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Jonathan Shi

March 1 ·

Northern Italy shutdown, Day 9:

I've been wandering out occasionally, while taking some precautions. The vast majority of COVID cases look to be acquired through contaminated hard surfaces and close contact with people who are clearly sick, so I (1) sanitize and/or wash hands after touching shared surfaces and before touching my face, and (2) get the heck away from coughing people. Respirators and masks aren't necessary with this prescription (not that you'll be able to find any anyway).

It's otherwise a pleasant time to live in Milan, actually. The streets are never full. Previously crowded and thoroughly booked restaurants have emptied out, giving even outsiders like me a guaranteed seat if I want it (except for Chinese restaurants, which mostly locked their doors early on in the news of the outbreak). Buses and trams seem to always have seats open. And (with the exception of hand sanitizer) the shelves in grocery stores now look almost over-full: more fully stocked than I've ever seen them before.

It feels like half of the city is just gone. I'm not sure how many are actually gone, and how many are just staying home. I do know a good number of them left and went back to Southern Italy. Schools and universities are continuing to suspend classes for another week (called it).

I've compared the stats on COVID here versus the timeline in Wuhan. The numbers look a lot like they did a week or so after China started locking down Wuhan (though much smaller in scale): the 2-3% death rate and ~10% in severe condition are surely too high when most of the ill have not yet reached the severe part of it, meaning most active infections have not yet been tested (but maybe they're already quarantined). The daily new confirmed cases have only been going up... at this point I think still indicating the scaling up of the public health response, rather than the scaling up of the contagion. In Wuhan, new confirmed cases only started slowing down ~10 days after the lockdown. We will see in the coming week if it will slow down here as well.

The aggressiveness of the public health response here has been shown prudent: the hospitals here are already reported to be "close to collapse" with their caseload, even with less than 0.01% of Lombardy currently confirmed infected. So, here's to hoping it slows down.

I have a conference trip to the U.S. coming up in the next couple of weeks, which I'm thinking is at 50/50 odds of being called off. One airline has already suspended flights to Italy, at least. Not that it's going to matter in two months, since I think the entire rest of the world will have joined Milan by then—good luck, y'all!

23

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Jonathan Shi Looks like Italy currently has 70,000 in quarantine or isolation, compared to 1,700 positive tests. So I'd totally believe nearly all actual cases are isolated now.

14w

1



I'm curious of what you think of the number on this site. I have been using them as my main reference.

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>



WORLDOMETERS.INFO

Coronavirus Update (Live): 93,191 Cases and 3,203 Deaths from...

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14w

Jonathan Shi Which ones? Overall, the website is reliable and frequently updated with official reports. But the official reports will generally underestimate the actual number of cases (mild or asymptomatic cases might not be counted), and the death count is also not final yet, since many are still ill and it is unknown if they will recover.

14w

Jonathan Shi here's some modelling estimates, putting the overall mortality rate for those infected at 0.94% with range of estimates in (0.37% - 2.9%):

<https://institutefordiseasemodeling.github.io/.../2019...>

INSTITUTEFORDISEASEMODELING.GITHUB.IO
2019-nCoV: preliminary estimates of the confirmed-case-fatality-ratio and...

14w · Edited

Jonathan Shi However, I think those estimates are from before Wuhan's health infrastructure became overwhelmed. That number might be double that if there is not enough hospital capacity. It might also go down since we're learning more about how to treat it.

14w

[Redacted] Hey! I haven't commented but I've been following along with your posts. You haven't posted an update in a bit. How are things out there? How are you doing?

13w

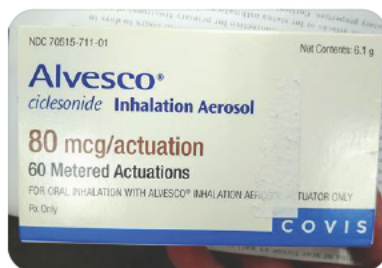
Jonathan Shi i just posted one!

13w

1

[Redacted] Do you know about how Alvesco may be effective in treating COVID19?

My kids have asthma and one has been hospitalized for pneumonia before, so I made sure to get one bottle for my family (I have it legitimately prescribed, actually, as I was already using a similar, but expensive medication called Flovent)



13w

Jonathan Shi It seems like a bad idea, mostly because it's not known as an effective treatment for this disease.

I looked around google to try to find information on whether steroids are useful in treating COVID, and it looks like the current evidence is that steroids like Alvesco would be actively harmful:... [See More](#)

THELANCET.COM

Clinical evidence does not support corticosteroid treatment for...

13w

[Redacted] Yes, I'm not simply generally recommending corticosteroids as a class for treatment of COVID19 caused illness - only, MAYBE, this specific one:

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200303_20/...

[See More](#)

WWW3.NHK.OR.JP

Asthma drug seems effective for COVID-19 pneumonia | NHK...

13w



Also, my boy often gets asthma when he gets an illness such as a chest cold, or the flu, and, he uses this type of medication as a "maintenance" drug anyway.

I'll certainly investigate contraindication of administering corticosteroids to someone that has pneumonia - I will want to be well informed if it comes to that.

13w



Which conference?

12w



Jonathan Shi The AMS sectional meeting in Charlottesville, which was indeed cancelled: http://www.ams.org/meetings/sectional/2273_program.html



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12w