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**May 15, 2020:**

**Two more patients hospitalized with Covid; Ongoing national confusion;  
Exec Branch: “Testing isn’t necessary” – Really?**

Had two more patients hospitalized this week with Covid. Both discharged. We are getting better in our care and we are testing more. Still no contact tracing where I work– which is a hot spot! My patient who was intubated for weeks is not only extubated; not only in rehab – but he is Covid negative!! He is about to be discharged – home!! Wow. American health care at it is best.

But, sadly, the overall picture is dismal. What are the results of no national response to this pandemic? As the USA today headline stated: “We have 50 states and 50 different approaches”. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/05/13/coronavirus-states-scramble-hire-covid-19-contact-tracers/3088014001/>. In particular, Covid is affecting people of color and poverty as demonstrated in this new analysis from Harvard: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/05/09/nation/disparities-push-coronavirus-death-rates-higher/>.

And we also have an executive branch that doesn’t believe in testing except for itself. <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/497846-trump-says-testing-may-be-frankly-overrated> and <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/05/07/sharp-hypocrisy-white-house-position-testing/>

While I have focused in these Covid Notes on human contract tracers, contact tracing apps are one critical piece of the puzzle. But it isn’t so simple. As an excellent report from the Brookings stated: “By focusing on the quality of the technology over the equity of impact it has on people, the developers of the many different technological interventions currently under discussion are likely to find that the tech itself won’t help containment. In societies with strong institutional trust and public health systems, COVID-19 has claimed relatively few lives. By contrast, in countries with weaker public health systems and wider socioeconomic disparities, the impact has been far worse. In the United States, for example, African American communities are dying at significantly higher rates than others, and the full impact on marginalized communities probably won’t be fully understood until the crisis is over. There is little indication that the technological interventions being contemplated are being designed with these disparities in mind.” [https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/contact-tracing-apps-are-political/?utm\\_campaign=Brookings%20Brief&utm\\_](https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/contact-tracing-apps-are-political/?utm_campaign=Brookings%20Brief&utm_)

I've highlighted the millions of newly uninsured. This report from the Kaiser family Foundation highlighted the fact that: Between March 1<sup>st</sup> and [May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020](#), more than 31 million people had filed for unemployment insurance. Actual loss of jobs and income are likely even higher. [https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/eligibility-for-aca-health-coverage-following-job-loss/?utm\\_campaign=KFF-2020-Health-Reform](https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/eligibility-for-aca-health-coverage-following-job-loss/?utm_campaign=KFF-2020-Health-Reform). So... what to do about this? But first a historical point: The Affordable Care Act passed by just a few votes in the House of Representatives and controlled the House and Senate. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/physiciansfoundation/2014/03/26/a-look-back-at-how-the-president-was-able-to-sign-obamacare-into-law-four-years-ago/#482c3264526b>. The question is what if anything can we do to get health insurance to the unemployed? The Senate today is in R hands; the executive branch is against any health insurance for the unemployed. The D's need to pass legislation that can pass the Senate and the executive branch. Right now, the D's are not there. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/15/bernie-sanders-medicare-for-all-coronavirus-relief-bill-260183>.

Finally, please look at these faces in the link below. They belonged to health care professionals who fought for you, for our health ... and have died. They have died because of the sheer incompetence of this administration; the sheer maliciousness of this administration; the sheer wallowing in narcissism of all members of this executive branch. But... let it be known that more and more of us get that, not just the Lancet ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31140-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31140-5/fulltext)) and we will win the Presidency, the House and the Senate in November and elect politicians to serve us in Washington who are in favor of science and the health of all people in United States. That is the only way to open up this economy which is on its knees. But first... look at these faces. <https://khn.org/news/lost-on-the-frontline-health-care-worker-death-toll-covid19-coronavirus/>.

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