

# Why social distancing can slow SARS-CoV-2: Insights from infectious disease epidemiology



**Tuesday, April 7th**

**11:30am-12:30pm**

**Conducted via Zoom:**

<https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/655109168>

Dial: 877 853 5247 US Toll-free Meeting ID: 655 109 168

**Sandi McCoy, PhD, MPH**

**Associate Professor, Epidemiology**

Social distancing is a risk reduction measure to interrupt the spread of an infectious agent and is defined as “remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.” Globally, numerous cities, states and countries have enacted policies recommending or requiring social distancing strategies in order to slow the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. McCoy will use insights from infectious disease epidemiology to explain the rationale behind these recommendations and why some believe that social distancing is the best available strategy to interrupt transmission.

**Sandra McCoy** is an Associate Professor in the Division of Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) School of Public Health. She studies how social, economic, and cultural forces influence disease transmission and health outcomes. During the past several years, Dr. McCoy has explored these relationships through the lens of HIV infection and reproductive health. Using a diverse array of approaches, her goal is to identify innovative, cost-effective, and scalable strategies to overcome global health challenges. Dr. McCoy has an MPH from the University of Michigan and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At UC Berkeley, Dr. McCoy teaches introduction to epidemiologic methods and co-teaches a course on the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases.