

COVID-19 Prevention and Response in SROs

8/31/2020



Updates on COVID-19 Prevention in SROs





Part of [COVID-19 Data and Reports](#)

COVID-19 in Single Room Occupancies (SROs)

The evidence is clear that pandemics exploit the existing inequities in our society. Some communities are more affected because of systemic racism, income insecurity, housing conditions, and structural inequalities. This page focuses on the impacts of the pandemic on residents of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings. Residents in this type of housing may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as a result of their housing and [the overlapping structural inequities and systemic racism that are closely linked to housing](#). Ensuring the health and safety of these COVID-vulnerable residents is the top priority for the City.

Get Help

If you are a resident of an SRO with concerns about rent, health, or safety, please reach out to the following organizations:

- Call Central City SRO Collaborative or La Voz Latina at 415-775-7110 or 415-983-3970
- Call Chinatown SRO Collaborative or SRO Families United Collaborative at 415-984-2730
- Call Mission SRO Collaborative at 415-282-6209 ext. 150

What is a Single Room Occupancy building?

SRO buildings are defined by the San Francisco Housing Code as having six or more "residential guest rooms" which may be attached to shared bathrooms, kitchens, and living spaces. These shared spaces may increase the risk of infection spread as residents who test positive may not be able to self-isolate or quarantine effectively.

How is the City prioritizing these residents?

The City is committed to helping residents remain safe during the pandemic by preventing the spread of COVID-19 in these higher-risk



Due to validation processes, there is a 7-day lag on SRO data. Data through: 8/21/2020

SAN FRANCISCO COVID-19 RESPONSE

How many SRO residents have tested positive for COVID-19?

502

How many SRO buildings have had any resident test positive for COVID-19?

119

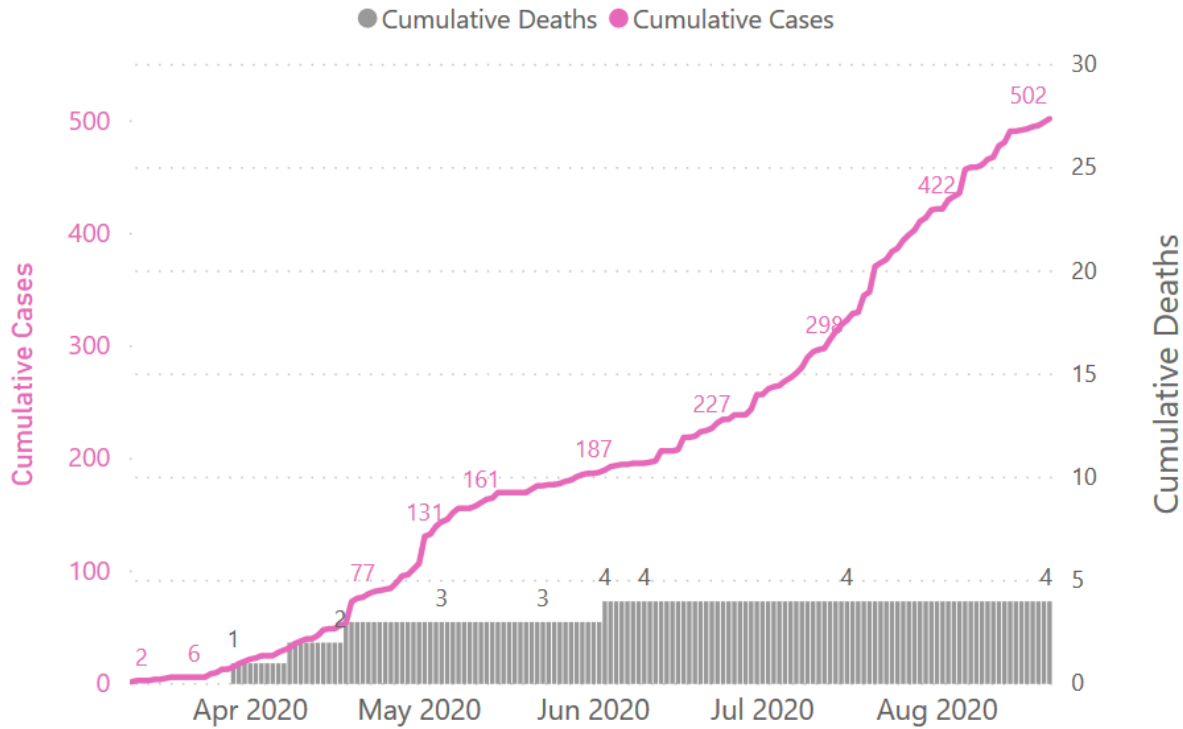
How many deaths are associated with COVID-19 for SRO residents?

4

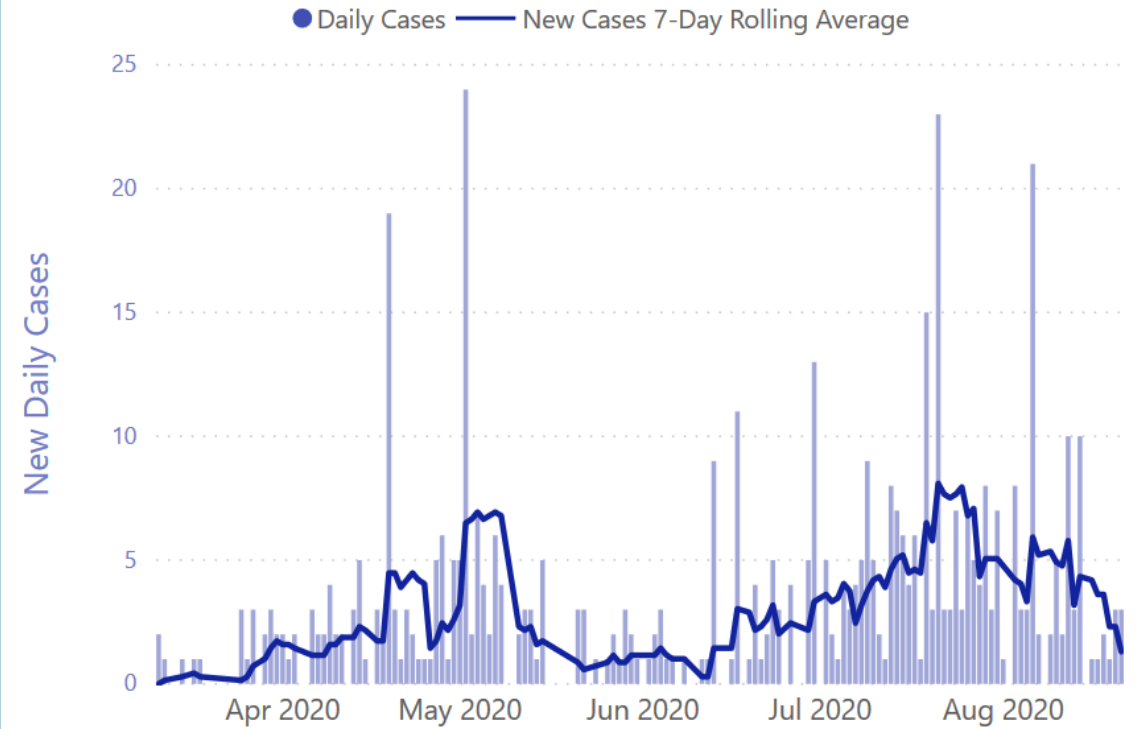
How many COVID-positive SRO residents have stayed at an Isolation & Quarantine Site?*

218

Cumulative Cases and Deaths in SRO Residents



Daily New SRO Cases & 7-Day Rolling Average



** Data on prior living situation for I & Q Sites is self-reported and not independently validated.

Community Engagement

- Met with Chinatown community leaders
- Met with Chinese Hospital leadership to plan collaborative response to COVID-19 cases in SROs in Chinatown
- Setting up recurring meetings with SRO collaboratives
 - Hear concerns
 - Provide information and updates
 - Strategize together how to optimize COVID-19 prevention for SRO residents and others disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

Testing as part of outbreak prevention and response

- Request to re-evaluate provision in the legislation that requires SFDPH to test all residents in an SRO within 48 hours of a single case (section 3.g.1)
- SRO Response Team will continue to deploy on-site testing to a building when there is concern for intrabuilding transmission

Testing as part of outbreak prevention and response

- Testing is important as it enables us to identify individuals who have COVID when they are still in their infectious period
 - Support them in isolating, which decreases the number of people to whom they transmit COVID
 - Identify their close contacts, who are connected to testing and quarantine
- Mass testing at a single point in time does not, in and of itself, prevent COVID-19

Testing as part of outbreak prevention and response

- Mass building-wide testing after a single case in an SRO is not grounded in evidence:
 - Not in line with our citywide testing strategy, or with CDPH or CDC guidance on cluster and outbreak response
 - Not a strategic or efficient use of limited testing resources
 - Our investigative tools can help us predict where and when to test
- Primary prevention approaches, including masking, social distancing, and hand washing are critical for mitigating spread in all settings