

---

## Los Angeles study suggests Covid-19 more widespread than reported

1 message

---

**POLITICO California Pro** <states-alert@politico.com>

Mon, Apr 20, 2020 at 3:31 PM

Reply-To: POLITICO subscriptions <reply-fe971c727160017c75-553241\_HTML-1050440477-1376319-411901@politicoemail.com>

To: scattolica@scadvocates.com

### Los Angeles study suggests Covid-19 more widespread than reported

By Victoria Colliver

04/20/2020 06:29 PM EDT

OAKLAND — The coronavirus could be 28 to 55 times more prevalent than reported in Los Angeles County based on a large-scale antibody study released on Monday.

The study, conducted by the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, found between 2.8 percent and 5.6 percent of those tested — or 221,000 to 442,000 adults — may have been infected in early April. The participants were tested for the presence of antibodies to the virus in their blood, which indicates exposure regardless of whether they developed symptoms.

The study came out just days after [Stanford University researchers released preliminary findings from a serology study](#) that showed the prevalence of the virus could be 50 percent to 85 percent greater than previously thought among residents of Santa Clara County, an early U.S. epicenter. That translates into between 2.5 and 4.2 percent of county residents, or between 48,000 and 81,000 adults.

“Though I report every day we have thousands and thousands of people that have tested positive, the serology testing lets us know we have hundreds of thousands of people who have already developed antibodies to the virus,” said Barbara Ferrer, director of the L.A. County Department of Public Health, at a press conference on Monday.

If more people have developed antibodies to Covid-19 than previously thought — and more have been infected without symptoms — it could alter projection models and reshape how public officials respond to the disease.

But the Stanford study has come under scrutiny since its release Friday, with some observers raising questions about how the subjects were recruited and the veracity of the antibody tests. Both the Santa Clara and Los Angeles county studies relied on rapid antibody tests from Premier Biotech, a Minneapolis-based company.

Neeraj Sood, professor of public policy at USC Price School for Public Policy and senior fellow at USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, defended the accuracy of the tests, as well as the recruitment methods of the L.A. study.

Sood said the 893 individuals tested in the L.A. study were drawn from a random sample picked by a market research firm, which was then adjusted to reflect L.A. County’s demographics. Stanford researchers solicited Santa Clara County participants through social media.

*To view online:*

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/states/california/story/2020/04/20/los-angeles-study-suggests-covid-19-more-widespread-than-reported-1278211>

**You received this POLITICO Pro content because your customized settings include: Infectious Diseases. To change your alert settings, please go to <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/settings>.**

---

# POLITICOPRO

This email alert has been sent for the exclusive use of POLITICO Pro subscriber, [scattolica@scadvocates.com](mailto:scattolica@scadvocates.com). Forwarding or reproducing the alert without the express, written permission of POLITICO Pro is a violation of copyright law and the POLITICO Pro subscription agreement.

Copyright © 2020 by POLITICO LLC. To subscribe to Pro, please go to [politicopro.com](https://politicopro.com).

---

This email was sent to [scattolica@scadvocates.com](mailto:scattolica@scadvocates.com) by:

POLITICO, LLC

[1000 Wilson Blvd.](#)

Arlington, VA 22209

USA