We do not have new major Covid 19 developments to report this week. Recent information has largely focused on a phased reopening of business and other activities.

Among the current uncertainties are:

- How many people have contracted the covid19 virus?
- For how long does having antibodies protect a person? Permanently? For several months?
- Why are some people testing positive after they had the virus and tested negative?
- Are there additional symptoms (e.g. loss of smell and taste) that may indicate infection in the absence of the more typical symptoms?
- Are there additional consequences that result from contracting covid19 (e.g. neurological issues)?

Themes being discussed include:

- What does the “peak” mean?**
 - The expert consensus is that reported deaths in the US will increase to around 47,000 by May 1, although they think there could be as many as 82,000 by that time. The experts also think fatalities are most likely to peak in May, but they still see about a 1 in 3 chance that deaths won't peak until June or later. They also expect that between eight and 11 states will report more than 1,000 deaths by May 1.
 - Health experts say not to expect a single peak day — when new cases reach their highest level — to determine when the tide has turned. As with any disease, the numbers need to decline for a while to discern any real trend.
 - Getting a true reading of the number of cases of COVID-19 is difficult because of the lack of testing in many places, particularly among people under age 65 and those without symptoms.

- Another factor is that states and counties will hit peaks at different times based on how quickly they instituted stay-at-home orders or other social distancing rules.
- Also making it hard to determine the peak is the success in some areas of “flattening the curve” of new cases. The widespread efforts at social distancing were designed to help avoid a dramatic spike in the number of people contracting the virus. But that can result instead in a flat rate that may remain high for quite a while.
- Lowering the number of new cases is important, but it doesn’t mean the virus is disappearing. It suggests instead that social distancing has slowed the spread of the disease and elongated the course of the pandemic.

□ What has to happen for the country to reopen?

- Epidemiologists say there’s a possibility states reopening businesses and easing social distancing requirements too quickly could lead to a second wave of cases and deaths — in a worst-case scenario, that could mean up to 1.7 million Americans dead.
- Massive, ongoing testing to detect where the disease is spreading
 - The US has averaged fewer than 150,000 tests per day over the last week. Researchers estimate that to reopen the US by the middle of May, daily tests would need to be closer to 500,000 to 700,000. And other experts argue millions of tests would need to be conducted each day.
 - Widespread antibody testing in a Californian county has revealed a much higher prevalence of coronavirus infection than official figures suggested. An analysis of the blood of some 3,300 people living in Santa Clara county in early April found that one in every 66 people had been infected with SARS-CoV-2. On the basis of that finding, the researchers estimate that between 48,000 and 82,000 of the county’s roughly 2 million inhabitants were infected with the virus at that time — numbers that contrast sharply with the official case count of some 1,000 people reported in early April,
- A real-time ability to trace contacts of those infected and isolate them

- A willingness of people to wear masks in crowded public spaces
- Reserves of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment for hospital workers to handle any surge in cases
- Reliable, easily administered blood tests to find out the number of people who have been infected. If they work well, such tests could eventually be used to identify people with immunity who could work at higher-risk jobs

□ What will the “new normal” look like (until treatment and a vaccine are available?)

- Continued social distancing and wearing of masks
- No large gatherings
- Greater surveillance to monitor public health outbreaks
- A shift to remote work—and telehealth
- Fewer in-person interactions (and no handshakes)
- A greater sense of community and appreciation for nature

San Francisco

Total Tested: 10,855

Total Positive Cases: 1157

Confirmed Cases up by 1.8%

Deaths: 20

People in San Francisco are now required to wear face coverings at essential businesses, in public facilities, on transit, and while performing essential work.

Contact Tracing to Begin in Bay Area

San Francisco is enlisting a cadre of outreach workers and a software company to track and trace Bay Area residents who have been exposed to the coronavirus as California enters the next phase of managing the pandemic.

The pilot program announced Wednesday could serve as a model for California and possibly the country as state leaders grapple with how to ease the stay-at-home orders that have hamstrung the economy. Gov. Gavin Newsom this week specifically said tracing the spread of Covid-19 will be crucial in allowing people to increase their movements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. IMPORTANT ADVISORY WARNING: the news about loosening restrictions and resuming social, economic, and daily activities does not apply to those in vulnerable population groups, including people over 60 and those with chronic health conditions. SFV members may hear news about “opening up” and assume it will be safe to enter stores, get together in social gatherings, attend events, etc. SFV staff, Board, and event leaders/teachers will need to repeatedly reaffirm the importance of maintaining high levels of precautions for SFV members.**
2. Continue to progress recommendations from preceding reports