

## Twitter Thread by Ryan Imgrund



**Ryan Imgrund**

@imgrund



**DR CHRIS MACKIE (@Healthmac)** is London's Medical Officer of Health and a government advisor.

Yesterday, he said schools being open, "SLOWS the spread of COVID."

For context, let's look at 23 other times he misused data or gave a bad unsupported take.

■ A THREAD ■

...1/24



**Dr. Chris Mackie @Healthmac · 13h** ...

Cases of COVID in school children have spiked in an extreme way since the holiday school closure (see chart "Positive results by age group: All Ontario" @ website below).

Schools being open is a public health measure that likely slows the spread of COVID.

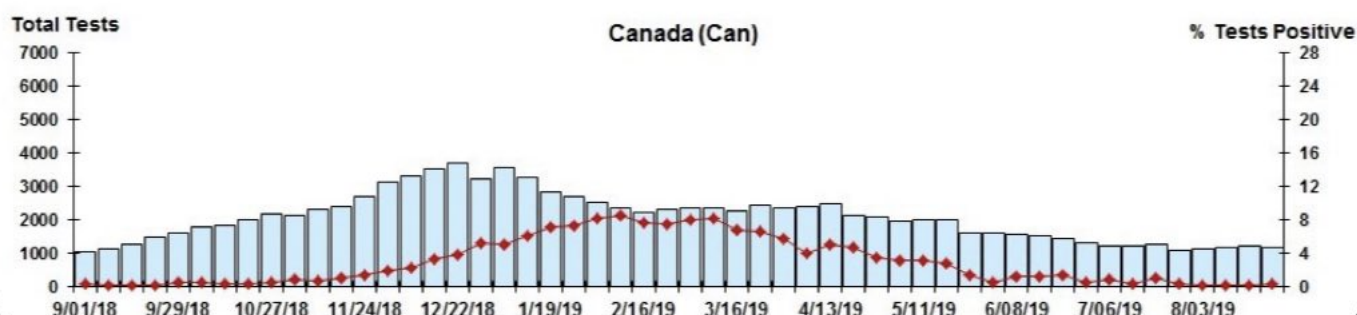


**Dr. Chris Mackie**  
@Healthmac



Coronaviruses of various sorts hit Canada every year. Here's the data from 2019. All existing years of data look similar.

**Figure 8: Positive Coronavirus (coron) Tests (%) in Canada by Region by Week of Report**



13:03 · 2020-03-13 · [Twitter Web App](#)



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-01-25 ···

Folks, the new [#coronavirus](#) has reached Canada from China.

We will certainly see more cases, but at this point every indication is that we are well prepared.



**Dr. Chris Mackie**

@Healthmac



The risk to Canadians remains low. However, if you take usual steps to protect yourself and others from respiratory viruses (e.g. wash hands often, cough into your elbow), it will help prevent the spread of this disease and others that pose more risk such as influenza.



**National Post** ✓ @nat... · 2020-01-28 ...

WeWork, Starbucks shut doors,  
Facebook tells employees to stay home  
as coronavirus spreads

[business.financialpost.com/news/retail-ma...](https://business.financialpost.com/news/retail-ma...)



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-01-28 ...

As written, this is blatant fearmongering.  
Please clarify that this is in China, not  
around the world.





**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-01-28 ...

The healthcare system in Ontario is strong, and ready for this.

The two positive cases in Ontario acquired their illness in Wuhan. They were quickly isolated.

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**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-02-26 ...

Appreciate the dialogue. I don't have an ICU bed count at my fingertips, but can tell you that our modelling does not predict a scenario in Canada where the [#CoronavirusOutbreak](#) exceeds the health impact of the annual [#influenza](#) outbreak. That seems very unlikely at this point.



...8/24



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-02-26 ...

**#Coronavirus** has been confirmed as a cause of death for 2,715 people in China. This is a serious issue, and deserves a strong public health response.

Important context: lung cancer, caused by high **#smoking** rates, kills 600,000 people in China annually.



Tobacco and the lung cancer epidemic in China  
[ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)



**Anne Bills, Raptors a...** · 2020-02-26 ...

Fear haas spread around the world. Isn't it reasonable to take basic health precautions? Reconsider travel?



**Dr. Chris Mackie @H...** · 2020-02-27 ...

It is reasonable to take basic precautions, and they are being taken at many levels. It is not reasonable to succumb to fear, which is spreading far more rapidly than Coronavirus.







**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-02-26 ...

This is fearmongering. Please folks, don't fall for it.

Apocalypse is not coming.

Canada is well prepared for  
[#Coronavirus](#).



**National Post** · 2020-02-26

The Post's #frontpage for Thursday,  
February 27, 2020.





**Dr. Chris Mackie**  
@Healthmac



A thread on why I am not panicking about [#Coronavirus](#) [#COVID-19](#).

14:01 · 2020-02-27 · [Twitter Web App](#)

**282** Retweets **99** Quote Tweets **464** Likes

This is my personal favourite: When he claimed the reproductive value was below 1... At the end of last February. ■

...12/24



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-02-27 · ..

Initial estimates for  $R_0$  for COVID-19 are the same – about 3. In Canada, where appropriate public health measures have been in place since before the virus even arrived, the reproductive number is below 1 already.



...13/24



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-02-27 ...

Replying to @Healthmac @PHAC\_GC and 2 others

To recap, compared with SARS, the COVID-19 situation is better because:

- Government in China communicating early and frequently
- Virus identified almost immediately
- Better lab test available much sooner in the outbreak
- Better awareness among healthcare providers and leaders



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-02-27 ...  
Replying to @Healthmac @PHAC\_GC and  
2 others

Please be clear, this is a big deal. It's just that it's a big deal that we have spent many years preparing for. There will be more cases. There will be mistakes made. There may even be deaths in Canada. But this will not devastate our health or economy as it has in China.





**Dr. Tannahill Glen** @t... · 2020-02-28 ·  
Replying to [@Healthmac](#)

Great thread--thanks---can someone comment on (a) infection with no clear link (eg Italian case where 'link' tested negative and (b) fever as early identifier (present in SARS but not necess. in this one)?



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-02-28 ·  
Think of this as a new influenza.







**LloydofLondon** 🏠🚲... · 2020-03-11 ...

Replying to [@Healthmac](#)

I keep seeing folks in the news wearing masks...I thought the masks were better worn by those who are infected and those treating them. Is there any benefit to a healthy person wearing one in public?



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @He... · 2020-03-11 ...

NO.

SORRY, AM I YELLING????



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-12 ...

The time to panic is... never.

We have zero cases in London and Middlesex right now.

If and when the time to close schools comes, we will close schools.



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-12 ...

We do not have community spread in Canada, and this we do not have a reason to close schools.



**Joseph Mallozzi** ✓ · 2020-03-13



Replying to [@Healthmac](#) and [@WHO](#)

Well, I suppose better late than never.  
Does this mean Canada will actually  
begin wide-range testing?



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-13



Opposite. Large-scale testing is now  
useless, particularly because there is no  
specific treatment. We know it's here,  
and anyone who is sick with a fever and  
resp symptoms should be self-isolating  
at home until well (no fever for 24 hrs).

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**amandathompson** @... · 2020-03-16



[@Healthmac](#) why are malls still open??



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-16



They are pretty empty. Compared to a  
packed club, they are very low risk.





**Mike Crawley** ✓ · 2020-03-21

NEW: "The impact on the health care system could be total collapse," warns @drmwarner, director of the intensive unit at @MGHToronto. He's calling on @fordnation and @J...



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-22 ...

Warner has repeatedly made very obvious mistakes in his analysis. He's way off in his numbers, and not a credible source.

And yet Mackie attacks modelers like @DFisman?



**Lemonem** @waterloo... · 2020-03-24 ...

Replying to @Healthmac

How many mortalities would the data suggest?



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-24 ...

If we apply a worst-case-scenario a la Italy, we would expect about 1400 in Ontario. Similar to annual Influenza deaths. And it's unlikely that we would see that scenario here.



Ottawa's top doctor estimates 4,000 cases of COVID-19 in the city  
[ottawa.ctvnews.ca](http://ottawa.ctvnews.ca)



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-25 ...

Nope. Very low percentage of general population is positive. More data to be released on this later today. Ottawa estimate is likely 10x higher than reality.



...23/24



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-03-26 ...

ON is on a similar path to leading countries (Scandinavian). If this continues, we'll match South Korea, world's best [#COVID19](#) performance (please ignore data from Japan; they essentially stopped testing).

...24/24



**Dr. Chris Mackie** @H... · 2020-06-14 ...

Replying to @smjevnikar and  
@PollyEsterTBD

How about 97% consensus? As in the 33 out of 34 medical officers of health across Ontario that have not made masking mandatory.

I support mask use, but they don't meet the test to make them mandatory (strong evidence of effectiveness and minimal risk)

When you're in a position of power people rely on what you say.

They don't need your ego and "hot takes" to override what your supposed to do:

- a) Tell the truth
- b) Keep people informed.

Yesterday's tweet on schools was one of your most dangerous yet.

Shameful misinformation.