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AND April 29, 2020 Increased anxiety (and deaths); Consequences of Mistrust

My extubated patient continues to improve. He isn't speaking yet. Three weeks of intubation has affected his brain. It is too early to tell how much of his mental function will return but I am always hopeful and communicate that to his family.

The consequences of this pandemic are easy to hear (I am still doing only telephonic visits) from a sample of yesterday's 17 patients – one is simply paralyzed by anxiety and doesn't want to return to work (rx: counselling, medication and more frequent visits with me); hypertensive emergency including blurry vision/headache and the patient didn't want to go to the ER because of Covid (rx: frequent daily encounters managing his hypertension; he is doing much better); working with a person who wants to go back to work and who ten days ago had Covid pneumonia on his x ray (rx: encouraging him to check his diabetes, be aware of relapse).

Most of these encounters didn't need to happen if the U.S. had the 3 key elements: trust, massive testing strategy, and strong public health dept. Ohio does have trust in the governor (but little testing and little public health). The Ohio poll showed overwhelming support for the governor. **Mr. DeWine's data-driven response has won support of top Democrats in the state.** Every morning at 11:30, Mr. DeWine holds a conference call with the mayors of Ohio's seven largest cities, all Democrats...**"It's so refreshing — it's how governing should work,"**<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/28/us/politics/mike-dewine-ohio-coronavirus.html>

Unless Congress forces the executive branch to meet its responsibilities, the current executive branch amoral approach enabled by its 3 physicians will result in continued dramatic physical, mental and economic suffering. Scientists have produced enough reports specifying exactly what we need to do – the executive branch refuses. How the following is managed at all levels of the federal government will determine how many more deaths, when the pandemic control/ suppression occurs, and how close we come to a full economic depression.

The following evolving story may be the key moment in our Covid response: Republican leaders want liability protection so if customers or employees get sick, they won't be able to sue businesses. But, e.g., the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, representing meatpackers, said the administration could not order meatpacking employees to work without protecting their safety, including giving workers masks, other protective gear, ensuring daily testing, enforcing physical distancing and sick leave for infected workers. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/28/business/economy/coronavirus-trump-meat-food-supply.html>

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<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/28/democrats-mcconnell-coronavirus-214365>

Coverage for the uninsured (will be fought tooth and nail by Trump). <https://www.ahip.org/wp-content/uploads/COVIDCoverageCoalition-042820.pdf>

Trump said he takes no responsibility for the spike in people using disinfectants improperly in the aftermath of his dangerous suggestion that injecting or ingesting them might serve as an effective treatment... President Trump has put the onus on governors to decide when to ease stay-at-home orders and reopen their states... Attorney General Bill Barr directed all 93 U.S. attorneys on Monday to “be on the lookout for state and local directives” that curtail individual rights in the name of containing the novel coronavirus.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2020/04/28/daily-202-barr-memo-threatening-lawsuits-against-coronavirus-restrictions-is-a-warning-shot/5ea7a78e88e0fa3dea9c4414/>

In Arlington, Tex., police officers and firefighters may soon see painful cuts.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/04/29/cities-states-layoffs-furloughs-coronavirus/>

We have a great deal to learn about Covid. We need a functioning economy. There will be no economy without trust, testing, and a revitalized public health response. Now we have a dysfunctional country. States are trying but that is no substitute for a national response. Many of us will keep trying. **Via AND, I continue to organize in swing states and Congressional districts. Health professionals are responding; data drives them! Your contacts and suggestions are welcome. Voters will listen to health professionals and then vote.**

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