

Modeling & Forecasting COVID-19 in NM

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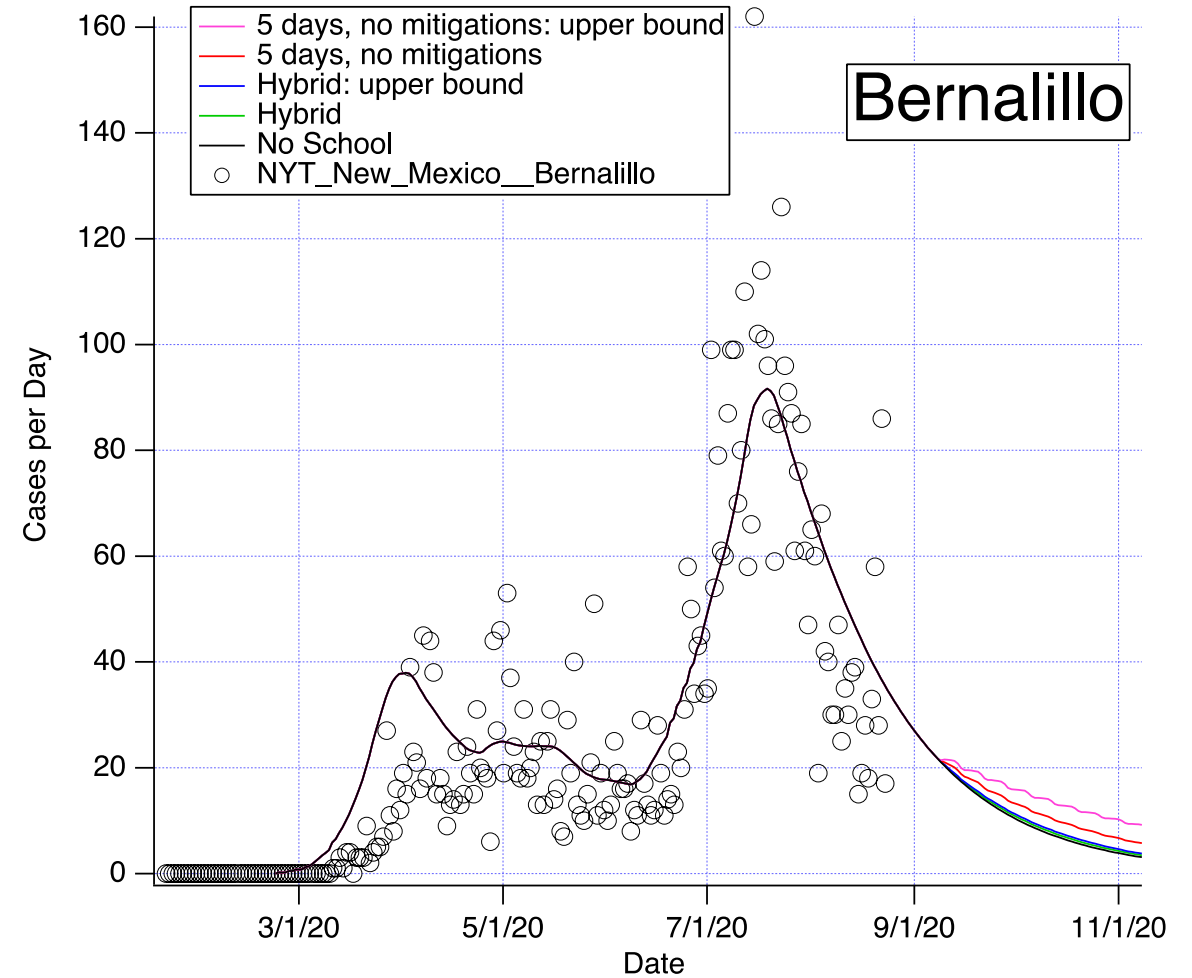
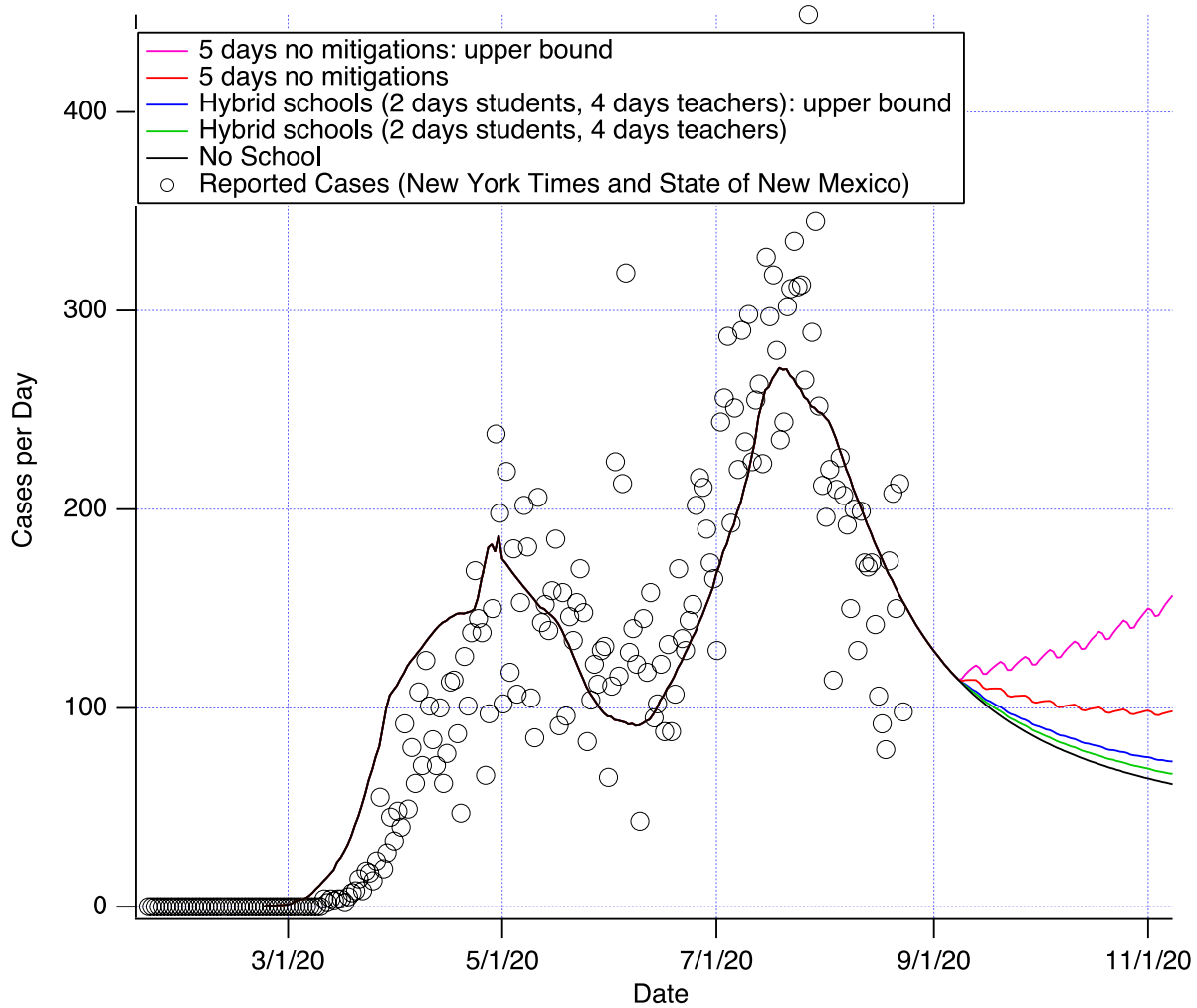
School modeling assumptions and real-world behavior: Infection Control (1/2)

- The hybrid school model in EpiGrid assumes particular in school transmission levels due to behavior of students, teachers, and staff. The practical side of these assumptions are:
 - Masks are **strictly** worn (except for short breaks for drinking water)
 - Eye protection is suggested for teachers.
 - **Social distancing is maintained** for upper elementary grades, middle school, and high school.
 - For children too young for strict social distancing, **cohorts are maintained** (i.e. always the same small group of teacher plus children plus aid – neither teacher nor aids switch between groups).
 - **Eating is handled in a way that does not contribute to covid-19 spread, e.g.**
 - Middle and High schoolers do not eat at school.
 - Snacks only for elementary school - no talking with masks off and at least 6 ft separation.

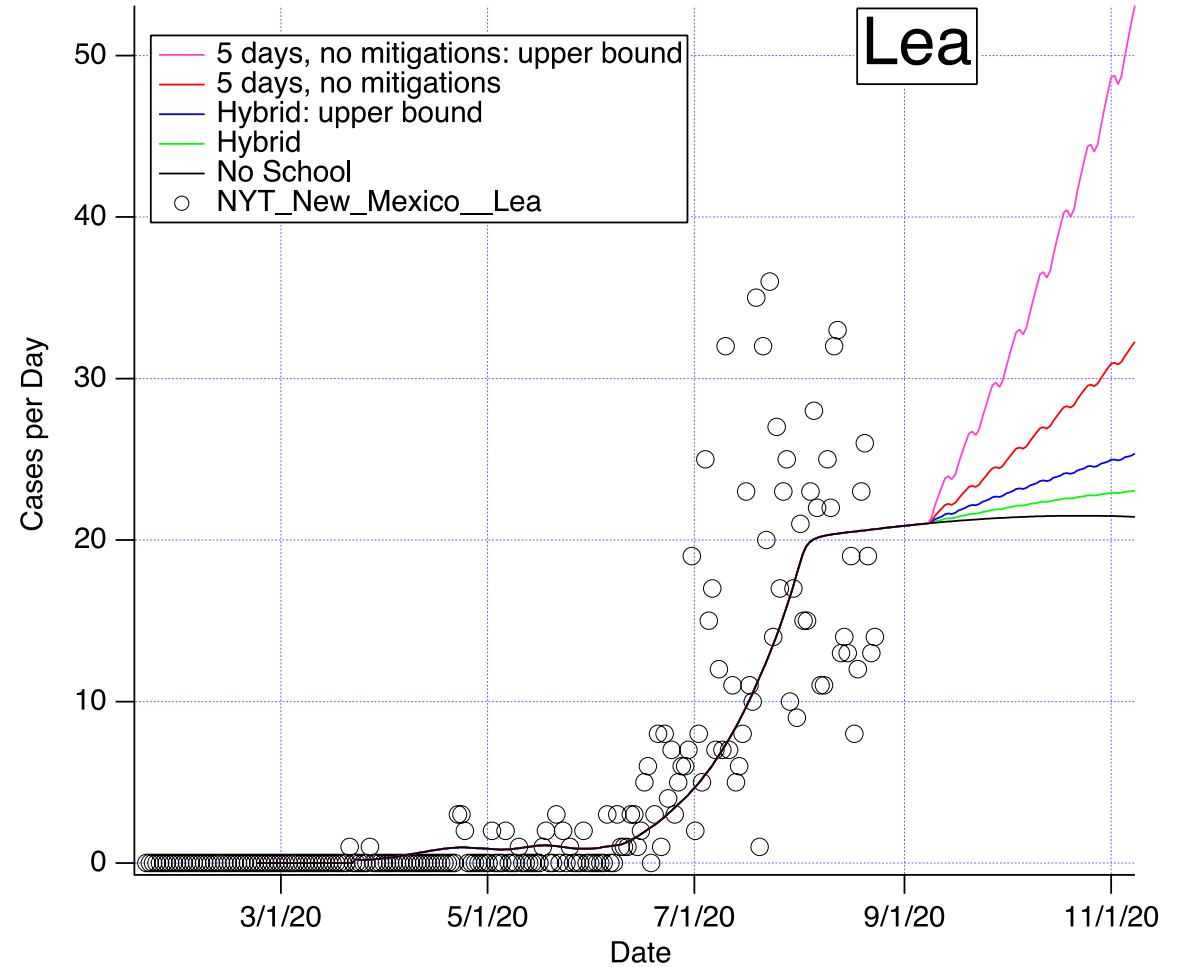
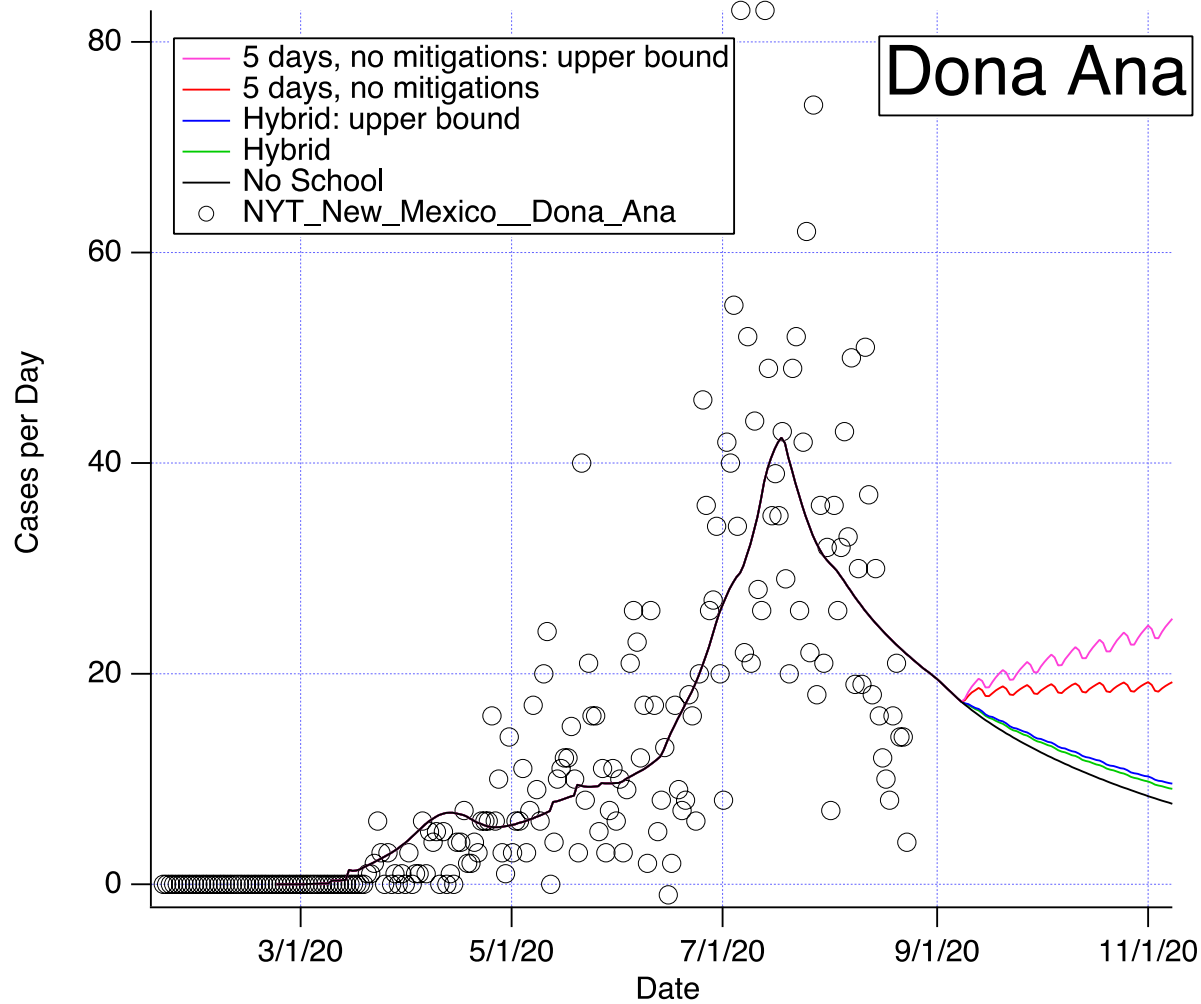
School modeling assumptions and real-world behavior: (2/2)

- **Passing periods do not contribute more to spread than classroom behavior.**
 - Crowded hallways might cause transmission to be higher than in classrooms, even with masking.
 - Example mitigation: lower story of middle school goes outside. Students from upper story go directly to next class. Students who are outside come in and go directly to next class. Minimizes bidirectional stairwell traffic.
- **Instrumental music, choir, and PE do not contribute more than regular class room behavior to transmission.**
 - Wind instruments can only be partially mitigated by a bell cover, there appears to be no way to put a mask on the player breathing in.
- **There are no collateral changes, either with the hybrid model or the full school model.**
 - For the hybrid model, the number of parents/care-takers that return to work may depend on implementation and maybe small if children are only away from home for part of two days a week.
 - This assumption is probably incorrect for the full school model, the presented results may underestimate the effects of full school opening.

How might school opening affect the current state-wide decline in cases



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