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HOW THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WILL RESHAPE OUR CITIES

LBJ In the Arena On the Frontline: Restarting Our Cities

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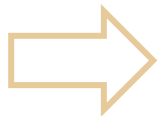
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Takeaways

The effects of COVID-19 will be nuanced and complicated

- Our great cities will survive
- What can we learn from the past?
- How will communities be reshaped?
- What factors leave cities more vulnerable or protected?
- How do we prepare cities to reopen?



We've had worse pandemics than this before

Spanish Flu of 1918-1920:

- Urbanization a greater force than infectious disease
- Little impact on geography
- NYC, London, and Tokyo all maintained dominance
- Smaller cities like Pittsburgh took a hit
- Cities roared back, becoming engines of the recovery



COVID-19 will likely reinforce winner-take-all urbanism

No death to density; it will remain a key economic driver

- Big superstar cities and tech hubs will recover
- Likely to reinforce geographic divides
- Accentuate "winner-take-all urbanism"



Class divide makes some more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others

Our equity challenge is exacerbated by this public health crisis

- Affluent professional workers can work remotely and isolate safely using delivery
- Frontline service workers are exposed and use transit to get to work



Some places are more vulnerable than others; density is just one factor

Class

Education and income

Religion and Social Capital

Religion social capital have impact too

Childlessness

San Francisco and Seattle have been condemned as being "childless," but this may work to their advantage

Health and Fitness

Levels of health and fitness plays a role too

Red vs. Blue America

Blue States and cities are taking social distancing and stay-at-home orders more seriously

How can we prepare now and plan for a recovery?

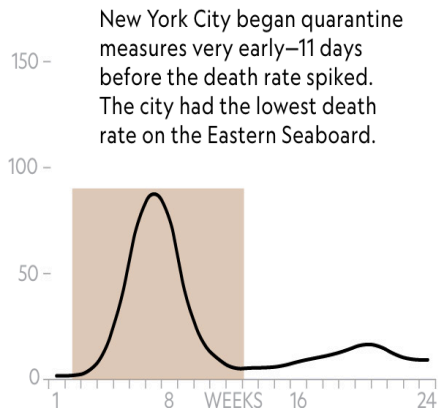


Prepare for a period of adjustment as we reopen

Pandemics occur in waves

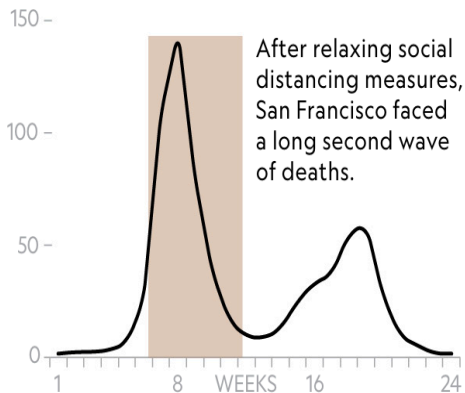
New York

452 Deaths per 100,000



San Francisco

673 Deaths per 100,000



- 12-18 months before we get to something normal
- Some trends will stick; others will go away

Source: National Geographic

Four Key Dimensions to Consider

**Temperature
Checks**

**Personal Protective
Equipment**

**Design for Social
Distancing**

**Personalized
Service Provision**

Action Plan

#1

Pandemic-proof airports, arenas, stadiums, convention centers, and civic assets

#2

Engage anchors for a COVID-19 reality

#3

Embrace and promote remote work

#4

Reimage public space, active mobility, and how we connect with one another

#5

Ensure Main Street and the creative economy survives

#6

Protect service workers and under-served communities

Discussion