



Valley Fever Institute  
*at Kern Medical*

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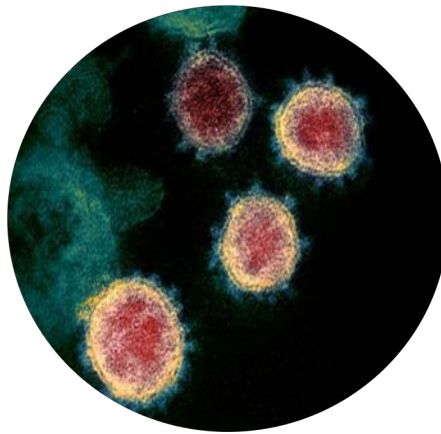


## INFLUENZA



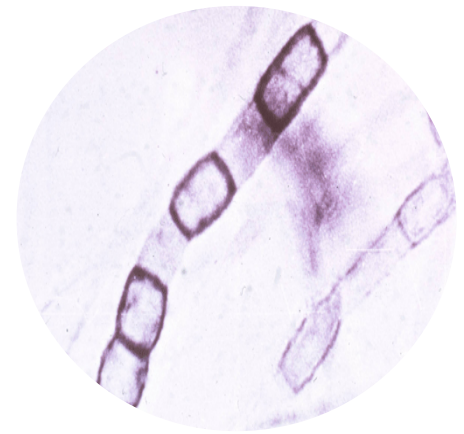
100nm

## SARS-COV-2



120nm

## COCCIDIIOIDES



5,000nm

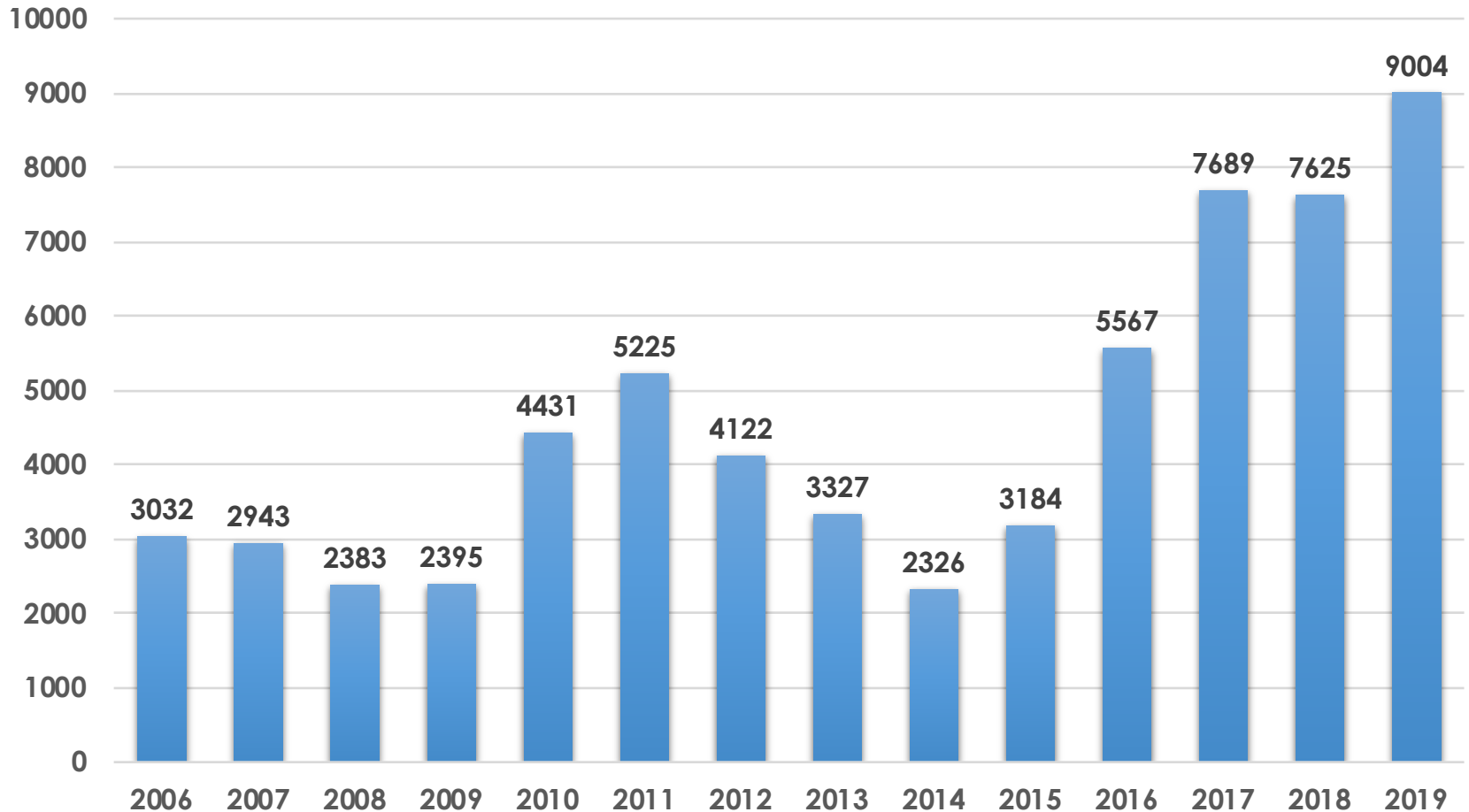
## Airborne Epidemics

	<b>Flu</b>	<b>COVID-19</b>	<b>Valley Fever</b>
<b>Seasonality</b>	November – April	March – Present	June – December
<b>Transmission</b>	Droplets Aerosol Surfaces	Droplets Aerosol Surfaces	Aerosol Fomite
<b>Incubation</b>	3 days	5-6 days	1 – 4 weeks
<b>Kern County Deaths/100k</b>	0.8	47	1.3

# A Triple Threat

- Respiratory symptoms are among the most common reason patients seek medical attention
  - The number of patients presenting with respiratory symptoms is daunting
- 
- We are currently amid a historic COVID-19 pandemic
  - We are at the beginning of a flu season of unknown onset, duration or severity
  - Valley Fever is always a possible diagnosis

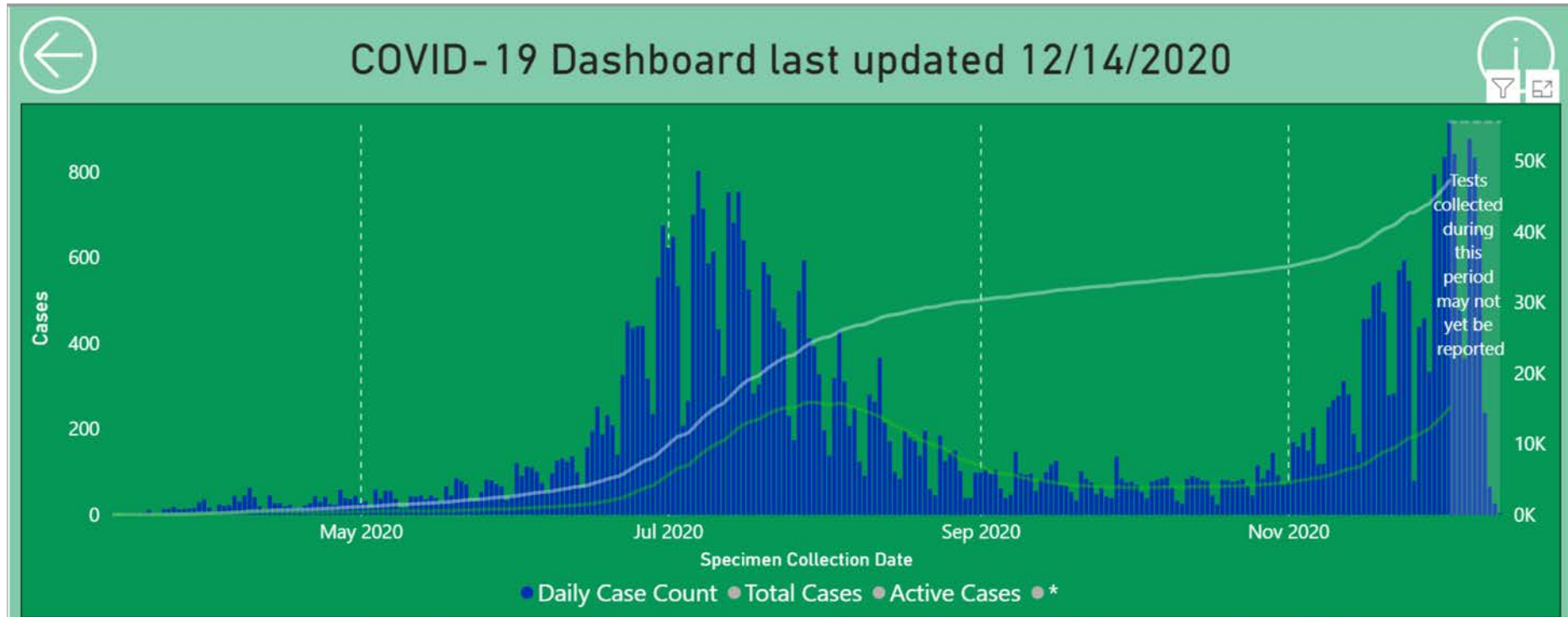
# Reported Valley Fever Cases Statewide



# Reported Valley Fever Cases in Kern



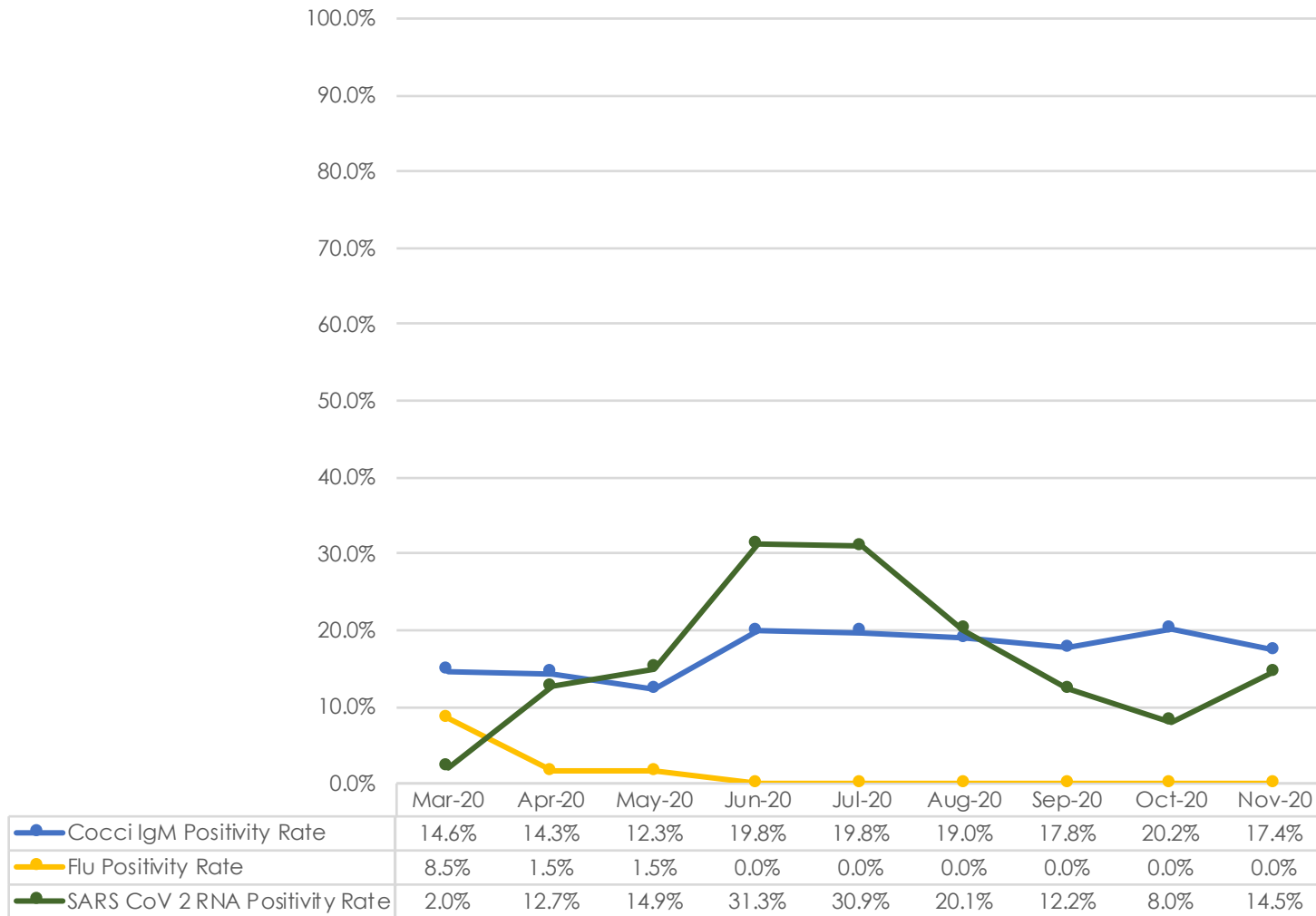
# Reported COVID-19 Cases in Kern



[https://kernpublichealth.com/covid-19\\_dashboard/](https://kernpublichealth.com/covid-19_dashboard/)

# Case Positivity Rate at Kern Medical

Cocci, Flu, & COVID-19 Positivity Rates Over Time





# Infectious Disease Transmission

**Flu**

**Contagious**

**COVID-19**

**Contagious**

**Valley Fever**

**Non-Contagious**

# Acuity

Flu and COVID-19 negative patients who have been symptomatic for 10 days should be considered for Valley Fever

## California Lifetime Cost Burden of Valley Fever Cases Diagnosed in 2017

	Average Direct Cost	Average Indirect Cost	Average Total Cost	Average Work Loss
<b>Uncomplicated Valley Fever</b>	\$22,039	\$931	\$22,970	7 Days
<b>Chronic Valley Fever</b>	\$132,416	\$350,036	\$482,452	90 Days
<b>Disseminated Disease</b>	\$1,023,730	\$562,291	\$1,586,021	120 Days

Wilson L, Ting J, Lin H, Shah R, MacLean M, Peterson MW, Stockamp N, Libke R, Brown P. The Rise of Valley Fever: Prevalence and Cost Burden of Coccidioidomycosis Infection in California. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2019 Mar 28;16(7):1113. doi: 10.3390/ijerph16071113. PMID: 30925716; PMCID: PMC6480346.

# How to Lower Your Risk

Flu	COVID-19	Valley Fever
Face Mask	Face Mask	Face Mask
Maintain Physical Distancing (6 feet)	Maintain Physical Distancing (6 feet)	Wet down dusty areas before working/playing in them
Hand washing	Hand washing	Stay indoors with windows and doors closed (during dust storms)
Annual Flu Shot	Immunization?	Possible Vaccine (we hope)

**Curing is costly, but  
prevention is priceless.**

# Questions?

[www.ValleyFeverInstitute.com](http://www.ValleyFeverInstitute.com)

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*A fast-moving dust storm, called a haboob, swept across Bakersfield on Sept. 28, 2019*

*Courtesy of KABC-TV in Los Angeles*