Title: The Impact of Rainfall-Induced Social Distancing on Covid-19 Transmission

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Abstract: We estimate the reduction in the Covid-19 transmission rate caused by sooner or more extensive social distancing. Since states and counties that begin social distancing sooner are also likely taking the crisis more seriously in other respects, we rely on exogenous social distancing induced by rainfall. We apply several designs, some based on rainfall the weekend before a state lockdown, and others looking at rainfall on key dates that required mass gatherings.

Data Description:
- Rainfall: NOAA Daily Historical Climatology Network
- Social distancing: SafeGraph movement-tracking and transaction data
- Covid-19 disease progression: Corno data scraper and Johns Hopkins University

JEL Codes: I1
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