

# USET COVID-19 ECHO

April 24, 2020

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# Disclaimer

Information is changing rapidly. The recommendations made this week may change drastically based on the latest information.

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# Agenda

- Nashville Area COVID-19 Epidemiology
- Refresher: Flattening the curve
- Mass testing-what this means for public health
- Innovative public health strategies
- Questions

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# Nashville Area COVID-19 Epidemiology

## 23 Sites Reporting

Number Tested	Number Positive	Number Negative
1289 (569)	69 (26)	1101 (401)

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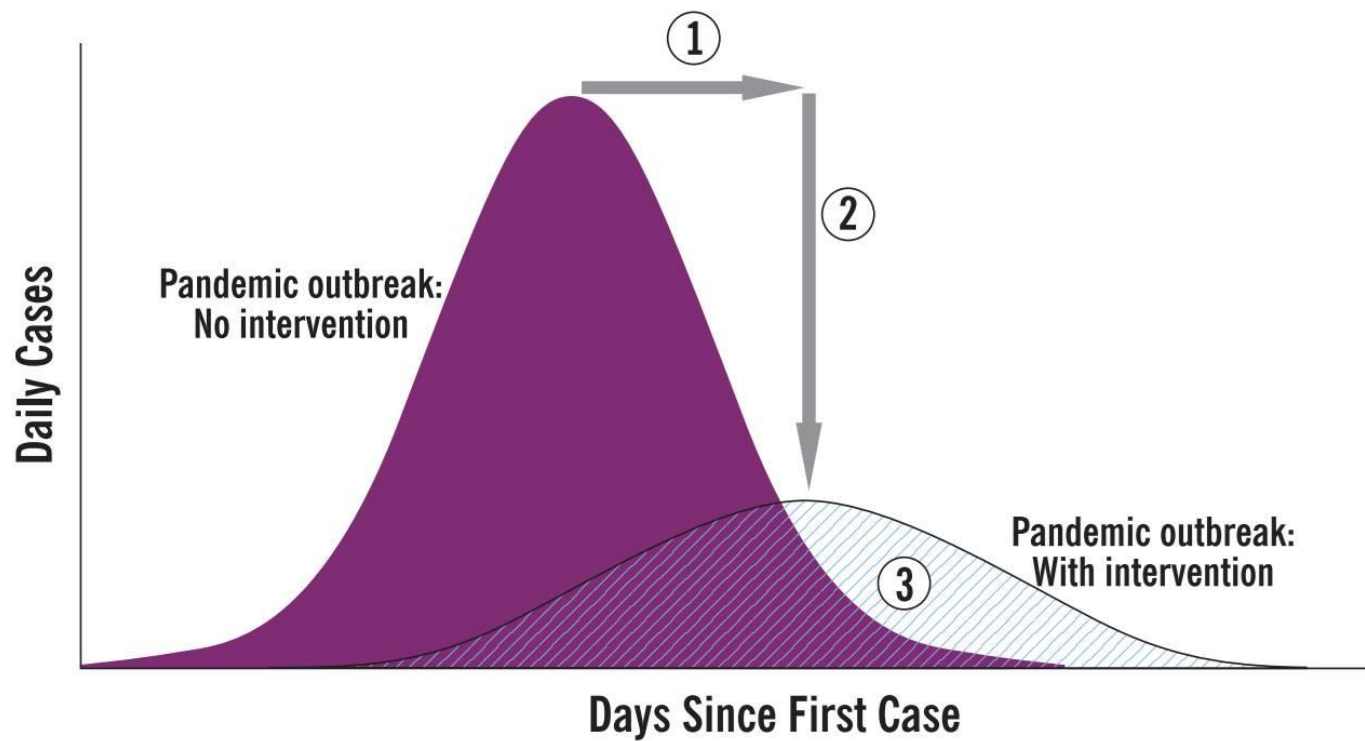


# Flattening the Curve- A refresher

Figure 1.

## Goals of Community Mitigation

- ① Delay outbreak peak
- ② Decompress peak burden on hospitals / infrastructure
- ③ Diminish overall cases and health impacts



# The positives and negatives of laboratory testing: No laboratory test is perfect

- ALL lab tests will have some amount of ‘false positive’ and ‘false negative’ results.
- Usually this results in either:
  - Misdiagnosis of individual-providers are trained to look beyond the test results
  - Additional follow-up testing (cancer screening example)
- In individuals, this can be stressful and upsetting, but what happens to many people in a pandemic?

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# The positives and negatives of COVID-19 testing: No laboratory test is perfect

- A positive is truly a positive
  - Isolate the patient (regardless of symptoms)
  - Quarantine the household
  - Trace the contacts and evaluate for testing
  - Follow up with patient and household
- A negative is NOT truly a negative-for now
  - Both the Abbott ID NOW test and the original PCR test have significant false negative rates

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# Testing everyone...It can't hurt, can it?

- The Abbott ID NOW test is not designed for mass screening, it is only designed for people suspected of COVID-19 by their health care provider.
  - It is unknown what the 'false positive' and 'false negative' rate is for those not suspected of having COVID-19.
- The PCR test also has some limitations-testing everyone takes time....sometimes too much time.

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# Testing everyone...It can't hurt, can it?

- True positive results (likely in mass screening):
  - Isolation and quarantine guidance can be given
  - Contact tracing can be conducted
  - Community and resource stress
- False positive results (unlikely in mass screening):
  - Isolation and quarantine guidance can be given
  - Contact tracing can be conducted
  - Community and resource stress
  - People eventually annoyed and mistrustful because of 'misdiagnosis'

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# Testing everyone...It can't hurt, can it?

- True negative results (likely in mass screening):
  - Provides relief to patient
  - Will it change a person's behavior?
  - Will it seem like the community is 'safe?'
- False negative results (currently likely in COVID-19 mass screening):
  - Provides relief to patient
  - Will it change a person's behavior?
  - Will it seem like the community is 'safe?'

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# Current Recommendations

- Reconsider mass testing-you can still use a combination of testing, case definitions, and contact tracing to count cases.
- If mass testing is conducted:
  - Do not base any reopening decisions based on negative test results. Instead, base decision on the steady decline of active cases.
  - Do not rely solely on negative test results to ‘clear’ workers for duty.
  - Make sure a comprehensive and robust community education campaign regarding the limitations of testing and the continued need for social distancing.

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# Contact Tracing-Innovative Solutions

- Utilize the USET TEC surveillance tool to track your cases-both lab confirmed AND those that meet the case definition.
- Contact the USET TEC for contact tracing assistance.
  - Utilize non-health workers to conduct contact tracing. One Tribe is planning on using furloughed casino workers.
- What innovative solutions have you utilized?

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# Questions?

To request a REDCap account and get access to the USET TEC COVID-19 Surveillance Tool or for general assistance please contact us at [usetepi@usetinc.org](mailto:usetepi@usetinc.org)

Thank You!

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