

Dear valued patients and colleagues

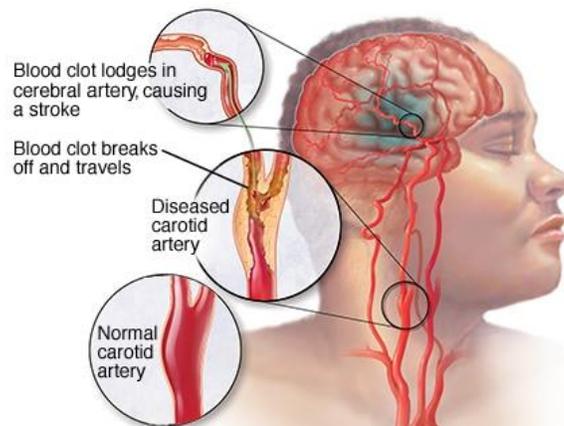
A brief introduction

This edition of the newsletter will be a little different. Yes, it still deals with the coronavirus. But I am going to turn everything on its head by dealing with the ramifications of our quarantine and isolation. It will help you understand the true nature and the cost of the coronavirus in terms of lives, health, and dollars. When we make decisions, we must consider the negatives of our decisions as well as the positives. Too frequently we only hear of the positives of quarantine, let us get the whole picture. This is not done to portray an agenda, merely to show that there are ramifications to any decisions.

Houston, we have a problem

Let us begin with the overwhelming numbers of individual who are not getting care for their maladies, whether as a result of fear or of policy decisions. For each of the items below, when available, I have provided the links substantiating each statement should you wish to pursue the information further. If not, ignore the links and move on.

- Stanford University and Washington University reported a 40% drop in stroke evaluation. Approximately 140,000 American die from stroke each year. How many people will needlessly die and be crippled because they did not seek needed care during this period? How many people will suffer transient ischemic attacks or “warnings” and then experience a stroke? This 40% number is very disturbing to me and must be considered when performing the risk benefit ratios for further isolation. <https://www.docwirenews.com/docwire-pick/cardiology-picks/stroke-evaluations-decrease-due-to-covid-19-pandemic-analysis/>



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- ER's have seen up to a 50% drop in heart patients. This does not mean that the US is experiencing 50% fewer heart attacks. It does mean that people are either ignoring heart attack symptoms or fear going to the ER for symptoms and, as a result, die at home. This is a shocking statistic and, even more so, because the amazing advances we have made in cardiac care have enabled many to survive a heart attack. An irreversibly damaged heart may result in permanent congestive heart failure for heart attack survivors.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/06/well/live/coronavirus-doctors-hospitals-emergency-care-heart-attack-stroke.html>



- The number of living organ donor transplants dropped 90% at peak lockdown. That is a staggering drop. There are many generous individuals who donate kidneys to those in renal failure, a gift that all but ceased during this pandemic. We may never know the number of lives lost as a result of the lack of living donors.

https://apnews.com/18385e5923788c7921810445ae150e9d?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+apnews_mdx+%28AP+Top+News%29



- Screenings and monitoring for breast, prostate, colorectal, cervical and lung cancer have decreased 39-90%. Every month, there are 150,000 individuals diagnosed with cancer in the US. IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science estimated that 80,000 cancer diagnosis will be missed during the pandemic. University College of London predicts 33,000 excess cancer deaths in the US. As you know, many cancers are more easily treated if they are found early. Given the downward trend of cancer screenings during the pandemic, individuals with cancer may be more likely to present with a more advanced stage. It is difficult to quantify the number of individuals who may have more advanced cancer because they neglected screening during quarantine and social isolation. Once more, the simple fear of being exposed to the coronavirus has stopped many, many people from going to the doctor or hospital for examination when

early detection and treatment may have occurred.

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/930066>.

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/statistics>

https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2020/04/01/Cancer-patient-care-disrupted-by-COVID-19-pandemic/7251585762174/

1 in 3
Cancer
deaths could
be prevented
with earlier
detection



- I must admit I never realized, until my video on the coronavirus, that so many people hate vaccines. The comment section of my video brought out the anti-vaxxers in force. Most of us see the amazing things that vaccination has done for childhood illness and mortality. Polio, a true scourge, no longer lives. Measles, mumps, and rubella, for the most part, are a thing of the past, except when parents decide not to vaccinate.

Incredibly, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) measles vaccinations in US children have fallen up to 60% since the pandemic began. I truly hope, in the future, we do not replace one pandemic with another. If you have not vaccinated your child because of fear of the epidemic, please get them back on schedule for their regular vaccines.

https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2020/05/08/Measles-vaccinations-in-US-children-fall-up-to-60-percent-since-pandemic-CDC-says/8641588962260/?fbclid=IwAR3GhOSLvHhgNZYZQmqoIMWR-zLnSghEgIXjOxyPU5GNkvTDjkoInkW_RFs



- I have brought this up before and I cannot stress it enough, so here it is again: Up to 68,000 Americans may die due to drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and suicide if we continue lockdowns. Job loss, social isolation and having to remain in a marginal relationship extract a high human toll. It would be shameful if we matched the deaths of COVID-19 with an equal amount of preventable deaths due to these stressors.
https://wellbeingtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WBT_Deaths-of-Despair_COVID-19-FINAL-FINAL.pdf

Dr. Wilson tries to be an economist

I am not an economist and do not play one on TV. You do not need me to tell you about the widespread damage being done to our economy. In fact, some of you may be experiencing the economic impact of this pandemic firsthand. I may be accused of only caring about the economy, but let me reassure you that that is not my goal in bringing up this topic. When I look at the statistics below, I do not see stocks or buildings or dollars. I see jobs and families and suffering. The first set of statistics represent small business. Small businesses or “main street” as they are sometimes called, are the backbone of this country. I am a small businessman, many of you may be small businesspeople as well.

- 100,000 small business have been permanently destroyed.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/05/12/small-business-used-define-americas-economy-pandemic-could-end-that-forever/>



- About one half of all small businesses will be out of cash within a month.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/05/14/federal-reserve-census-data-coronavirus-survey/>

- Of the nation's 30 million small businesses, nearly 7.5 million are at risk for closing permanently over the coming 5 months and 3.5 million are at risk in the next two months. Please remember 35.7 million Americans are employed in or by small businesses.
<https://www.mainstreet.org/blogs/national-main-street-center/2020/04/09/new-report-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-small-busines>

Now let us turn to big business. Keep in mind that each company filing for bankruptcy represents thousands of jobs, thousands of families, and thousands of mouths to feed.



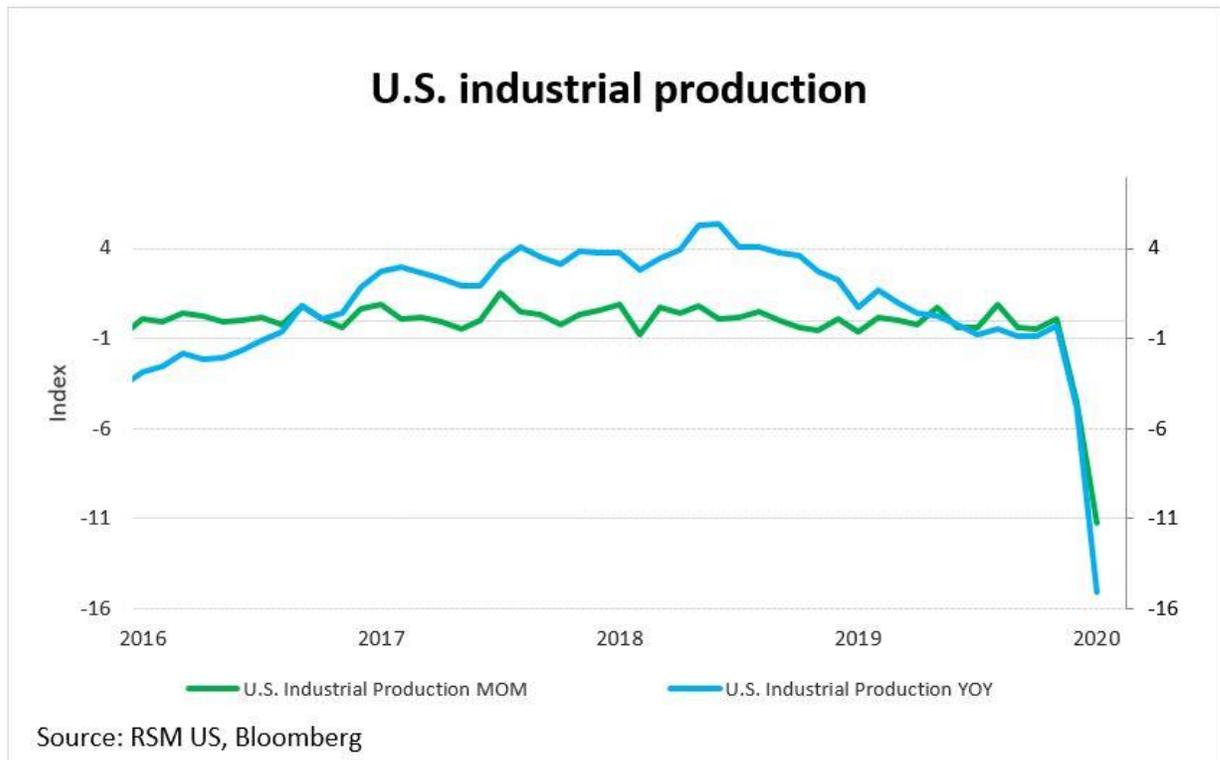
- Companies filing Bankruptcy during COVID-19
 - J. Crew Group
 - Gold's Gym
 - JC Penney
 - Dean and DeLuca
 - True Religion
 - Speedcast International
 - Diamond Offshore Drilling
 - Frontier Communications
 - Intelsat
 - John Varvatos Enterprises
 - Neiman Marcus
 - Stage Stores (operates department stores under name of Gordmans, Bealls and Goody's)
 - UltraPetroleum
 - Whiting Petroleum



- Companies nearing bankruptcy
 - Chesapeake Energy
 - Hertz
 - Lord and Taylor
 - Mohegan Gaming and Entertainment
 - Sur La Table
 - StubHub
 - AMC Theatres
 - Sears
 - Bed Bath and Beyond
 - Frontier Communications
 - Steak 'n Shake
 - Nordstrom's
 - GNC Holdings
 - Ruby Tuesday
 - Dave and Buster's
 - Party City
 - Best Buy
 - Revlon

A few more facts

- US retail sales were down 16.4% in April, a new all-time record
- US factory output was down 13.7%, the worst decline ever recorded



- US industrial production fell 11.2%, the worst decline in 101 years
- 36.5 million Americans have filed for unemployment. During the great Depression, 15 million Americans signed for unemployment
- According to the Federal Reserve, the real unemployment rate is 30.7%
- Federal reserve officials say 40% of Americans with household incomes less than \$40,000 have lost their job
- A recent study says 42% of jobs lost during the pandemic will never return
- Columbia University is reporting that the homeless population could increase by up to 45%

I know you do not turn to me for economic data, but I look at these statistics and think of people and families and their health. I cannot help it. The two are so closely entwined; consider the impact these changes will have on our the country.

And what about the rest of the world?

Some people consider themselves global citizens and take a world view on this pandemic. As such, we need to look at how the coronavirus is impacting global poverty. According to estimates an additional 40 to 60 million people worldwide will be pushed into “extreme poverty”.



This COVID-19 scourge is likely to cause the first increase in global poverty since 1998 when the Asian financial crisis hit. With these new forecasts, global poverty – the share of the world’s population living on less than \$1.90/day – is projected to increase from 8.2 to 8.6% or from 632 million to 665 million. Advanced economies will contract about 6% and developing economies will contract by about only 1%. However, more people in developing economics live next to the poverty line and will be among the hardest hit.



As wealthy nations lose wealth, they stop utilizing the services of countries dependent on travel, tourism, and hospitality. As a result, there is a reduction in the wealth transfer that would usually take place. Already fragile healthcare systems will crumble. The trade on which they are almost totally dependent is drying up. Global lockdowns are disrupting access to food and medical supplies. Scarcity and increasing restrictions on medical and other supplies have driven up prices; prices which cannot be borne by poorer nations.



America was on the verge of a meat shortage but was able to avert a crisis. But what about the poorest countries which rely heavily on food imports? America is a breadbasket of the world and as we restrict exports to feed our own population, food imports into needy nations will plummet. Food imports can provide up to 90% of food in fragile or conflict-ridden countries. How many will die around the world due to lockdowns that decrease American's ability to help feed other nations?

I know this has not been a very uplifting newsletter. This time it was meant to bring awareness to the ramifications of public health policy decisions. **Opinion Warning:** I believe it is more compassionate for America and the world to open up, even given the potential risks, than to continue down this path of isolation and quarantine. Feel free to write me and disagree.

Music for the soul

After the bad news, here is something that may bring a bit of joy. Let me introduce you to Klezmer music, a musical tradition of Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe. If you have danced a hora or attended a Jewish wedding, you have probably heard it. Some of you may remember "Fiddler on the Roof" which laced its showtunes with Klezmer melodies.

The Klezmer tradition dates back centuries but was imported to the US by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe during the early 20th century. It is a mix of Jewish music with folk music from Russia, Poland, Romania, and Germany with a heavy influence of gypsy thrown in.

The other day I was watching a Swedish clarinetist, playing the most amazing Klezmer music. His name is Martin Fröst.



I play the clarinet about 1/1000 as well as him, so I was fascinated by Mr. Fröst and spent hours on YouTube watching him play. Tell me what you think. Even his fellow musicians in the orchestra seem to really enjoy; watch them smile. This musician is simply amazing, and I have no idea how he “tongues” those notes. The first segment is only 2:54 minutes in length so give it a chance to draw you in. The second is only 3:29 minutes...go for it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_JkhFuzEoo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7OaQMijc3o>



If you want a more traditional sound.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1oG32lrNP4&t=>

And for a more multicultural bend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMiCUTsjQCE>