

COVID-19 Response

How Mayors Can Protect Health, Promote Economic Growth,
and Reduce the Risks of Reopening

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ROLE OF CITIES

Cities play an important role in pandemic growth and remission

Density is a driver of the pandemic

- Large numbers of people living in a smaller geographic area
- More frequent and closer contact with others means disease spread is more likely
- Centers of commerce and culture have more people visiting from other places
- Disease will spread from cities to suburbs and rural areas

Public health response

- Cities have more resources and capacity for local action in many government sectors to protect health
- Most public health measures need to be implemented locally
- Cities can be pathfinders for their regions and countries
- Cities can often act more quickly than national governments

MAYORAL LEADERSHIP

1

Closest and most accountable to the people

City government leaders are closest to the people they serve – and are the most accountable to them

2

Know and understand the people best

City government leaders understand best what will work – and what won't – in their own cities

3

Greatest ability to implement and enforce measures

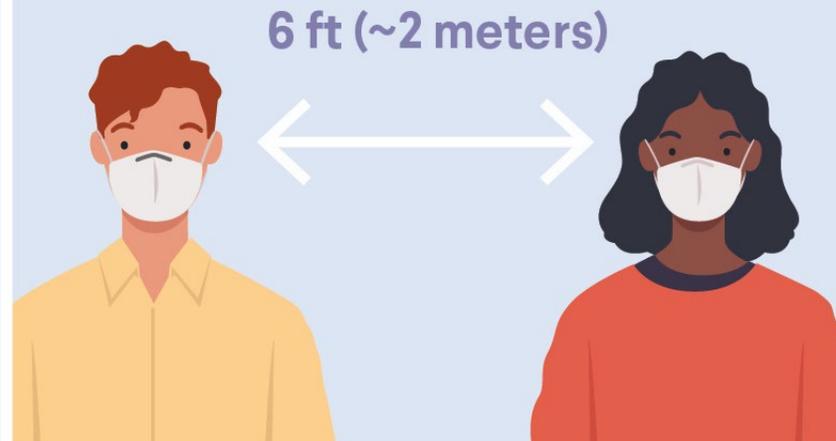
City government leaders have latitude over what to do and how to get things done

3 W's to reduce risk of COVID-19

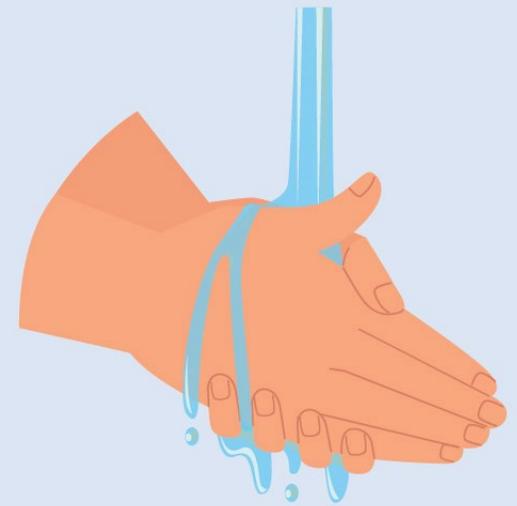
Wear a mask



Watch your distance



Wash your hands



INTERVENTIONS CITIES CAN IMPLEMENT

1

Isolation of cases and quarantine of contacts

Prevents confirmed or suspected cases from infecting others

2

Bans of indoor public gatherings

Reduces possibility of large outbreaks of disease

3

School and work closures and adaptations

May be useful based on patterns of disease transmission, but need to limit social harms

4

Sheltering-in-place orders

When required, all people to remain at home except for essential workers (health care, public safety, food supply) or essential tasks (food shopping, medical care, care for vulnerable populations)

1



TEST WIDELY

Create places for
community testing

Publicly track time from
symptoms to test result

4



QUARANTINE ALL CONTACTS FOR 14 DAYS

Create **incentives** to manage isolation
and quarantine: provide care
packages, remote resources, and
financial support to those quarantined



2



ISOLATE ALL INFECTED PEOPLE

Ensure **safe housing**, working with
businesses and community
organizations to open hotels, dorms

Engage with disenfranchised
populations by with community
organizations and leaders

3



FIND EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH INFECTED PATIENTS

Help public health experts recruit a
corps of tracers from throughout
community from social service workers
to new college grads

Publicly track percent of cases
arising from quarantined contacts

RESOURCES FOR ISOLATED CASES AND QUARANTINED CONTACTS

Need incentives to manage isolation and quarantine with strong wraparound services

EXAMPLES AND IDEAS



Care packages could include

- Masks
- Thermometers
- Food, laundry, pharmacy services
- Health education materials
- Passwords for on-demand movies, e-books, learning channels
- Access to high-speed internet & laptops
- Hand sanitizer & alcohol-based cleansers
- Encouraging notes from government leaders



Core resources such as

- Daily check-in phone calls
- Instructions of how to keep space clean for those sharing space
- A hotline for counseling, information, social services, and medical support
- Garbage removal
- Access to telehealth and care if ill
- Relocation to safe and desirable place, if requested



Financial support could include

- Stipend from government to those without sick leave or who need to take care of child or elderly dependents
- Work with employers to provide support, with possible tax credits

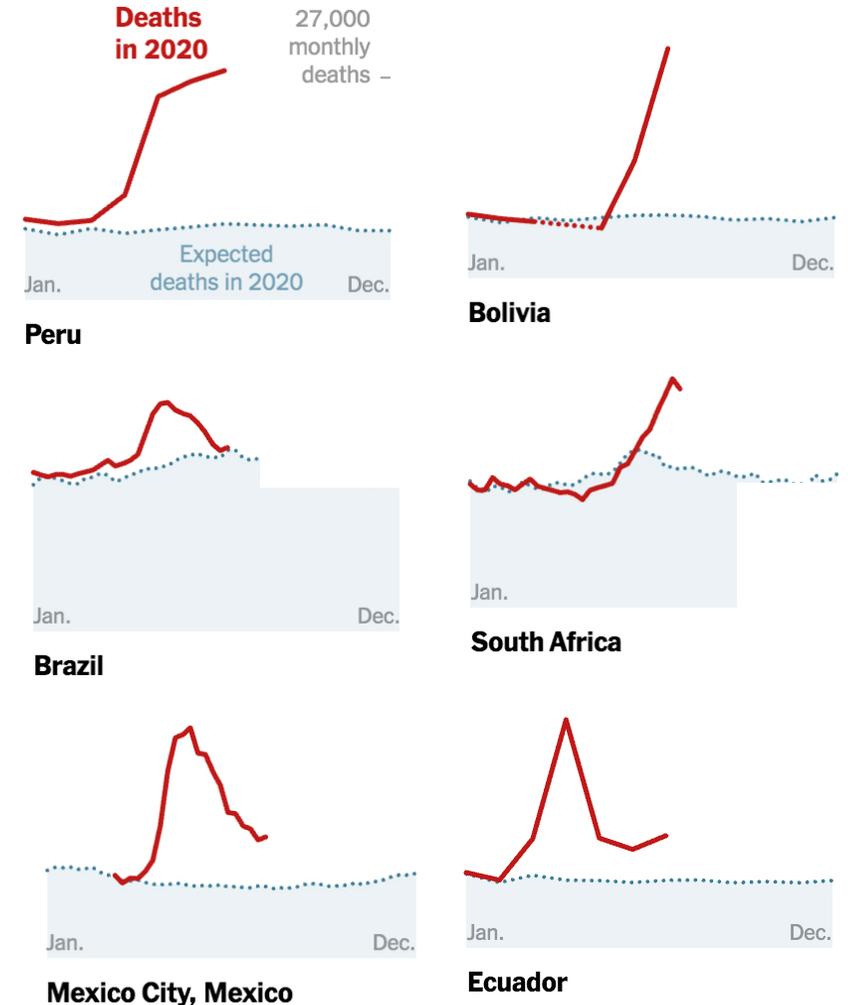
Measuring Excess Mortality (Deaths Above Normal)

- ▶ More people dying in 2020
 - * More deaths being reported than deaths from COVID-19
- ▶ Excess deaths can be
 - * Reported COVID-19 deaths
 - * Unreported COVID-19 deaths
 - * Increased deaths from other causes
- ▶ Measuring deaths from all causes provides more accurate assessment of pandemic's actual toll

EXCESS MORTALITY IN SELECTED JURISDICTIONS

58,000 deaths above baseline, 3x reported Covid deaths

Source: NY Times; data as of Aug 22.



DETERMINING WHAT IS SAFE: **ASSESSING RISK**

Risk of infection =

- x** prevalence in community
- x** proportion without masks
- x** ventilation (outdoors best)
- x** number of people exposed to
- x** duration of exposure

Outdoors in low-prevalence community =

almost no risk

Indoors, for a long time, with lots of people, in a high-prevalence community, without masks =

Highest risk



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