What Does It Take to Stay Home?

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Public Health Measures In Response to COVID-19
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Emergencies = exceptions to the rule: conditions that disrupt or overwhelm our normal capacities

• The more robust our normal capacities, the less disruption emergencies cause

• Laws governing work, health care, health insurance, education, housing, social services, etc., establish our normal capacities

• Laws and programs that support more robust capacity in normal conditions will minimize emergency disruptions
Foundations for Response

- Credible source of information that the public can trust
- Resources to make it possible for public to comply with recommendations

Credit: NIAID

Credit: White House
How do we make it possible to stay home?

1. Financial protections
2. Community and social services
3. Health insurance
1. Financial Protections

• Paid leave for staying home, even if not sick
• Unemployment benefits/income replacement for freelance, laid-off workers
• Rent, utilities, mortgage, loan deferral/forgiveness
• Social security, disability, TANF, SNAP, WIC, worker compensation benefits
• Small business aid to keep employees on payroll
2. Community and Social Services

- Child care for essential workers
- Schooling, meals at home
- Disability services, personal care assistants
- Shelters, group homes, assisted living
- Mobile phone service
3. Health Insurance

• Employer sponsored insurance
• Payment sources for uninsured, unemployed, undocumented
• Special enrollment during emergency
• Medicaid eligibility
• Benefit coverage & cost-sharing

Source: CDC
Federal “Stimulus” Legislation
(really one-off “survival” legislation)

1. First coronavirus response act ($8+ billion stimulus)
2. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (3/18/2020)
4. ?
Conclusions
Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

• Invest in long-term infrastructure to create more robust normal conditions, instead of last minute scramble for new resources
• Establish contingency plans for ramping up essential services during emergency
• Create financial protections that can be triggered in emergency
• Recognize and sustain people who sacrifice to benefit the community