



San Francisco Village

COVID – 19
Research and Advisory Team:
Report and Recommendations #17
July 5, 2020

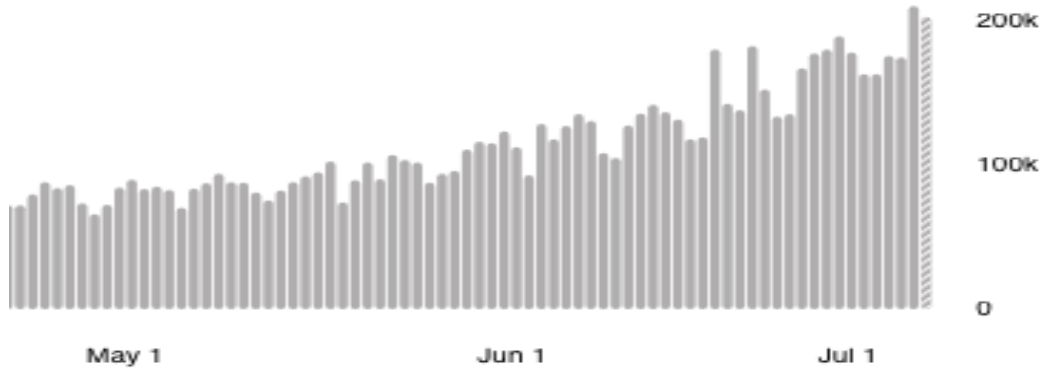
SFV Members:
Barbara Kivowitz and Patricia Tsang

This report contains a summary of the key updates on the status of Covid-19 that are more evident since our last report (June 28), along with our current recommendations for actions for SFV to consider taking. Sources include: CDC, WHO, SFDPH, CA DPH, Science Journal, Nature Journal, New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, Scripps Research Institute, Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, UCSF Medical Grand Rounds, STAT, Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation, the Covid Tracking Project, other clinical journals, reports from public health professionals, and news media.

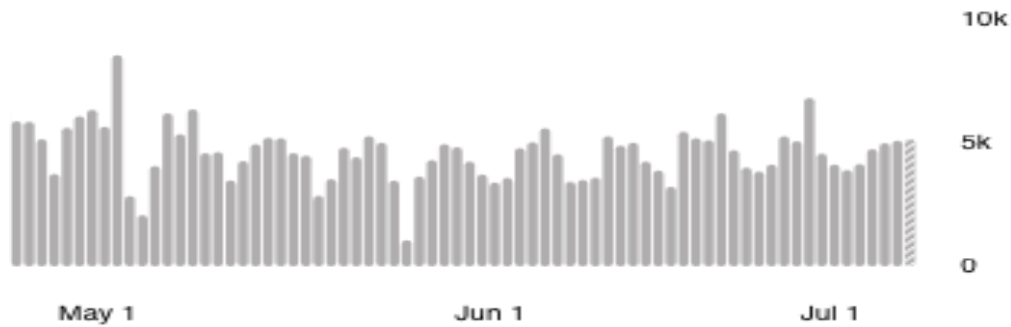
RECENT FINDINGS

Global

Confirmed Cases: 11,125,245



Deaths: 528,204



1) New version of coronavirus spreads faster, but doesn't make people sicker

A global study has found strong evidence that a new form of the coronavirus has spread from Europe to the US. The new mutation makes the virus more likely to infect people but does not seem to make them any sicker than earlier variations of the virus, an international team of researchers reported Thursday.

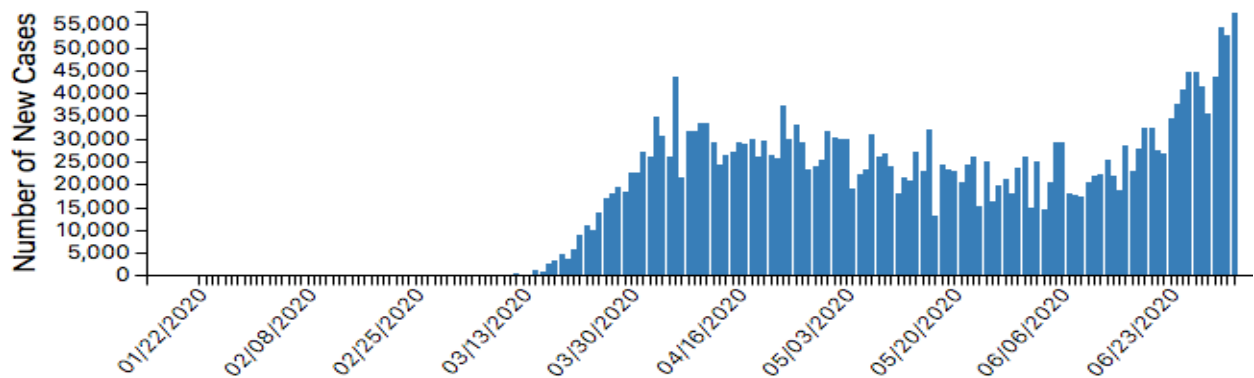
Shared information on genetic sequences had indicated that a certain mutant version of the virus was taking over. The researchers call the new mutation G614, and they show that it has almost completely replaced the first version to spread in Europe and the US, one called D614.

The new version seems to multiply faster in the upper respiratory tract -- the nose, sinuses and throat -- which would explain why it passes around more easily. But tests on 1,000 hospitalized coronavirus patients in Britain showed those infected with the new version did not fare any worse than those who caught the original strain. The range of antibodies in the blood of the people was just as effective, if not a little better, at neutralizing the new virus as the old virus and it was.

United States

Total cases: 2,789,678

Total Deaths: 129,305



1) Confirmed Coronavirus Cases Are Rising In 40 Of 50 States

With the number of daily confirmed coronavirus cases nationwide climbing past 50,000, an alarming 36 states saw an increase in the percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus. The surge has been blamed in part on Americans not covering their faces or following other social distancing rules as states lifted their lockdowns over the past few weeks.

The U.S. recorded 51,200 new confirmed cases Wednesday, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. That represents a doubling of the daily total over the past month and is higher even than what the country witnessed during the most lethal phase of the crisis in April and May, when the New York metropolitan area was easily the worst hot spot in the U.S.

All but 10 states are showing an upswing in newly reported cases over the past 14 days. The outbreaks are most severe in Arizona, Texas and Florida, which together with California have reclosed or otherwise clamped back down on bars, restaurants and movie theaters over the past week or so. While some of the increases may be explained by expanded testing, other indicators are grim, too, including hospitalizations and positive test rates.

Over the past two weeks, the percentage of positive tests has doubled in Georgia, Kansas, Montana, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina and Ohio. In Nevada, it has tripled. In Idaho, it is five times higher. In Texas, where new cases in the past two weeks have swelled from about 2,400 a day to almost 8,000 on Wednesday, the positive rate ballooned from 8% to 14.5%. In Arizona, it has gone from 5.7% to 10.3%. Florida reported more than 10,000 new confirmed cases for the first time Thursday. That is six times higher than the daily count of less than a month ago. The state also reported 67 deaths for the second time in a week and 325 new hospitalizations, one of the biggest 24-hour jumps in Florida yet. Georgia likewise saw its biggest single-day increase yet, nearly 3,500 cases.

2) Toxic hand sanitizer: FDA warns consumers to avoid these brands

The Food and Drug Administration released a warning statement saying consumers should not buy hand sanitizer products from the Mexico-based manufacturer Eskbiochem. The warning comes after the FDA discovered methanol, or wood alcohol, in these products. Methanol can be dangerous when ingested or absorbed through the skin, and it can be fatal in large quantities.

Here's the full list of hand sanitizers to avoid in the FDA's most recent warning statement:

- All-Clean Hand Sanitizer by Eskbiochem
- Esk Biochem Hand Sanitizer by Eskbiochem
- Lavar 70 Gel Hand Sanitizer by Eskbiochem
- The Good Gel Antibacterial Gel Hand Sanitizer by Eskbiochem
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol by Eskbiochem
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol by Eskbiochem (74589-003-01)

- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol by Eskbiochem (74589-005-03)
- Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer by Eskbiochem
- Britz Hand Sanitizer Ethyl Alcohol 70% by Tropicocosmeticos SA de CV
- Antiseptic Alcohol 70% Topical Solution hand sanitizer Soluciones Cosmeticas SA de CV
- Bersih Hand Sanitizer Gel Fragrance Free by Soluciones Cosmeticas SA de CV
- Mystic Shield Protection hand sanitizer by Transliquid Technologies
- Hand sanitizer Gel Unscented 70% Alcohol by Grupo Insoma, S.A.P.I de CV

California

California cases to date: 254,745 — up from 251,175, or 1.4%

California currently hospitalized: 5,595 — up from 5,506 or 1.6%

California deaths: 6,318 — up by 6

1) California has experienced an average of about 6,000 to 7,000 new cases each day over the past week.

Los Angeles County began to count more residents sick with Covid-19 cases than anywhere else in the nation. As hospitalizations surged, the death toll climbed past 6,000, and ICU beds in some regions began filling to capacity.

As restaurants, bars, zoos and movie theatres reopened across the state, outbreaks in southern California have been the most worrying, with Bay Area counties seeing more modest rises. Overall, about 6.9% of those tested for coronavirus across the state have gotten a positive result in the past week. That's higher than the 5% the World Health Organization recommended as the upper bar for reopening

Early tracking data in LA county suggests that outbreaks in nursing homes added up with cases traced back to restaurants, workplaces, warehouses and retailers account for just about 15 or 20% of all cases. While the disease may have also spread amid the massive protests, epidemiologists aren't connecting big outbreaks to the demonstrations.

Demographic data suggests that younger people, between the ages of 18 and 50, are fueling the current wave of infections, accounting for nearly 60% of cases statewide.

Latinx, Black and other minority groups are disproportionately infected with and dying of Covid-19, according to a tracking tool designed by UCLA, and early metrics suggest that the state's reopening has exacerbated disparities. Devastating outbreaks in California's prisons and homeless shelters have further fueled inequities.

2) New California shutdowns

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday afternoon that the state would be shutting down indoor operations for restaurants, zoos, museums and several other sectors effective immediately due to concerns over the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. The governor said that state officials were focusing on certain sectors of the economy where the spread of coronavirus is more likely to occur to mitigate the spread.

The governor pointed out that the COVID-19 numbers continued to be troubling, with 5,898 new cases of coronavirus confirmed statewide Tuesday, and a testing positivity rate that has risen from 4.6 percent to 6 percent over a 14-day period.

The 110 people who died from the virus in the past 24 hours was the second most reported in the state on a single day since the coronavirus pandemic began. The only day with more deaths registered was April 22, with 115. Hospitalizations increased by 51 percent and ICU admissions have increased by 47 percent from 14 days ago.



Counties on state watch list as of July 1 (CA.gov)

3) Bay Area increases

The nine-county Bay Area has been seeing a rapid rise in hospitalizations in the last two weeks that is approaching a peak not seen since early April. Around April 6, the Bay Area had 467 confirmed COVID patients in hospitals, and as of Thursday that number has risen back to 745 — a 26-percent uptick since Sunday.

Significant upticks in hospitalizations have been seen in recent days in Alameda County, where the number of beds occupied by COVID patients has risen 55 percent since mid-June; in Contra Costa county where hospitalizations have doubled from 22 to 41 between June 12 and June 30; and Solano County where hospitalized cases have nearly tripled in that same period with a total of 48 patients now in hospitals.

Capacity issues arising for hospitals around the Bay, including in San Francisco, where UCSF Parnassus reports that its ICU beds are currently 82-percent filled with mostly non-COVID patients. In Sonoma, where there are just 16 COVID patients in the ICU, ICU beds are now 84-percent full. San Francisco hospitals have been accepting patients from other counties in the state as those counties' hospitals reach capacity — which may further strain capacity in the city.

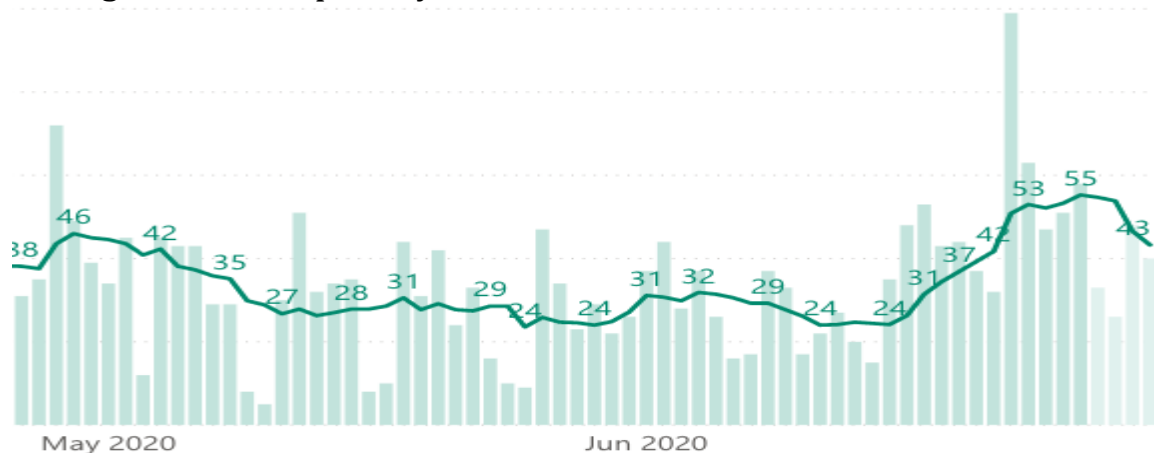
San Francisco

Confirmed cases: 3,781 — up by 5 (0.1%) since Saturday

Hospitalized: 69 — up by 9 as of 7/3, with 17 in ICU beds

Deaths: 50 — up by 0 since 6/28

Average new cases per day: 43



1) Increase in infections and hospitalizations in San Francisco and pause in reopening

Early signs of a coronavirus case surge Thursday has health officials in San Francisco warning residents about what is being called an alarming rate of infections and hospitalizations. City leaders are trying to prevent a steeper spike in cases after the holiday weekend, once again urging locals to “flatten the curve” with their behavior.

On Thursday, new SF Department of Health figures showed there were six confirmed cases for every 100,000 residents. The city’s goal is to reduce that number to 1.8. The weekly rate of change in COVID-19 positive hospitalization has spiked to 61 percent, even higher than the 57 percent that led to a similar warning Wednesday. The goal is to keep the hospitalization rate at less than 10 percent.

San Francisco Department of Public Health officials say cases are peaking in minority and economically disadvantaged communities. Many are essential workers.

A large percentage of cases are attributed to a lack of face coverings and social distancing. More than half of those diagnosed are asymptomatic.

Mayor London Breed today announced that San Francisco is experiencing a concerning increase in local COVID-19 cases, and as a result will be temporarily delaying the reopening of certain businesses and activities scheduled to be allowed to resume on Monday, June 29. These include: hair salons and barbershops, nail salons, tattoo studios, museums, zoos, outdoor bars, and outdoor swimming. There is no change to businesses and activities currently allowed under prior reopening phases.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We have no new recommendations at this time.