

COVID-19 DIGEST

From the Infectious Diseases Divisions at UCSF, ZSFG and VA

EPIDEMIOLOGY

LOCAL

There is clear evidence for **community transmission** in the Bay Area—cases where there is no known direct link to travel or to infected persons. **Five new diagnosed patients including two East Bay Health workers** were announced over the weekend. This was expected and not surprising, given what is currently known about COVID-19 transmission and circulation.

NATIONAL

Cases of COVID-19 are now being recognized around the United States. **There have been 105 cases in 15 states.** California is reporting the largest number of new cases (20). Washington State has sadly reported **7 fatalities as of March 3.** Many of these deaths were associated with transmission in a nursing home setting.

GLOBAL

Over **90,000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in > 70 nations.** In Europe, cases are now being detected in many countries beyond Italy, and various measures are being taken in these countries to mitigate spread. Some countries have already called for cancelling events where more than 1,000 persons gather; museums, such as the Louvre in Paris, are temporarily closed. Many large meetings—including those in medicine, science and tech—are being cancelled and are choosing to share conference information digitally.

DAILY UPDATES

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

EVALUATING PATIENTS

SF Public Health Department lab is actively testing specimens for COVID-19. Each of our campuses are updating their screening algorithms and testing capacity. For information on institution-specific testing, please see contacts and links below at the end of this digest.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The UCSF Task Force can provide updates by ID faculty on COVID-19 to your department, division or team in varying formats: a 15-minute talk, a Grand Rounds, a Q&A session or another format that might suit your group.

For more information or to schedule a session, please contact Chesa Cox at Chesa.Cox@ucsf.edu.

RESEARCH

Treatments and vaccines are areas of active and intense investigation. There is no proven antiviral treatment for COVID-19. **Several antimicrobial agents** may have activity against COVID, including both experimental and FDA approved drugs. One promising agent is **remdesivir**, an investigational nucleotide analogue under active investigation for COVID-19 in two phase 3 randomized open label studies enrolling in Asian countries and a Phase 2 double blinded, placebo controlled **NIH-funded study** actively enrolling in the US at Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center. This trial has potential to expand to other sites. Remdesivir is also available through compassionate use from Gilead Sciences for qualifying patients on a case-by-case basis.

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FAQ

1. What is the increased risk for disease acquisition or mortality for persons on immune suppression?

Although there are limited data on this, medical comorbidities including malignancy have been associated with higher risks for severe outcomes (data from China). In other coronaviruses, immunocompromised patients may show fewer symptoms at onset but later have more severe disease; it is not known if this is the case with COVID-19. There are no data to determine if people living with HIV, specifically post-transplant are at greater risk of COVID-19 acquisition or more severe disease.

2. What do we know about COVID-19 spread to children?

In Germany, a schoolteacher fell ill with COVID-19 pneumonia. Of the 114 children exposed to this teacher, 100 were tested. Four children in this classroom have subsequently developed COVID-19 with mild symptoms. There are school closings in Europe where teachers have fallen ill with the disease, but no reported deaths among children.

3. Can COVID-19 relapse?

There have been reports from China, Japan, and the US of persons who tested positive weeks after recovering from COVID-19 disease. There is insufficient information at the present time to interpret these reports, which could represent assay error, prolonged waxing/waning viral shedding, true reinfection or true relapse. This is an area of active investigation.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS & REFERENCES FOR CLINICAL OPERATIONS

ZSFG Hospital - Infection Control Team:

Lisa Winston, MD, MPH (lisa.winston@ucsf.edu) and Vivek Jain, MD, MAS (vivek.jain@ucsf.edu)
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SFVAHCS - Infection Control Team:

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UCSF Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention COVID-19 webpage:

<https://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/ucsf-health-covid-19-resources>

San Francisco DPH link

<https://www.sfdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-coronavirus/>

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