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**“The only means to fight the plague is honesty.” (Albert Camus, 1947)**

Overview

1. According to the latest immunological studies, the overall **lethality of Covid-19** (IFR) in the general population ranges [between 0.1% and 0.5%](https://swprs.org/studies-on-covid-19-lethality/) in most countries, which is comparable to the medium influenza pandemics of 1957 and 1968.
2. For people at high risk or high exposure (including health care workers), [early or prophylactic](http://swprs.org/on-the-treatment-of-covid-19/) **treatment** is essential to prevent progression of the disease.
3. In countries like the UK (with lockdown) and Sweden (without lockdown), **overall mortality** since the beginning of the year [is in the range of](https://swprs.org/studies-on-covid-19-lethality/#overall-mortality) a strong influenza season; mortality is [higher in the USA](http://swprs.org/covid-in-the-usa/) (comparable to 1957/1968), but lower in countries like Germany and Switzerland. However, [antibody values](http://swprs.org/corona-antikorperwerte-in-deutschland/) are still low in large parts of previously locked-down Europe.
4. In most places, the**risk of death** for the healthy general population of school and working age is comparable to [a daily car ride to work](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.05.20054361v1). The risk was initially overestimated because many people with only mild or no symptoms were not taken into account.
5. About 80% of all people [develop only](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/08/08/asymptomatic-coronavirus-covid/) mild symptoms or no symptoms. Even among 70-79 year olds, [about 60%](https://www.niid.go.jp/niid/en/2019-ncov-e/9407-covid-dp-fe-01.html) develop only **mild symptoms**. About 95% of all people develop at most [moderate symptoms](https://swprs.org/studies-on-covid-19-lethality/#hospitalizations) and do not require hospitalization.
6. Up to 60% of all people [may already have](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674%2820%2930610-3) a partial **T-cell immune response**against the new coronavirus due to contact with previous coronaviruses (i.e. cold viruses). Moreover, up to 60% of children and about 6% of adults [may already have](https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.14.095414v2) cross-reactive antibodies.
7. The **median age** of Covid deaths in most Western countries is [over 80 years](https://swprs.org/studies-on-covid-19-lethality/#age) – e.g. 84 years in Sweden – and [only about 4%](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-26/italy-says-96-of-virus-fatalities-suffered-from-other-illnesses) of the deceased had no serious preconditions. In contrast to flu pandemics, the age and risk profile of deaths thus essentially corresponds to [normal mortality](https://swprs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/deaths-covid-vs-spanish-flu.jpg).
8. In many countries, [up to two thirds](https://swprs.org/studies-on-covid-19-lethality/#care-homes) of all extra deaths occurred in **nursing homes**, which do not benefit from a general lockdown. Moreover, in many cases it is [not clear](https://www.hsj.co.uk/commissioning/thousands-of-extra-deaths-outside-hospital-not-attributed-to-covid-19/7027459.article) whether these people really died from Covid-19 or from weeks of [extreme stress and isolation](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/05/covid-19-causing-10000-dementia-deaths-beyond-infections-research-says).
9. Up to 30% of all **additional deaths** may have been caused [not by Covid-19](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/analysisofdeathregistrationsnotinvolvingcoronaviruscovid19englandandwales28december2019to1may2020/technicalannex), but by the effects of the [lockdown, panic and fear](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8605885/Lockdown-killed-two-people-three-died-coronavirus.html). For example, the treatment of heart attacks and strokes [decreased](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/27/heart-attacks-detected-treated-fell-40-per-cent-covid-pandemic/) by up to 40% because many patients no longer dared to go to hospital.
10. Many media reports of **young and healthy people** dying from Covid-19 turned out to be false: many of these young people either [did not die](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8193487/Coroner-refuses-rule-COVID-19-cause-death-six-week-old-Connecticut-baby.html) from Covid-19, they had already been [seriously ill](https://sports.yahoo.com/spanish-football-coach-francisco-garcia-163153573.html) (e.g. from undiagnosed leukaemia), or they were in fact [109 instead of 9](https://www.n-tv.de/panorama/Neunjaehrige-Corona-Tote-war-109-Jahre-alt-article21753784.html) years old. The claimed increase in Kawasaki disease in children also turned out [to be exaggerated](https://www.societi.org.uk/kawasaki-disease-covid-19/responding-to-press-coverage-28-april-2020/).
11. Most **Covid-19 symptoms** can also be caused by severe influenza (including pneumonia, [thrombosis](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/10/091014111549.htm) and the temporary loss of the [sense of taste and smell](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23948436/)), but with severe Covid-19 these symptoms are indeed much [more frequent](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nqgZn9Izv8) and more pronounced.
12. About 10% of symptomatic people develop so-called **post-acute (“long”) Covid** and report symptoms that last for [several weeks or months](http://swprs.org/post-acute-covid-long-covid/). This may also affect younger and previously healthy people with a strong immune response to the new coronavirus.
13. The often shown exponential curves of **“corona cases”** are [misleading](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/coronavirus-case-counts-are-meaningless/), as the number of tests also increased exponentially. In most countries, the ratio of positive tests to tests overall (i.e. the positivity rate) always remained [below 20%](https://swprs.org/rate-of-positive-covid19-tests/). In many countries, the peak of the spread was already reached well [before the lockdown](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8391141/Did-UKs-coronavirus-crisis-peak-lockdown.html) came into effect.
14. In most Covid hotspots, including New York City, London, Stockholm and Bergamo, the infection rate dropped as soon as [about 20% of people](http://swprs.org/studies-on-covid-19-lethality/) had **developed antibodies** against the new coronavirus. This value is much lower than the inital estimate of 60 to 80%.
15. Countries **without lockdowns**, such as [Japan](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-22/did-japan-just-beat-the-virus-without-lockdowns-or-mass-testing), [Belarus](https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesrodgerseurope/2020/04/04/in-belarus-lukashenko-has-his--own-ways-for-the-country-to-face-coronavirus/) and [Sweden](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfN2JWifLCY), have [not experienced](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/apr/15/sweden-coronavirus-rates-easing-despite-loose-rule/) a more negative course of events than many other countries. Sweden was even [praised](https://nypost.com/2020/04/29/who-lauds-sweden-as-model-for-resisting-coronavirus-lockdown/) by the WHO and now benefits from [higher immunity](https://news.ki.se/immunity-to-covid-19-is-probably-higher-than-tests-have-shown) compared to lockdown countries. 75% of Swedish deaths [happened in](https://www.thelocal.se/20200525/swedish-death-toll-passes-4000-as-coronavirus-cases-in-care-homes-start-to-fall) nursing facilities that weren’t protected fast enough.
16. The fear of a shortage of **ventilators** was [unjustified](https://off-guardian.org/2020/05/06/covid19-are-ventilators-killing-people/). According to lung specialists, the invasive ventilation (intubation) of Covid-19 patients, which is partly done [out of fear](https://nypost.com/2020/05/29/northwell-health-probing-use-of-ventilators-for-covid-patients/) of spreading the virus, is in fact often [counterproductive](https://off-guardian.org/2020/05/06/covid19-are-ventilators-killing-people/) and damaging to the lungs.
17. The main **routes of transmission** of the virus are [direct contact and droplets](https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/transmission-of-sars-cov-2-implications-for-infection-prevention-precautions) produced when talking or coughing, but also [indoor aerosols](https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/934837) (small particles floating in the air). Outdoor aerosols and surfaces of objects appear to play only [a minor role](https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/cdc-coronavirus-mainly-spreads-through-persontoperson-contact-and-does-not-spread-easily-on-contaminated-surfaces-153317029.html).
18. There is still [limited scientific evidence](http://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/) for the effectiveness of **cloth face masks** in the general population, and most countries with mandatory masks [couldn’t contain](http://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/) or slow the epidemic. Some experts warn that face masks may interfere with normal breathing and may become [“germ carriers”](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-news-face-masks-increase-risk-infection-doctor-jenny-harries-a9396811.html) if used repeatedly.
19. Many **clinics** in Europe and the US remained [largely underutilized](https://www.hsj.co.uk/acute-care/nhs-hospitals-have-four-times-more-empty-beds-than-normal/7027392.article) during lockdowns and in some cases had to [send staff home](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/04/02/coronavirus-pandemic-jobs-us-health-care-workers-furloughed-laid-off/5102320002/). Millions of surgeries and therapies were [cancelled](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2020/05/covid-disruption-28-million-surgeries-cancelled.aspx), including many cancer screenings and organ transplants.
20. Several **media** were caught [trying to dramatize](https://nypost.com/2020/04/01/cbs-admits-to-using-footage-from-italy-in-report-about-nyc/) the situation in hospitals, sometimes even with [manipulative images](https://www.wsj.com/articles/cbs-says-fake-news-wasnt-theirs-11588789238) and videos. In general, the [unprofessional reporting](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/eci.13222) of many media maximized fear and panic in the population. As a result, according to international surveys, most people [dramatically overestimate](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/20/uk-public-believe-coronavirus-death-toll-100-times-higher-really/) Covid-19 lethality and mortality.
21. The **virus test kits** used internationally may in some cases [produce false positive](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.26.20080911v3) and false negative results, react to [non-infectious virus fragments](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html) from a previous infection, or react to other [common coronaviruses](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_AyuhbnPOI) with a partially similar gene sequence.
22. Numerous [internationally renowned experts](https://off-guardian.org/2020/03/24/12-experts-questioning-the-coronavirus-panic/) in the fields of virology, immunology and epidemiology consider the **measures** taken to be [counterproductive](https://off-guardian.org/2020/03/28/10-more-experts-criticising-the-coronavirus-panic/) and recommend rapid [natural immunization](https://off-guardian.org/2020/04/17/8-more-experts-questioning-the-coronavirus-panic/) of the general population and protection of risk groups.
23. At no time was there [a medical reason](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642%2820%2930095-X/fulltext) for the closure of **elementary schools**, as the risk of disease and transmission in children is [extremely low](https://thehill.com/opinion/education/500349-science-says-open-the-schools). There is also [no medical reason](https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article208075525/Corona-Kitas-und-Grundschulen-vollstaendig-oeffnen-uneingeschraenkt.html) for small classes, masks or ‘social distancing’ rules in elementary schools.
24. Several medical experts [described](https://www.statnews.com/2020/07/31/covid-19-vaccine-amazingly-close-why-am-i-so-worried/) express **coronavirus vaccines** as [unnecessary](https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/no-vaccine-for-coronavirus-a-possibility/news-story/34e678ae205b50ea983cc64ab2943608) or even [dangerous](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00751-9). Indeed, the vaccine against the [so-called swine flu](https://www.forbes.com/2010/02/05/world-health-organization-swine-flu-pandemic-opinions-contributors-michael-fumento.html) of 2009, for example, led to cases of [severe neurological damage](https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/brain-damaged-uk-victims-swine-flu-vaccine-get-60-million-compensation-1438572) and lawsuits in the millions. In the testing of new coronavirus vaccines, too, serious [complications](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/news/vaccine-trial-catastrophe-moderna-vaccine-has-20-serious-injury-rate-in-high-dose-group/) and [failures](https://www.forbes.com/sites/williamhaseltine/2020/05/16/did-the-oxford-covid-vaccine-work-in-monkeys-not-really/) have already been reported.
25. A global respiratory disease pandemic can indeed extend over [several seasons](https://www.britannica.com/event/1968-flu-pandemic), but many studies of a **“second wave”** are based on [very unrealistic assumptions](https://www.heise.de/tp/features/Fellay-Studie-Zweite-Corona-Welle-4726303.html), such as a constant risk of illness and death across all age groups.
26. US nurses described an [oftentimes fatal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIDsKdeFOmQ) **medical mis­manage­ment**of Covid patients due to questionable [financial incentives](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/04/24/fact-check-medicare-hospitals-paid-more-covid-19-patients-coronavirus/3000638001/) and inappropriate medical protocols. However, in many places Covid lethality [has dropped significantly](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1326293/coronavirus-death-rate-UK-fatality-rate) due to better treatment options.
27. The number of people suffering from **unemployment**, [depression](https://www.indystar.com/story/news/health/2020/04/03/coronavirus-indiana-how-get-help-mental-health-addiction/5104357002/) and domestic violence as a result of the measures has reached [historic record levels](https://www.businessinsider.com/us-weekly-jobless-claims-unemployment-filings-coronavirus-labor-market-layoffs-2020-5). Several experts predict that the measures will claim [far more lives](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/opinion/coronavirus-pandemic-social-distancing.html) than the virus itself. According to the UN [1.6 billion people](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/29/half-of-worlds-workers-at-immediate-risk-of-losing-livelihood-due-to-coronavirus) around the world are at immediate risk of losing their livelihood.
28. NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden warned that the “corona crisis” may be used for the [permanent expansion](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pcQFTzck_c) of **global surveillance**. In several parts of the world, the population is being [monitored by drones](https://off-guardian.org/2020/04/25/50-headlines-darker-more-of-the-new-normal/) and facing serious police overreach during lockdowns.
29. A 2019 WHO study on measures against pandemic influenza found that from a medical perspective, **“contact tracing”** is [“not recommended in any circumstances”](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329438/9789241516839-eng.pdf#page=9). Nevertheless, contact tracing apps have already [become](https://www.heise.de/tp/features/CuidAR-Argentinien-ueberwacht-mit-einer-App-4720143.html) partially mandatory in [several countries](https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/05/07/1001360/india-aarogya-setu-covid-app-mandatory/).
30. The **origin of the new coronavirus** remains unknown, but the best evidence currently points to a Covid-like [2012 pneumonia incident](http://swprs.org/covid-19-virus-origin-the-mojiang-miners-passage-hypothesis/) in a Chinese mine, whose viral samples were collected, stored and researched by the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).