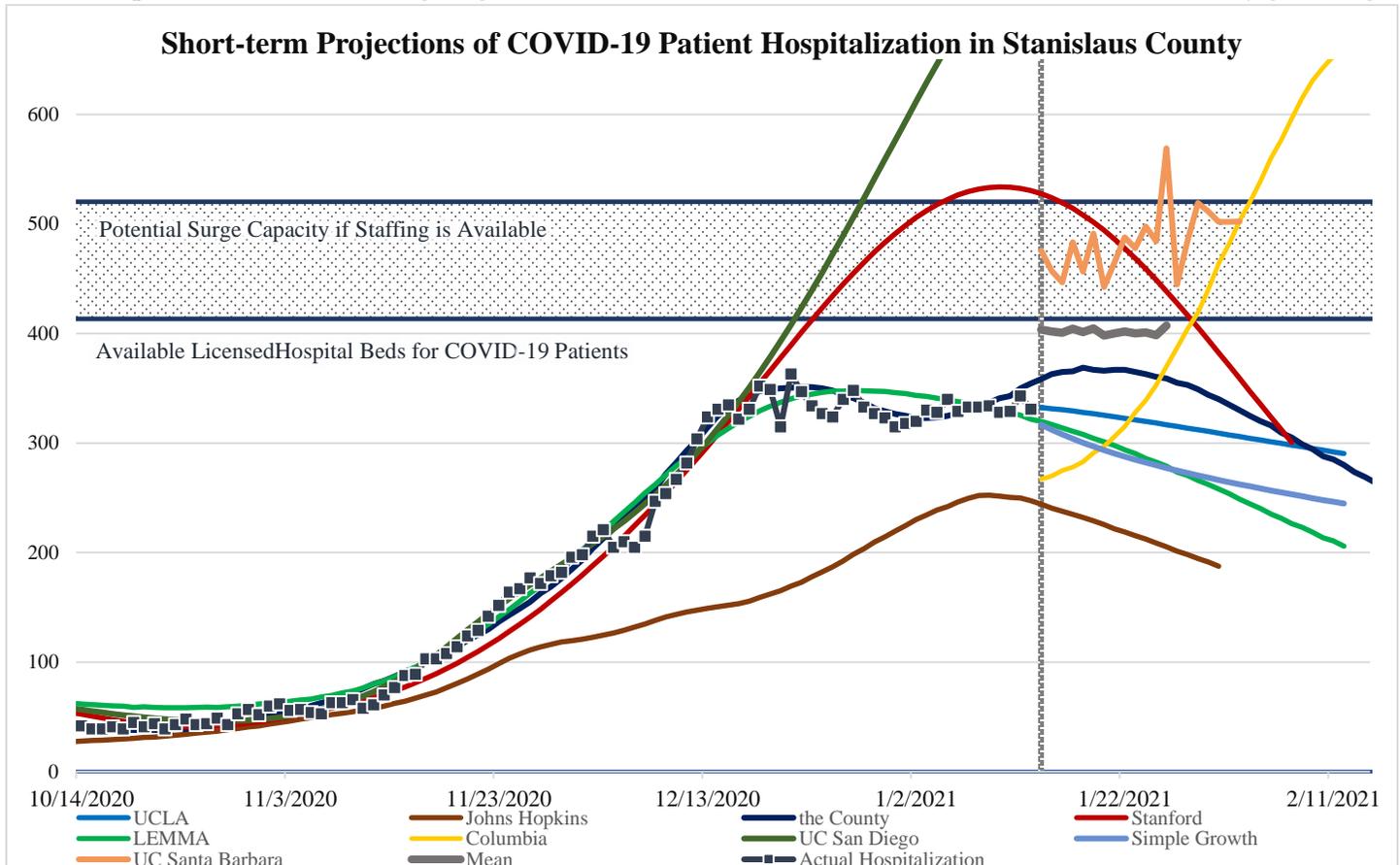


# Short-term Forecasts: COVID-19 Patient Hospitalizations in Stanislaus County



On August 28, 2020, California implemented a blueprint for reducing COVID-19 in the state with revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities (visit the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#)). Since June 18, 2020, mandatory face covering in public has remained in effect. With a significant case growth and critically lower availability of hospital ICU services, the State issued a [Regional Stay at Home Order](#), effective in Stanislaus County, on December 7, 2020. The restrictions are intended to reduce social contacts to slow the spread of COVID-19. Publicly available platforms (e.g., [unacast](#), [cuebig](#)) provide estimated magnitudes of social distancing in the County. With the recent restrictions effective as of December 7, 2020, there had been a more than 20% reduction in social contacts. However, since Christmas Eve, a less than 20% reduction in social contacts has been estimated.

Utilizing estimated magnitudes of social distancing as well as non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., isolation/quarantine), data scientists from universities and private sectors have created mathematical/statistical forecasting models to project hospital bed utilization for the next 2 to 4 weeks. These models not only consider the local transmission rate but also incorporate several pieces of epidemiological information, such as when the COVID-19 epidemic started, the amount of social distancing practiced, the percentage of COVID-19 patients being contacted, isolated and quarantined. Figure 1 shows short-term forecasts of COVID-19 patient hospitalizations in Stanislaus County, generated by [nine different models](#). Each model's growth curve is represented by a different color. The black squares show the number of confirmed Stanislaus County COVID-19 patients who were hospitalized in local acute care hospitals on a given day. This week's models have varying projections for the next month. Most models have predicted that local needs could remain within the hospital capacity including surge capacity. However, the Columbia model has predicted that another big surge would come within the next two weeks as a result of the holiday gatherings.



**Note:** This graph is based on the data available as of January 6, 2021. Please note that there is considerable uncertainty in the estimates of each epidemiologic model at this time, driven by the uncertainties in key aspects of the virus and lack of data regarding the prevalence of infection.

**Figure 1** Estimates and Short-term Projections of COVID-19 Patient Hospitalizations in Stanislaus County, CA