

Dear valued patients and colleagues

Human nature has not changed much

During the Black Death or Bubonic Plague of 1347-1351, there was an interesting social phenomenon. In the Decameron, Boccaccio wrote that the rich secluded themselves at home during the Black Death, where they enjoyed quality wines and provisions and entertainment. The very wealthiest deserted their neighborhoods altogether, retreating to comfortable estates in the countryside. Meanwhile the middle class or poor, forced to stay at home, died by the thousands. Humans have not changed very much, and at present, many still react much the same way.

As reported in the NY Times, hundreds of thousands of NYC's wealthiest have left the city: 5% in the last two months. The wealthiest neighborhoods have decreased their populations by 40%, with the highest earning neighborhoods emptying first. So, although New Yorkers claim that "we are all in this together," their actions say otherwise.

Human nature really has not changed much in 700 years. Not surprising.

Where more than 25% left



Everywhere else



Another reason to cut down the fear factor

The data in the chart below is from a recent report from the Netherlands. Mind you, their per capita death rate is 30% higher than the US, so our numbers are probably better.

Netherland Projections Based on COVID Anti-Body Testing Data Presented to Dutch House of Representatives - April 16

Age	Mild or Asymptomatic	Probability of getting tested	Chance of Hospitalization	Chance of ICU admission	Chance of Death	Population per 1 Corona Death
20-29	97.3%	2.7%	0.2%	0.032%	0.0038%	26,400
30-39	96.8%	3.2%	0.3%	0.088%	0.0070%	14,280
40-49	96.1%	3.9%	0.8%	0.236%	0.0140%	7,159
50-59	93.5%	6.5%	1.9%	0.680%	0.1032%	969
60-69	93.3%	6.7%	3.4%	1.449%	0.4921%	203

Source: *Economisch Statistische Berichten (ESB) based on data from RIVM, Sanquin, Stichting Nice, CBS Statline*

This data was presented on April 16. Several weeks later, a different research group did a second serological test. The second report expanded the age range of those included in the study with remarkably similar results.

Age	Chance of Hospitalization	Chance of ICU Admission	Chance of Death
0-19	0.20%	0.02%	0.003%
20-29	0.17%	0.03%	0.003%
30-39	0.29%	0.06%	0.008%
40-49	0.69%	0.18%	0.017%
50-54	1.28%	0.39%	0.058%
55-59	1.98%	0.69%	0.145%
60-64	2.70%	0.99%	0.290%
65-69	3.52%	1.37%	0.757%
70-75	5.30%	1.82%	1.668%
75-80	8.14%	1.70%	4.433%
80-85	9.11%	0.50%	7.836%

Source: *Economisch Statistische Berichten (ESB)* based on data from RIVM, Pienter Research, CBS, *Stitching Nice*

Looking at the data, it appears that anyone under age sixty should be able to work. Another take away from this report is that the younger the individual, the less the likely they are to die of the disease. I am even willing to risk it at 0.7% chance. A country cannot survive sequestering in place. My suggestions and opinions are as follows when I see all the current data:

- Allow final decisions about staying at home to be made by each individual
- Open schools, like they have done in Europe, the risk is exceptionally low
- If people are working at home successfully, let them continue
- Allow those 55 and below to return to work
- Allow those above 55 or those with significant risk factors the option of returning to work
- Allow those counties without any deaths to return to work no matter the age
- Allow flexibility in case of recurrence or those unwilling to return to work

When the initial stay at home orders were issued, we were told there would be 2.2 million deaths. The data, based on faulty data from the World Health Organization (WHO) and China, no longer supports the occurrence of 2.2 million deaths. Then we were told to stay at home to flatten the curve. Well, the curve has been flattened and we have ventilators and testing kits so that hospitals will not be overburdened. Now we are being told to sequester until there is a cure for Covid-19. This is not reasonable. My plan allows freedom of choice and allows those least at risk to return to work to feed their families. I would like to hear your thoughts.

The moving timeline

The timeline for entry of coronavirus to the United States seems to be a moving target. The Seattle Times reports a case of a man traveling solo through China and who started having symptoms on his return to the United States on January 15. This man reported symptoms on January 19 and was hospitalized with pneumonia. He tested positive for SARS-COV-2 antibodies.

Then the Seattle Times said a retired nurse had a bug two days before Christmas and was sick for a week. After several trips to the doctor her condition improved. She has now tested positive for SARS-COV-2 antibodies. Could this disease have hit the United States in December?



Children and complications of COVID-19

Several people have asked about kids who develop complications of COVID-19. Please remember that children seem to have been mostly spared from serious COVID-19 complications. There have been a few reported cases of pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome (PMIS).



Please remember that only 2% of all coronavirus cases have been diagnosed in people under age 18. There are 200 cases described in 19 states of PMIS. There are 73.7 million Americans under the age of 18. Do the math: .000027% of those under 18 have been affected by PMIS. Please do not let concern for PMIS bring fear to your family as it is not even clear if PMIS is related to COVID-19. Besides, once the child is treated almost all of them do great.

Not really unintended consequences

All along, I have been concerned about potential increases in the rates of suicide and domestic violence as a result of current state shutdowns. Below are some statistics about domestic violence. The data are scary because most domestic violence goes unreported.



- In Chicago, the number of people seeking help has increased significantly in recent weeks. During the first week of March, 383 people called a domestic violence hotline in the city. By the end of April, the weekly number had soared to 549.
- In April, phone calls and texts to the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline increased 17% over the same period last year.
- Detroit received 769 domestic violence calls over the past two weeks of March, a 9% spike from weeks prior.
- Tucson, Arizona, police recorded 292 domestic violence incidents, also up 9% from the previous reporting period.
- In Santa Rosa, California, which has been under shelter-in-place orders since March 17, city police saw domestic disturbance calls jump from 42 a week to 51 a week.

- Seattle has seen a 21% increase in domestic violence calls.
- The San Antonio Police Department released numbers showing a 21% increase in family violence calls from 2019 to 2020, year-to-date. That means January 1 through April 7, 2019 and 2020.
- Cook Children’s Medical Center, a hospital in Fort Worth, saw seven cases of child abuse in a five-day stretch in March, a spike that medical personnel suspected was connected to the outbreak.

And onto the absurd

My daughter, Sarah, lives in a condominium in Los Angeles. There are tennis courts as part of the complex. If you play tennis you must bring your own bucket of balls and place your initials on the balls. You may only handle your own tennis balls.



I think this is absurd. Do you realize that the chance catching COVID-19 from picking up a tennis ball that is not yours is probably one in a trillion? This is simply an example of out of control bureaucrats exercising their power in random ways.

Music and medicine

Claude Debussy wrote one of the most beautiful pieces of music - Suite Bergamasque L.75 III, derived from a poem titled “Clair de lune”. Medically, Debussy is remarkably interesting in that he underwent one of the earliest known colostomy operations in 1915.



His health gradually declined. He gave his final concert in 1917 and died in 1918 of colon cancer just as the first world war was still going on and Paris was under bombardment. Due to the war, Debussy did not receive the honor of a public funeral or graveside orations. The funeral procession went through deserted streets. Debussy was buried in a temporary grave and needed to be reinterred the following year. Listen to one of the most influential composers of the 20th century:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3u4pQ4WKOk>

If you want to hear what Debussy would have sounded like playing his own music, here is a recording using a piano roll Debussy made from one of his performances. If you read the notes below the description of the piece you will see that rolls for reproducing piano were generally made from recorded performances of famous musicians. They would sit at a special recording piano and the pitch and duration of the any notes played would either be marked or perforated on a blank roll, together with the sustaining and soft pedal. Here is Debussy playing Debussy as recorded on the piano roll.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yri2JNhyG4k>