

COVID Masks, Agenda Item 18

David Zokaites

December 15, 2020

Containing Contagious Disease

- 1) Early and persistent intervention
- 2) Contact tracing
- 3) Repeated mass testing
- 4) Quarantine infectious carriers
- **Not the American strategy**
- Cloth face masks relatively unimportant

Why Isn't COVID Contained?

- One or more of:
- The author is misinformed
- CDC doesn't understand disease control
- Trump and Congress intentionally ignore science
- Government doesn't want effective control
- A ploy to promote online retail, pharma, tech
- A year of ineptitude

Changed Mask Recommendation

- WHO, CDC initially recommended no civilian face masks
- Now they're strongly recommended or mandatory
- Why the change?
- Does government want COVID to spread?
- More ineptitude?

Worrisome No Response

Thu, Dec 10, 2020

Director Franken,

Because Sioux Falls government is planning to extend a mask mandate, I have two important questions for you as the city's highest health official: Is there scientific evidence that cloth face masks slow or stop the spread of COVID? What does the medical literature say about this matter? If you could address these questions, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks,

David Zokaite

Government Strategies

- Close “non essential” businesses and schools
- Confine people to their homes
- Curfews
- Mandatory face masks
- Lockdowns ineffective without testing, tracing, quarantine
- Ignore “No person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law”

News Media

- Going crazy with COVID reports
- More cases, more deaths, day after day
- Months of front page coverage
- Promote fear, extreme response, distress

Mortality Rates

- Early figures were exaggerated
- Case and infection rates often conflated
- COVID little worse than seasonal flu
- **Flu infection fatality rate about 0.1%, COVID 0.16%**
- COVID case fatality rate 6%
- COVID hospital fatality rate 40%
- COVID ventilator fatality rate 90%

Bigger Picture Mortality

- Media reports COVID-related deaths
- Vast majority of “COVID” deaths have co-morbidity
- People already sick before “dying of COVID”
- **Unhealthy lifestyle more chronic problem than COVID**

Economic Impacts

- Hardship, bankruptcy for local shops
- Bars, restaurants, theaters, sports, travel hard hit
- Mass unemployment
- Record high stock market
- Huge boost to online shopping, pharma, hospitals
- Increased working from home
- Reduced education, especially for poor students
- Massive government debt
- Fed printed trillions of new dollars

Emotional Impacts

- Cabin fever times ten
- Increased suicide
- Elderly further isolated
- Some folks traumatized by wearing masks
- **Foolish to extend life while making life unbearable**

Mask Mandates

- **A lot of trouble for a little gain while we ignore bigger issues**
- 1.8% of mask wearers got infected vs 2.1% of non-wearers "Infection with SARS-CoV-2 occurred in 42 participants recommended masks (1.8%) and 53 control participants (2.1%)."
- **"the difference observed was not statistically significant"**
- See "Effectiveness of Adding a Mask Recommendation to Other Public Health Measures to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Danish Mask Wearers" in Annals of Internal Medicine

My Personal Response

- Regular exercise, meditation, nature
- No jelly doughnuts, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, LSD, heroin, ...
- No health problems
- COVID worries ended when I learned how little risk it poses
- Masks slightly slow transmission, not worthwhile
- **Healthy living is more important than fear of a flu**

Enjoy Nature Regardless

