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My Patient Extubated! Birx says nothing about Trumps bleach; millions of newly uninsured.

Preliminary data shows that 88% on ventilators die. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2765184?guestAccessKey=906e474e-0b94-4e0e-8eaa-606ddf0224f5> Am happy to report that my last intubated patient is now extubated! But by no means is he out of the woods. He has large venous clots, a relatively common problem in COVID patients.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/04/22/coronavirus-blood-clots/> Regarding general medical: parents avoiding vaccines and avoiding care. Example of avoiding care: “Telephonically saw” a new to me 27 year old farmworker yesterday. Delayed diagnosis with infected gallstones for weeks diagnosed yesterday; immediately hospitalized.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/23/health/coronavirus-measles-vaccines.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>.

Germany is being praised for a near-textbook response to the pandemic, thanks to a **robust public health care system**, but also a **strategy of mass testing** and **trusted and effective political leadership**. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/04/world/europe/germany-coronavirus-death-rate.html>. The U.S. has **none of these three ingredients** – at present. Businesses may be appealing to Congress for more aid, but they know key details about the economy’s reawakening won’t be hammered out in Washington. <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2020/04/20/all-reopening-is-local-forcing-companies-to-navigate-patchwork-of-laws-1277961> On the scientific side in the executive branch, health professionals led by Adams, Birx, Fauci are unwilling to publicly or privately confront executive malfeasance. Congress is thus far politically incapable of stepping up to the executive branch; i.e. still no forward thinking/ response to the executive branch’s refusal to support millions of newly uninsured or implementing contact tracing/testing.

Data: this brief paper discusses how the economic downturn primarily driven by the COVID-19 pandemic could impact enrollment in Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplaces, Employer Sponsored coverage as well as the potential change in the number of uninsured individuals.

<https://www.healthmanagement.com/wp-content/uploads/HMA-Estimates-of-COVID-Impact-on-Coverage-public-version-for-April-3-830-CT.pdf?mod=article> inline. Thanks to Billy Millwee, AND Advisory Board member former Texas Medicaid commissioner. for turning me on to this. For Covid health care costs estimates: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00426?>

So it will be up to the states. Will states be able to coordinate? It will happen haphazardly but the answers are clear (see Gottlieb, McLelland documents reported in previous Notes; I and others written about long term). I have no contact tracing available yet. Most important need link between testing and contact tracers. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/21/tracking-coronavirus-workforce-does-not-exist-197622>.

I am always asked: When is this all going to end? We are in for a significant period of uncertainty. This approach wont work: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/24/business/congress-coronavirus-stimulus-bill.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>. My hope: states banding together with strong leadership and well implemented scientifically based programs linking testing and contact tracing. This will engender trust. The lack of executive branch scientific leadership makes unwillingness of Adams, Birx, and Fauci to confront Trump and his minions all the more tragic (thousands of lives unnecessarily lost) and reflects abdication of their Hippocratic oath.

Nonetheless we will all keep pushing as productively as possible. Via AND this week, I had meetings with health professionals and campaign staff to help re-elect a Congressional representative/ elect House candidates. Also organized health professionals in other districts together with swing states to help elect Biden. Contact me if you know of any health professionals in swing states or competitive districts.

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