

Message

From: SRIDHAR Devi [I&S]
Sent: 15/03/2020 14:26:26
To: Costello, Anthony [I&S]; Christopher.Whitty [I&S]
CC: Richard.Horton [I&S]; David Nabarro [I&S]; j.e.hickel [Name Redacted]
Subject: Re: Support for everything else... but why no intensive surveillance?

Yes I agree fully. I take on board worries about a second peak but we need to buy time to get NHS staff protected properly, more equipment and get more data in on the virus itself. Plus there are vaccine trials ongoing and antivirals as well. We need to maintain testing, contact tracing, appropriate social distancing and protect our health workforce who are limited and precious. People are also panicking as they don't understand what is happening and need clear communication on what is happening and why. Sorry if I'm being too bold but want to be to the point..

Kind regards
Devi

From: Costello, Anthony [I&S]
Sent: 15 March 2020 14:21:33
To: Christopher.Whitty [I&S]
Cc: Richard.Horton [I&S]; Richard.Horton [I&S]; SRIDHAR Devi [I&S]; David Nabarro [I&S]; j.e.hickel@lse.ac.uk <j.e.hickel [Name Redacted]>
Subject: Support for everything else... but why no intensive surveillance?

Dear Chris,

I know you must be incredibly busy and under great pressure. I quite understand the need to stagger some measures around social distancing, but many of us are at a loss to understand why the government has abandoned intensive population surveillance, contact tracing and quarantine nationwide, which is the bedrock of WHO advice on epidemic control. Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China did this to suppress their epidemics.

If population surveillance can be restored and effectively rolled out (with large scale community mobilisation and testing centres) I think we can get broad consensus to support you. But without it, I fail to see how you can really delay a huge epidemic in the next month which could totally overload the health system.

I'm copying Devi, David, Richard and Jason, who I think agree with me.

Warm regards,
Anthony

Anthony Costello FMedSci
Professor of Global Health and Sustainable Development
University College London
Former Director, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health,
World Health Organisation