

## **Robert Cormia's Key Takeaways and Open Questions from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group 2020 Annual Forum**

### **Key takeaways:**

1. COVID infection is surging (again) in the US, having never reached a stable baseline during spring and summer in previous surges. Infections have left metropolitan areas and now prevalent in rural areas across the US.
2. Preventative measures such as mask wearing, social distancing, and not congregating in large numbers indoors, would have reduced these surges, and still can have a positive impact in mitigating viral infections.
3. Vaccination will be key to controlling the epidemic, with a number of vaccines close to completing phase 3 clinical trials, with data available to show safety and efficacy. Building trust will be key to successful vaccination programs.
4. Black and brown communities have been especially hard hit, from a combination of economic (front line exposure risk) as well as 5x comorbidity compared to white populations.
5. A combination of preventive measures (mask wearing), therapeutics, vaccination, and continued testing form a comprehensive approach to mitigating infection, health impacts, and eventually controlling the epidemic.

### **Open questions for FHDA-CCD:**

1. What concerns do our students have for a return to campus?
2. What are student's concerns towards vaccination?
3. How can we establish a dialog with our students to both address their concerns about COVID-19 infection in the classroom, as well as concerns and inclination toward vaccination?
4. Are there potential equity issues in return to campus for brown and black populations with higher (worse) adverse outcomes from COVID-19 infection?
5. What can FHDA-CCD do to help move students towards safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination to make a return to campus both successful as well as trusting for students