

COVID-19 RURAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

RURAL RESIDENTS HAVE HIGHER RISK

Age: ~20% of the rural population is over 65 compared to 13% in urban areas

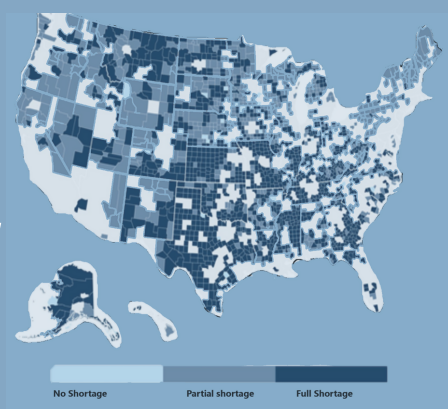
Health Problems: Rates of obesity as well as other chronic health issues are higher in rural areas

Rural Mortality Penalty: Rural areas have 134.7 more deaths each year due to health disparities when compared to urban areas



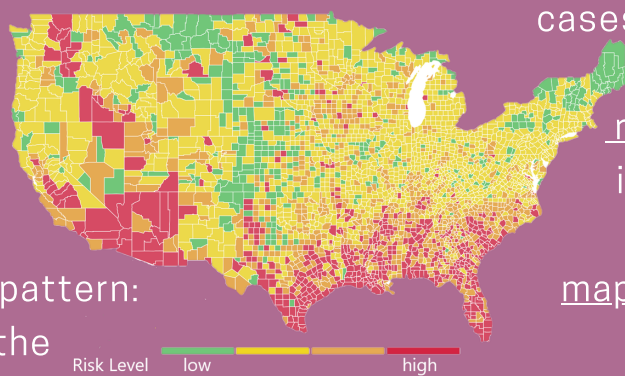
RURAL MEDICAL CAPACITY

Most rural areas are in a health professional shortage area ([map to right](#)). A [Princeton simulation](#) showed that in both high and low infection rate scenarios, many rural healthcare systems were overwhelmed



RURAL AREAS ARE HIT HARDER

Most of the original epicenters flattened their curve while many other areas have not putting rural residents at increased risk. From here on out, the "wave" will look less uniform, and will instead have a more checkerboard pattern: not all places will be hit at the same time or with the same intensity.



The case fatality rate (CFR) is calculated by dividing deaths from Covid-19 by total cases. The CFR is higher for Black, Hispanic and rural due to disparities in access to necessary health resources. The [map to the left](#) showcases the risk of covid-19. Notably the rural south east is at a high risk.

SLOWING SPREAD

Across the U.S. the percentage of positive tests are increasing. Additionally, the number of new cases in the U.S. have been trending upwards. It is important to slow the spread through contact tracing, social distancing, hand washing, masks, and other preventative measures.

FARM WORKERS

The risk of Covid-19 runs high in agricultural workers. Migrant workers live in close quarters and move from farm to farm making them susceptible to Covid-19. Unhygienic, cramped working conditions makes meat and poultry processing workers victims to outbreaks.

CONTACT TRACING WORKS

HOW IT WORKS: Test people for the virus, if positive, trace close contacts

WHERE IT IS HAPPENING

Contact tracing jobs are on the rise, with many state and local governments implementing this method as restrictions begin to ease.



HOW IT CAN BE DONE

Grassroots approach: trace exposure looking at shifts, and who works near each other.

Apps/online: There are a plethora of online training and apps available

RESOURCES

AgriSafe has a plenty of covid-19 resources from general Covid-19 safety to training to agricultural specific resources. To access these [click here](#)