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Jonathan Shi

February 22 ·

Day 2 of the Northern Italy shutdown:

Two days ago, a Lombardian tested positive for COVID-19, and now the virus has been detected all over Northern Italy. Eleven towns are in quarantine, most about 40 minutes from Milan. Officially, 59 cases are confirmed, but my guess is there are 200-800 undiscovered ones. It is unknown how it got transmitted here, or how long ago.

The first case in Milan was confirmed a few hours ago, but he'd already been hospitalized with it for 5 days, so for sure there are more. All schools (including my university) have stopped classes, and many companies told their employees not to come in.

I started stocking some emergency supplies back when a global pandemic started looking possible, so, I won't have to wander out too much. People here are going about their weekend normally as far as I can tell—the usual crowd socializing outside the bar downstairs—but at the grocery today the hand sanitizer sold out minutes after it was restocked.

19

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Have you read The Plague by Camus?

15w

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Jonathan Shi I don't think so. I read The Stranger though, and also that Red Death story by Poe. Close enough?

15w

2



Jonathan Shi Haha if you've also read Andromeda strain then yes

15w

1



Jonathan Shi I watched the movie!

15w

2



Jonathan Shi Has the news talked about how much of a giant mess Iran is in right now? Iran is in the same boat, but worse: it also only recently noticed it had any cases at all, and is now dealing with them all over the country. And I imagine their health system is not as prepared?

15w · Edited

3



Is "a global pandemic" one of those redundant pleonasms?

15w

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Jonathan Shi I think it puts it closer to "all continents" than to "two continents" in concept-space.

15w



but the pan- bit already means all

15w



Jonathan Shi the WHO defines it with "two or more".

15w

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Jonathan Shi wait hold on

15w

Jonathan Shi okay I don't see any official definition using the "two or more" criterion, but it's pretty widespread in news articles and social media. possibly it's a corruption of one of the CDC's informal definitions "an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents"?

15w · Edited



Guess it'll be everywhere soon... take care!

15w



Jonathan Shi The WHO director says there is still hope to contain it but "the window of opportunity is closing".

15w

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Jonathan Shi <https://virologydownunder.com/past-time-to-tell-the-.../>



VIROLOGYDOWNUNDER.COM

Past Time to Tell the Public: "It Will Probably Go Pandemic, and We..."

15w



Jonathan Shi the WHO right now:



15w

3



Sounds like our pandemic game, the news have not made a peep about iran

15w

2



Jonathan Shi Anna Levina THATS WHAT IVE BEEN THINKING

15w

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Jonathan Shi specifically, it feels a lot like the part where we start realizing we're going to lose.

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Iran might be suffering from it as well. Did you hear the reports about protesters in Ukraine? A bus containing Ukrainian nationals rescued from Hubei and headed to a quarantine area was assailed with projectiles from locals who feared the virus.

15w



Jonathan Shi yeah, which, like, even if they did have the virus, way to make the situation worse for yourselves, from them being safely in quarantine to possibly running away from a destroyed bus.

15w

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Thank you for sharing!

15w



It was inevitable. The growth in worldwide population has outpaced construction of sufficient infrastructure for multiple fields, not to mention how anthropogenic climate change has planted the seeds of rapid microbial evolutionary leaps. War is everywhere, from the atomic level up to astronomical bodies. Preparation shouldn't be a dirty word, though neither should it be an obsession.

15w