

Health of people and health of economy not opposed

The Bethlehem Gadfly coronavirus December 16, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on the coronavirus* 

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ref: **And there's economic mortality too**

Gadfly:

The really sad thing is that both are the result of the US government's ham-handed approach, setting health of people and health of the economy as opposed.

For decades, people have known how to deal with an epidemic:

- frequent testing, especially of people who are not showing any symptoms;
- effective isolation or quarantine of all who test positive or were exposed to those testing positive;
- basic precautions such as wearing masks when with others and frequent hand washing;

- spend money on treatment and protecting essential workers, not on vaccines;
- When the epidemic is as severe as this one, provide cash assistance to individuals & small local businesses.

None of these are difficult or controversial; they were all learned from experience with previous infectious diseases. None of them require shutting down businesses or events except those where large numbers of people are brought into close contact.

Countries that followed such practices this year have much, much lower fatality rates and much less harm to individuals & businesses.

Failure to strictly implement these common-sense policies in this country has killed about 350,000 people and caused serious harm to small, local businesses (especially when the big corporations are allowed to steal the meager assistance that was provided).

Peter

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