

The Post-COVID City

While urban planners and city governments have continually examined ways to improve accessibility and adaptability of their cities to changing demographics and environmental challenges, COVID-19 has ushered in a new era of innovation and rethinking of our cityscapes. As adaptations like outdoor dining and alternative sources of transportation have flourished in the wake of the pandemic, both governments and citizens alike have been asked to reconsider our relationship to the city as a public space. What does this mean for the post-COVID city? Will COVID-induced changes to the landscape stick, or will we revert back to our “old” ways? How might we examine our changed relationship to the cityscape as a means to address inequality, accessibility and safety? This seminar will examine, through a sociological lens, how the city creates and sustains inequalities, but also how it holds the potential to address social problems.

Link to the podcast students should listen to prior to our session:

<https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2020/08/03/healthy-cities-urban-design-pandemic>