



## ABOUT THE RESEARCH

**Simon Camponuri** was working in California's Central Valley with a team of researchers, when three of his colleagues got sick with Valley fever, something Camponuri had never heard of at the time.

Incidence of the fungal disease **Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis)** has increased dramatically in California over the past two decades. This past year, Simon Camponuri has led ongoing research examining how climate factors shape Valley fever risk in California, using these insights to develop a climate-based disease forecast for 2023-2024 cases.

## FOR MORE INFO



Scan the QR code for more information on our Research  
For questions, contact [coeh@berkeley.edu](mailto:coeh@berkeley.edu)

# PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM THE SPREAD OF VALLEY FEVER

## WHAT IS VALLEY FEVER?

- A **lung disease** that people catch from **breathing outdoor dust in some regions of the West**, Valley fever starts with flu-like symptoms but can progress to **serious illness or death**.

## WHAT WE FOUND

- Today we know a lot more about Valley fever thanks to a training grant Camponuri received from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to study the disease, which is often underdiagnosed and undertreated due to a lack of awareness of the disease.
- **Camponuri's research is forecasting when and where we expect to see the most Valley fever cases, information that can help people know when to avoid dusty conditions and alert doctors when to expect more Valley fever cases so they can give their patients the right tests and treatment.**

## THE FUTURE

- Camponuri's forecast accurately predicted sharp increases in cases over the past two years, and he hopes to continue improving and sharing his work to alert those who are at highest risk for infection. **Camponuri's work is helping professionals make sure people are protected.**

## WHAT CAN WORKERS DO?

- ✔ People in endemic areas should try to avoid inhaling dust whenever possible
- ✔ Keep dust down by watering the ground, or using special dust control products
- ✔ If you need to work with soil or in a dusty environment, wearing an N95 mask can help protect you from inhaling harmful particles and pathogens

**WANT TO LEARN MORE? CHECK OUT THE WORK SIMON AND THE EHS FACULTY AND RESEARCH TEAM HAVE PUBLISHED SO FAR!**  
[CLICK HERE](#)