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Jonathan Shi updated his status.
March 9 ·

Northern Italy now-quarantine, Day 17:

I'm impressed, honestly, that Italy decided to quarantine nearly all of its northern region. I thought there was no way a Western country would put an entire millions-large metropolitan area into quarantine. But I guess it's not that gutsy when you know the alternative is to watch your hospitals turn away a vast majority of people clearly needing medical attention.

I've been worried about being too alarmed, but it seems like I've consistently underestimated this virus instead. Every time I've tried to estimate the size of the outbreak and its progression, the reality has shot right through my expectations. The authorities seem bewildered too, as they've said it's gotten larger than what they were expecting from China's data. So far the outbreak shows little sign of slowing down as I was hoping, and which you might expect from when everyone was bunkered down at home two weeks ago?

That bunkering had mostly stopped though: activity in the city felt almost like normal a few days before the quarantine was announced. People were in crowds at the bar downstairs from me until 3am. Now it's far quieter again, and I wonder if the quarantine was intentionally made to sound severe just to get the people to take the problem seriously again. Complacency is maybe worse than panic now, as far as public health goes, in the midst of an outbreak when the hospitals are already past capacity.

I feel less stressed now that the rest of the world is taking this more seriously. There's something distressing about being the only person in your social community worried about something: either you're crazy, or nobody's going to be ready for what's coming.

I've spent too much time fixated on the epidemic, I think (even before it was discovered in Milan). Writing these logs has helped a lot with processing my feelings on it. After processing the fear and figuring out how to live with the new normal, finding a new distraction or two was enough to stop the compulsive refreshing of the news.

Other than that, life is not honestly all that different for me: mostly I just work from home and cook more. It's a good century to be living through an once-in-a-century pandemic: people were bored half to death stuck at home during the 1918 flu; that's not a problem today.

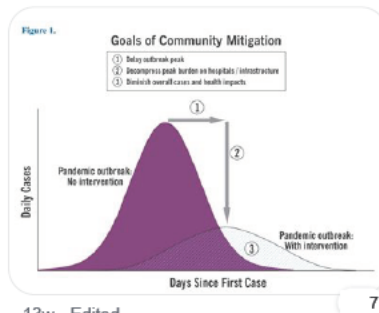
57

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Jonathan Shi



13w · Edited

7



██████████ -5 sanity

13w



██████████ okay, maybe just -4

13w

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 [Redacted] Sending good thoughts!
13w

 **Jonathan Shi** what's the sanity modifier of free manga?
<https://soraneWS24.com/.../thanks-to-the-coronavirus.../>





 [Redacted] +4 lore
13w 2

 [Redacted] -3 sanity for me, but that depends on your traits. I'm not a fan personally
13w 1


 **Jonathan Shi** [Redacted] i guess you need the "manga fan" trait to benefit.
13w


 [Redacted] Free Manga? Day made.
13w 1


 [Redacted] Ok so selfish person living in Ithaca speaking: What do you wish you knew before, when you were preparing, that you know now?
13w

 **Jonathan Shi** hmm not that much, really. I think most of my problems right now are executive-dysfunction-related and will not be common difficulties for most people.

disruption of routine might be a pretty common one though, I say as I'm writing this at 3am. I think I should've made sure to get myself more bright light in the mornings.
13w


 **Jonathan Shi** you don't need a year's worth of toilet paper. apparently people have been hoarding that all over the world.
13w 2

 [Redacted] Jonathan Shi I feel like as a PhD student without a routine — and as someone who lives in a very quiet neighborhood with a dog that will force me to leave and get fresh air — that won't be as big of a problem
13w 1

 [Redacted] Jonathan Shi I do NOT understand this. My apartment is very small so I only buy a small amount at a time — so when I saw it in the store this weekend I bought a NORMAL amount — but I don't understand why that is people's biggest worry.....
13w

 **Jonathan Shi** [Redacted] i don't think anybody understands it
13w

 **Jonathan Shi** [Redacted] ok i regret not picking up a yoga mat or something similar for home exercise.
12w

 [Redacted] Jonathan Shi Good call! I think one of the best parts of staying in Ithaca during this mess is that I can comfortably take my dog for a long walk (I'm going to start introducing her to running soon) and avoid coming into contact with people.
1

12w



██████████ Your posts are appreciated. They are like windows into the future here. I hope you stay healthy both physically and mentally through this.

4

13w



██████████ Any thoughts on why South Korea has been so slow on their recovery/death reporting? It seems they're behind the curve there, despite having so many confirmed

1

13w



Jonathan Shi ██████████ I think it's because they had a relatively recent event that rapidly spread the virus to thousands of people. so more of their cases are newer compared to other places.

2

13w · Edited



Jonathan Shi that recent event also disproportionately affected young people, lowering the death rate, and I imagine they're still way too busy with the suspected-but-not-yet-tested cases (there are 18000 of them) to follow up on healthy people who have recovered.

1

13w · Edited



██████████ Gotcha yeah that makes a lot more sense now

13w



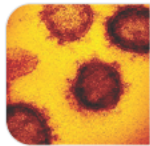
██████████ > as they've said it's gotten larger than what they were expecting from China's data

1

13w



Jonathan Shi this explains a lot about how unexpectedly quickly the virus spread here: <https://www.latimes.com/.../mutant-coronavirus-has...>



LATIMES.COM

Scientists say a now-dominant strain of the coronavirus could be more...

2

4w