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More Covid Patients; Pandemic/Endemic? Covid 3rd Leading Cause of Death Last Week

I had four patients with Covid last week. All three were treated with Paxlovid and all did well – so far. Key is to get the medication to them quickly. One was diagnosed the day after his symptoms began including some respiratory difficulty. I called him the following day and he was doing better. I had another patient yesterday, an elderly woman, covid positive with a myriad of problems who I elected not to treat because there is a serious interaction with some of her other medications. In addition, she was feeling well. I am calling her twice a day to check in.

Re endemic vs pandemic. For me the key issue is what is one's behavior – and ... I haven't changed. N95 masks when I am indoors unless eating. One expert pointed out these facts: "We still have a disease in this country that is hospitalizing over 32,000 people a day, with over 3,000 ICU admissions, and over 450 cases on average per day are dying." Long Covid, especially "[brain fog](#)" is of great concern. In preliminary work, Covid vaccine [may cut down on long term symptoms](#).

An unfathomable number: [10.5 million](#) children were orphaned or lost a primary caregiver to Covid. Anti-vaxxer attitudes will likely prolong Covid [but also create spikes](#) in other avoidable illnesses. [Burnout or worse](#), including [nursing strikes](#), is still occurring among health care professionals. Infection control and prevention in nursing homes [continues to be a major challenge](#) according to this published Government Accounting Office report. The UN General Assembly met this week and there was [according to the Washington Post](#):

a panel co-sponsored by a South Africa-based mRNA technology and training hub, backed by the World Health Organization. The hub aims to start a global network of vaccine research sites in developing nations. In addition to Biden missing his own global vaccination targets, The hub in South Africa expects it will need about \$100 million in funding over the next four years, with just \$67 million raised so far. For the project, that \$34 million shortfall is a lot of money, but it's also about half of the cost of an [F-35 fighter jet](#).

With overdose deaths rising, we need to continue to [push for new initiatives including syringe exchange](#) – despite the opposition almost completely but not only (there is always Manchin) Republican opposition. [Fentanyl](#) is part overdose tragedy.

According to the [New Yorker](#): As a cost-saving measure for our valued customers, we, the HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY™, have kindly merged our eye and psychological exams.

A seminal finding in social science is that people are most likely to land high-paying jobs through their social connections rather than through advertisements or direct job applications. This has major implications for the persistence of inequality. [This article](#) from Science highlights some of the recent research on this critical issue.

Despite the challenges, many health professionals take a stand. Senator Richard Pan, State Senator in California, [who was firm on vaccines and had menstrual blood thrown at him](#) in response has reached his term limit and is retiring.

AND continues to work and publish op-eds and LTEs in [Florida](#), Maine, and [Pennsylvania](#). If any health professional is interested in working on an op-ed, LTE in other competitive November elections on any of the topics discussed in the AND Notes – we are here for you. The stakes are high with Dr Oz saying [“uninsured Americans have no right to health.”](#)

This Sunday evening starts the Jewish Year – Happy Jewish New Year or L'shana Tova to all!! Speak to you and look forward to working with all of you next year!!

Norbert Goldfield, M.D.