

COVID Community based Rapid Test and Respond

« Why it matters and what is
needed»

Diane Havlir, on behalf of Unidos en Salud



**UCSF, UCB, CZ Biohub, Latino Task
Force, SF DPH & city of SF**



About Unidos en Salud

- › Academic (UCSF, CZ Biohub,UCB), community, DPH & city partnership: data driven
- › **Serve the community** - “community based “test and respond” model coupled with vaccine services
- › **Advance science**- who is infected, where and with what strains of virus
- › **Inform policy** makers with data
- › **Accelerate path** to end the pandemic via testing and vaccine access

Volunteerism, transparency & immediate data sharing, equity framework

www.UnidosEnSalud.org

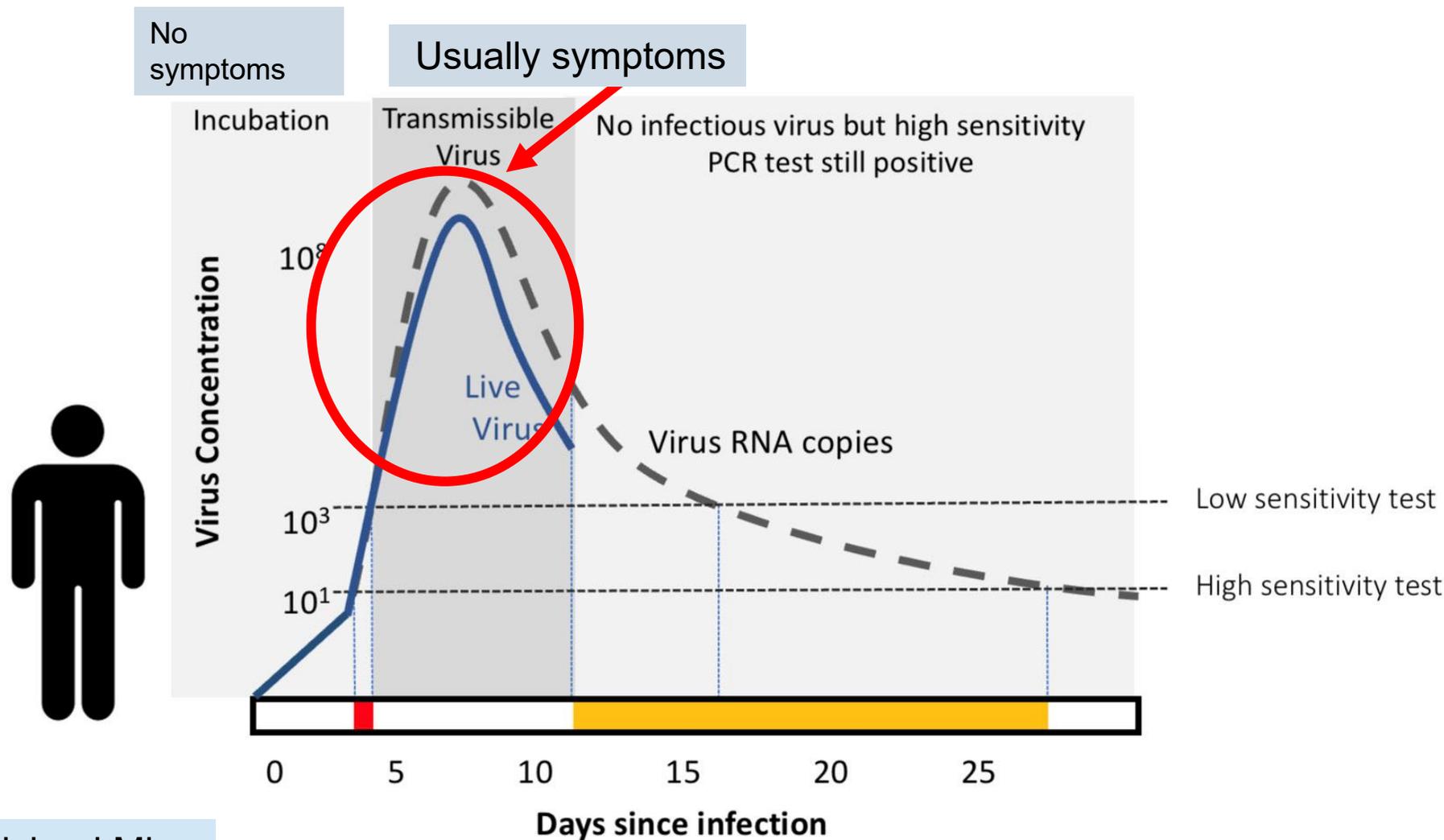
“Breaking the chains” of COVID transmission



Testing needs to ...

- 1) Be accessible to high- risk populations
- 2) Provide rapid results and reporting
- 3) Link with supportive services for isolation

“Window of opportunity” –when virus levels are highest



Graphic: Michael Mina



Unidos en Salud – Test and respond



30,000 persons tested

- Low income
- 70% Latinx
- Mission, SE sector and Tenderloin

Unidos en Salud Rapid “test and respond” model



- › At our flagship BART plaza Mission and 24th, testing is
- › 1) accessible: walk up, same day, and free to all with and without symptoms
- › 2) rapid: using assay (BinaxNOW) we validated in the field, positive results in less than an hour
- › 3) supportive – can refer and provide isolation – hotel or home services; wage replacement for some individuals; linkage to DPH contact tracing





Why are supportive services needed?

- › Isolation is doable for a person who has health insurance, sick leave, and income during the isolation period.
- › Isolation is really not feasible for persons with no sick leave, whose only source of income is their job, and have a household to support.
- › Further many persons with high levels of transmissible virus feel totally fine and see no need to isolate.
- › Unidos en Salud can provide food, masks , cleaning supplies. But that is not enough. Financial support/wage replacement is essential.

How do we know rapid test and respond with financial support works?



- › In a one month pilot in January of “rapid test and respond” where we provided financial support:
 - 10% COVID positive
 - Isolation days-9 days (early in pandemic this was only 2-3 days)
 - 98% of persons who were supposed to isolate participating in the program did

Do we still need rapid test and respond in the vaccine era?



- › YES! Community immunity will take time
- › To prevent or mitigate another surge, and stamp out new strains, as vaccine ramp up, we must be able to break chains of transmission.
- › We must support the most highly affected communities in these efforts .
- › Data show the importance of financial support/wage replacement approaches



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