How Can Cities Best Reopen and Recover

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Presentation for SPUR
Urbanization > Infectious Disease

• Our communities will survive and grow again.

• **Worse pandemics have not altered the course of urbanization.**
  • Spanish Flu of 1918, London Cholera Epidemic and more.

• **Dystopian vs. Utopian Takes.**

• **Pandemic will result in modest changes and accelerate already-occurring trends.**

• **Strategic, intentional action matters.**
  • Both to current period of lockdown and mobilization and to subsequent period of reopening and recovery.
COVID-19 Hotspots

**Global Superstar Cities**
- London, New York

**Industrial Centers**
- Wuhan, Detroit, Northern Italy
- Linked by industrial supply chains

**Jet Set Places**
- Ski slopes of the U.S. Rocky Mountains and European Alps
Why Some Places Are More Vulnerable Than Others

- Density
- Age
- Class
- Health and Fitness
- Childlessness
- Multi-Generational Families
- Religiosity
- Social Capital
COVID-19 Reinforces Class Divides

How We Work
- Affluent professional workers can work remotely and isolate safely using delivery.
- Frontline service workers, 30 million workers, are exposed and use transit to get to work.

How We Live: Density Divide
- *Rich place* density vs *poor place* density.
How the Virus Will Reshape Our Cities

**Pull Factors**

Out to Suburbs and Rural Areas
- Families to suburbs
- Remote work
- Fear of mass transit
- Desire for private amenities like backyards and play areas
- Rural gentrification

**Push Factors**

In toward Cities and Urban Cores
- Young people to cities
- Clusters like high-tech, finance, media and entertainment require proximity
- Walkable/bikeable areas close to leading industry clusters
- Possible housing affordability reset
Framework for Resilient and Inclusive Prosperity

- **INITIAL REOPENING**
- **BROAD REOPENING**
- **RECOVERY**

**AN INCLUSIVE-FOCUSED STRATEGY**

- **Pre-Covid 19**
- **STATUS QUO APPROACH**

**Inclusive Prosperity** vs **Time**
Four Key Dimensions

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Health Screenings & Temperature Checks
- Design for Social Distancing
- Personalized Service Provision
Stage 1: Initial Reopening

• **Modify Public Space**
  Reimagine & redesign streets and open spaces for safety and social distancing.

• **Ensure Main Street Survives**
  Help enterprises redesign for health and safety and rethink their business models.

• **Protect the Arts and Creative Economy**
  Provide technical as well as financial assistance.
Stage 2: Broader Reopening

• **Enlist and Ready Anchor Institutions**
  Universities are key economic drivers. Develop strategies to reopen safely.

• **Prepare Large-Scale Civic Assets**
  Stadiums, arenas, convention centers, and performing arts centers must prepare now.

• **Pandemic-Proof Airports, and Regional Transit Hubs**
  Airports and transit hubs are critical to regional economies.
Stage 3: Economic Recovery

• **Build a Framework for Economic Recovery**
  Plan now for a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous recovery for all Bay-Area residents.

• **Assess Industry Clusters and Talent/Skill Needs**
  Identify growth areas, address harder hit industries, especially service and hospitality-based. Focus on skill/ talent gaps and needs.

• **Upgrade Jobs for Frontline Service Workers**
  Higher wages and safer working conditions.

• **Protect Less-Advantaged Communities**
Discussion + Thank You

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