

## A Call and Proposal for Rapid Roll-out of Mass COVID-19 vaccination in San Francisco

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**Justification:** The availability of FDA-authorized mRNA vaccines for COVID-19 has inspired hope in the face of escalating COVID-19 cases in the US. **However, we are concerned that the speed at which vaccinations are being rolled out countrywide is too slow.** Due to the limited supplies of vaccine, public health organizations (including [ACIP](#)) have justifiably advocated for a tiered approach to COVID-19 vaccination, prioritizing high risk groups and essential workers first. Although we agree prioritization initially made sense, vaccination roll-out has been stymied. Therefore, the SFDPH has now decided to offer vaccines [to all patients over 65 years of age](#) in the next few weeks based on new directives on 1-12-21 by the [Department of Health and Human Services](#).

Mass vaccination in outdoor or large indoor sites will expand capacity beyond that available in a clinic. King County in Washington State will implement [mass COVID-19 vaccination sites](#) to rapidly scale up the pace of vaccination, based on calculations that **16,000** vaccinations a day will be needed to achieve 70% immunity in the county (the threshold required [for herd immunity](#) which will still the pandemic). [UCSD has partnered with the San Diego DPH](#) to administer 5000 vaccines per day. These and other counties' efforts will serve as models for the nation.

San Francisco's success at tempering the COVID19 epidemic within the city [has received accolades](#) and we are grateful for the many months of hard work on the part of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, but now urge **rapid** scale up of immunization efforts without reliance on a rigid tier-based approach.

### Proposal:

- SFDPH to request permission from CA-DPH to employ novel mass vaccination approach for patients under SFDPH purview (Medical, Medicare, uninsured, on Healthy San Francisco, undocumented). UCSF-SFDPH partnerships can help fuel the campaign. Each healthcare system (Kaiser, Sutter, etc.) will tailor their approach and this proposal is for patients under SFDPH's purview.
- Use large spaces in city to set up mass vaccination sites. Examples include Golden Gate Park, McLaren Park, Kezar Stadium and Crocker Amazon Park. Indoor space could include Moscone Convention Center. An initial option would be to use sites already slated for testing in SF and working closely with UCSF-community studies expanding testing, including [Unidos en Salud](#) and [LatinX Center of Excellence](#).
- Mass vaccination sites with large outdoor tents will require volunteers to log in individuals coming for vaccines, volunteers who can administer shots and go over the EUA consent with vaccines, sites for keeping the dry ice containers with Pfizer vaccine (requires -70°C temp) or coolers for Moderna vaccine (can be stored at 2-8° C for up to 30 days), chairs spaced 6 ft apart outside for 15 minute wait after vax.
- Staff for mass vaccination campaigns can include city employees deployed for COVID-19 responses, other city employees with fewer duties during stay-at-home orders, San Francisco Fire Department workers and volunteers, and UCSF employees. UCSF Human Resources already has a platform for signing up for volunteer COVID vaccination shifts - [Workforce Redeployment Platform](#). Per UCSF, there are many UCSF health care workers and non-clinical staff who would volunteer to staff mass vaccination sites. Other source of volunteers is National Guard. Paramedics and HCWs can respond to possible adverse effects during 15 minute wait.
- Last two weeks in January reserved for those in city purview >65 years of age without appointments
- Starting February 1, mass vaccination sites opened for 16-64 with co-morbidities, essential workers, and eventually the public. First 3 weeks for 16-64 year old with co-morbidities and then open up on February 22 to general public. Can start online appointment process at that point but also take drop-ins to account for digital divide, language barriers, etc. Advertisement through media, community-based organizations. Goal 10,000 per day
- Give appointment cards for next dose (3 and 4 weeks minimum for Pfizer/Moderna, respectively)