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In my last note, I wrote about the first Covid test that I was able to order. Friday, it came back positive. No contact tracing is available in Springfield MA. So...my patient has exposed many new people to Covid and until they are symptomatic we simply won't know. I couldn't reach him Saturday. On Sunday, he didn't "sound" all that great and encouraged him to go the ER. He was dehydrated (he received fluids intravenously); Chest x-ray showed viral pneumonia – but his symptoms were not serious enough to be hospitalized. My intubated Covid patient continues- critical. I delivered a meal to the home of my physician colleague who made it home and is ready to "take a walk around the block."

Pro Publica last week summarized what is needed to "open" up life.

https://www.propublica.org/article/coronavirus-advice-from-abroad-7-lessons-americas-governors-should-not-ignore-as-they-reopen-their-economies?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=majorinvestigations.

- Massive, ongoing testing to detect where the disease is spreading,
- a real-time ability to trace contacts of those infected and isolate them,
- a willingness of people to wear masks in crowded public spaces,
- reserves of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment for hospital workers to handle any surge in cases,
- and reliable, easily administered blood tests to find out the number of people who have been infected. If they work well, such tests could eventually be used to identify people with immunity who could work at higher-risk jobs.

These are all needed for people to have trust in government – e.g. 80% support Merkel.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/03/thing-determines-how-well-countries-respond-coronavirus/609025/> The Congressional "Problem Solvers Caucus" has a longer critical list. https://www.scribd.com/document/457314667/Back-to-Work-Checklist#fullscreen&from_embed The federal government is following through on none of these. Instead, actions purely reflect a mixture of the executive branch's personal whim and political calculations. "Just like I was right on Ventilators (our Country is now the 'King of Ventilators', other countries are calling asking for help-we will!), I am right on testing." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/04/19/coronavirus-latest-news/#link-LKVPPYAWKRHUVIXCO4TIGOXMZM>; <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/19/pence-governors-ramp-up-coronavirus-testing-194340>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/04/20/trump-aligns-with-worlds-ostrich-leaders/>

The politics is straight forward: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/19/us/politics/charlie-kirk-conservatives-coronavirus.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>, While showing "regime decay", I am not as pessimistic as these; email me if you cant get the articles.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-04-12/coronavirus-pandemic-black-death-aids-shape->

history; <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2020-03-23/coronavirus-exposed-americas-authoritarian-turn>

Two issues to close on. For reasons that are not clear to me, Pelosi continues to be reactive (getting help for hospitals) instead of being proactive – (getting coverage for the millions of newly uninsured; projected: 7-10 millions). https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/first-the-coronavirus-pandemic-took-their-jobs-then-it-wiped-out-their-health-insurance/2020/04/18/1c2cb5bc-7d7c-11ea-8013-1b6da0e4a2b7_story.html. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/20/coronavirus-treatment-uninsured-195218?utm>

Politically I am trying to address the uninsured and other issues through Ask Nurses and Doctors to encourage LTEs, op-eds, other actions on these issues and continue to grow health professional networks in all swing states and in competitive Congressional races. Pls contact me if you know of health professionals that live in these swing districts or states. In addition, I've referenced that some states are beginning to "trace contacts of those infected." The attached one pager by myself and other colleagues imagines an American health system that builds on these contact tracers and focuses on population health. Email me if you want the 2 papers that will be published shortly.