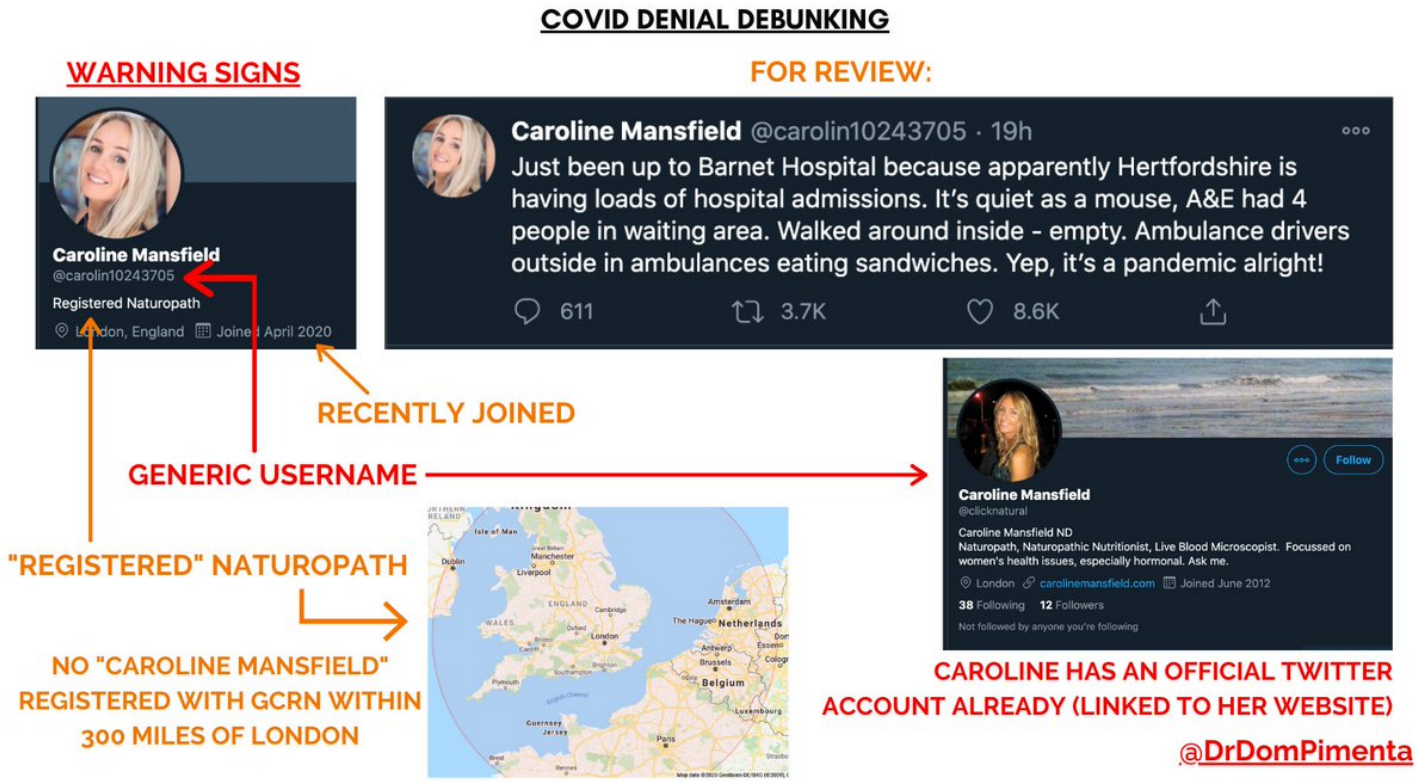
Twitter Thread by Dr Dominic Pimenta

Dr Dominic Pimenta
@DrDomPimenta

I came across this tweet from "Caroline Mansfield" about my local hospital being "empty".

So let's take a look:

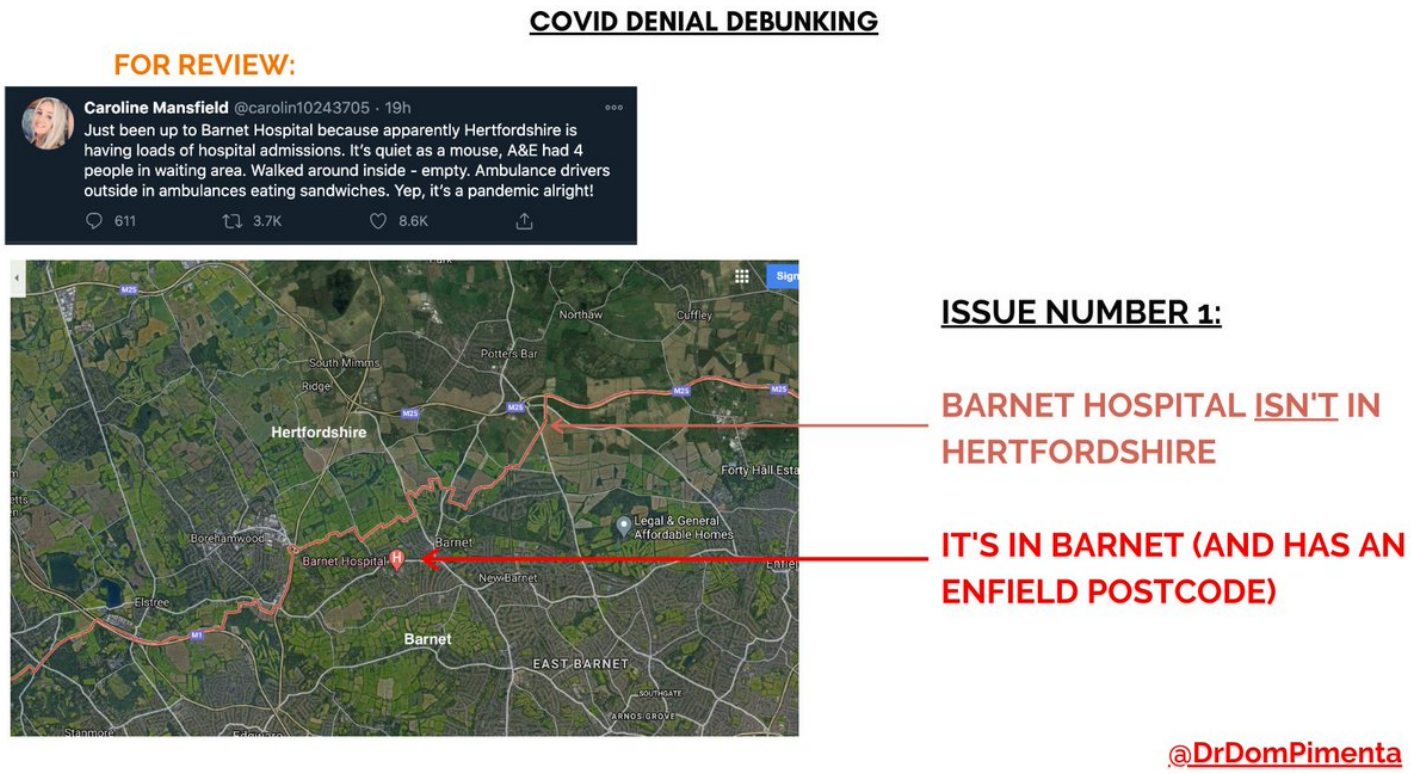
First up, some warning signs:
1) A generic username, and another real Twitter account (I've emailed)
2) No registration with GCRN
3) Only recently joined Twitter



On to the Issues.

Issue No. 1: Barnet Hospital isn't actually IN Hertfordshire. It's in Barnet, with an Enfield postcode.

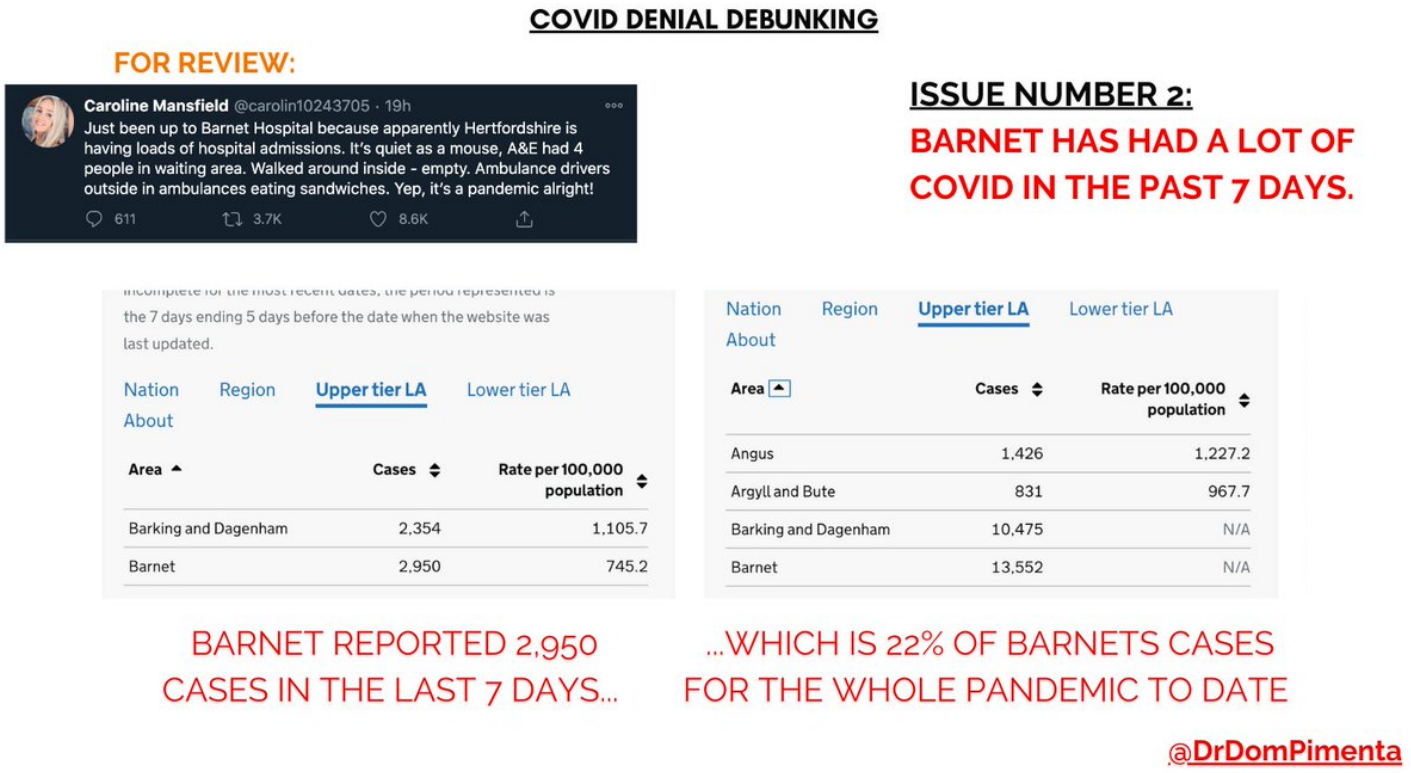
Which is confusing, but wouldn't be counted in Hertfordshire's hospital admission data.



Issue No. 2

Barnet is actually VERY busy with COVID cases, with 22% of our ENTIRE pandemic caseload in the LAST 7 DAYS ALONE

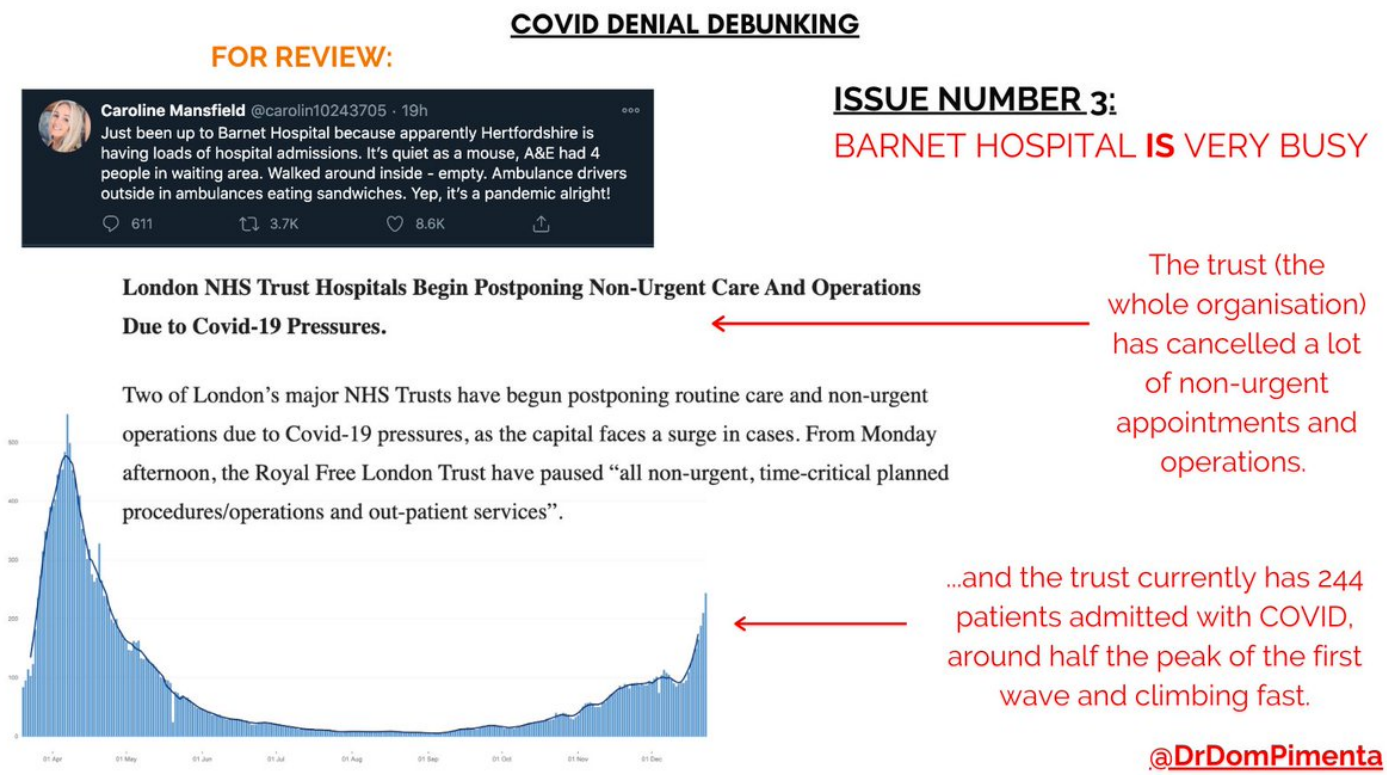
Source: https://t.co/IECfMo8FAK



Issue No. 3:

Barnet Hospital is seeing incredible pressures, the trust (The Royal Free Trust) has cancelled most non-urgent and routine work,

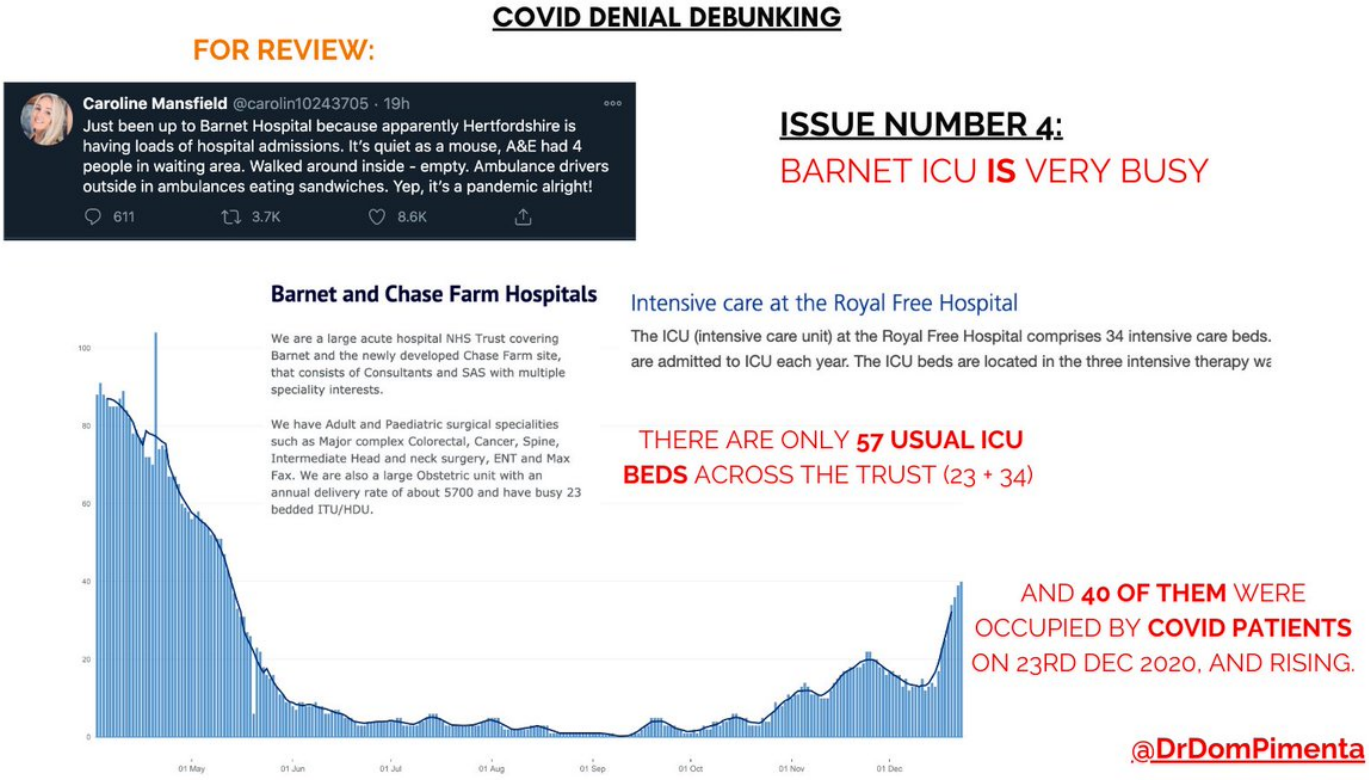
and as of 23rd Dec had admitted 244 patients with COVID, roughly half the peak of March, and climbing v. fast.



Issue No. 4
Even busier is Intensive Care - the whole trust only has 57 beds (23 - Barnet & 34 at the Royal Free Hospital).

As of 23rd Dec, 40 of them were occupied by COVID patients. That's 70% of the ENTIRE CAPACITY used up by COVID ALONE.

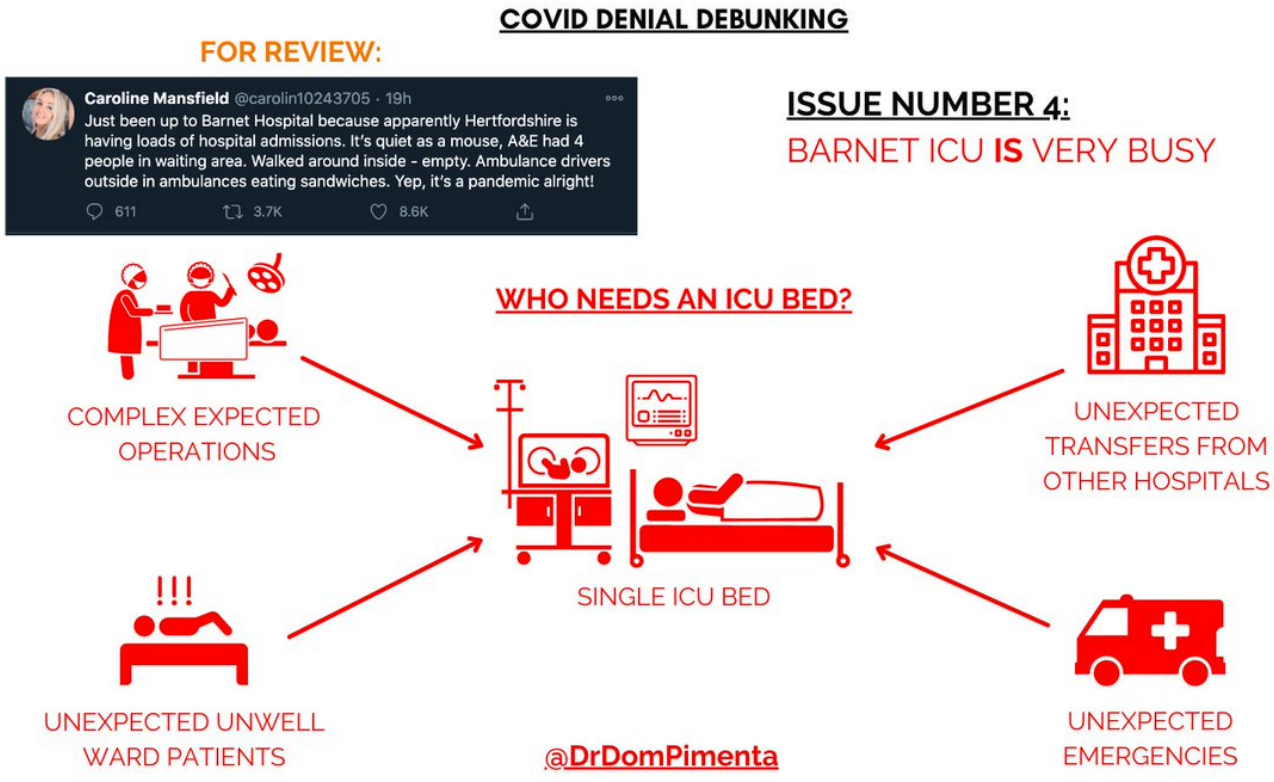
Source: https://t.co/zGmMSuoywN



Why is this a problem?

For every COVID patient in an ICU bed, another patient isn't - ICU takes routine complex operations, unwell ward patients, other emergencies and even transfers from other hospitals.

We can cancel operations, but can't stop the other unexpected patients.



And if you need ICU but do not get ICU, unfortunately you will most likely die.

This is why the mortality for COVID shoots up when resources locally are exceeded. Like in Lombardy in the Spring.

Lastly, the ambulance service is the busiest it's EVER been in London, with more calls than the first wave in the past few weeks.

And if they are eating sandwiches in their cab, that's their break. In their vehicle. Think about that a little bit more.



This kind of COVID denialism is not just Internet rubbish, it's dangerous and real and led us in part to the disaster we are in right now.

Do not RT, even to trash it. Block, report and move on.

And as ever, hands, face, space, fresh air and please, stay at home. /end