



# The Bowfin Inquirer



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## Envisioning A Better Year

by Jerry Lerman (344)

There's hardly a one of us who has managed to live through this year of the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects without making major adjustments to our activities. I haven't been harmed nearly as severely as others – I've been lucky, no doubt. As retirees, what Eve and I have had to give up has largely been travel, attending San Francisco Giants games, seeing performances of the SF Symphony and our local Hillbarn Theatre, visiting our children and grandchildren, in-school tutoring of children, and (for me) running chess "drop-in" sessions at the public library. We also had to move this paper to a website, as we thought it unwise to ask that you, our neighbors, risk contracting the virus by bringing a foreign object (so to speak) into your houses.

These were inconveniences for the most part. For all too many others, circumstances are much worse. Two of my Scrabble friends met their demises from Covid. The effects of the economic downturn that has come in the wake of Covid's late-2020 rocketing rise may prove staggering, with levels of unemployment, homelessness and hunger that have not been seen in this country since the Great Depression. Our community's children, most of whom have had to engage in 'distance learning', may not be developing some of the essential academic and social skills they'll need for their normal advancement. Many small businesses and restaurants have had to close their doors, with unclear prospects for them ever reopening.

With 2021's arrival come at least two efficacious, safe Covid vaccines. Our nation's – and the world's - prospects for climbing out of the pandemic's doldrums are much improved. Death rates should fall (and we pray swiftly) once immunizations have rolled out widely, but until then masking, social distancing, and limiting the size of our social gatherings is still the order of the day.

Are we behaving this way locally? Seeing the scary growth statistics for Covid in Foster City (below) has me fearing that not enough are. It is with that sobering fact in mind that I offer this simple but important rhyme:

**DISTANCE AND MASK –  
IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?**

## Status of Covid-19

*(Italics represent BI's opinion)*

The San Mateo County Health website (<https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus-county-data-dashboard>) shows that Foster City now has **436** confirmed cases, up from 174, 145, 122, and 67 cases in previous four months. *That's a multiple of six in just 5 months, and now exceeds 1% of the city's populace!* Our county stands at 23,681 cases, up from 13,707, 11,341, 9,785, and 8,000 cases the preceding four months.

