Twitter Thread by Ryan Imgrund

Ryan Imgrund
@imgrund

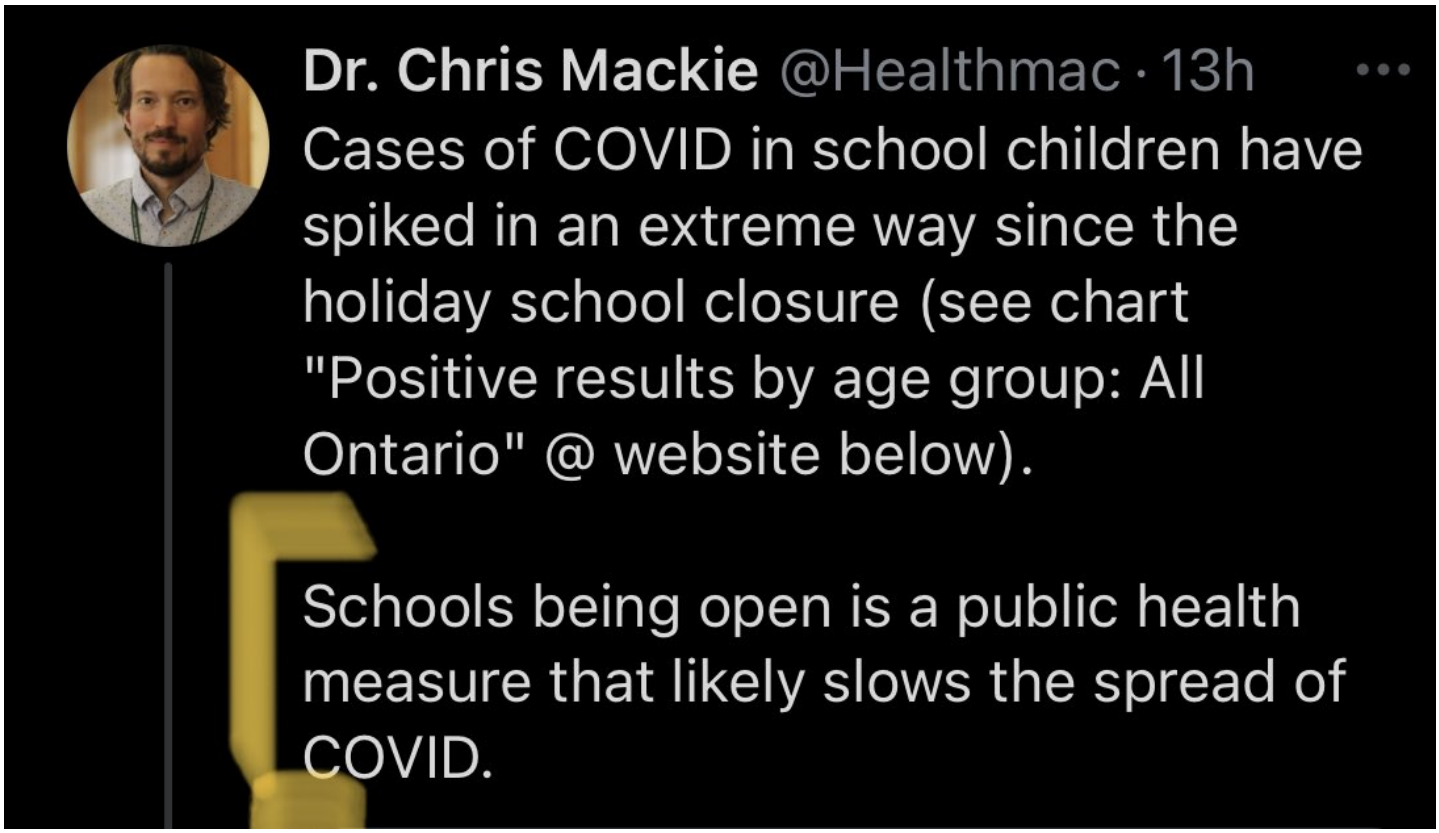
DR CHRIS MACKIE (@Healthmac) is London's Medical Officer of Health and a government advisor.

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■

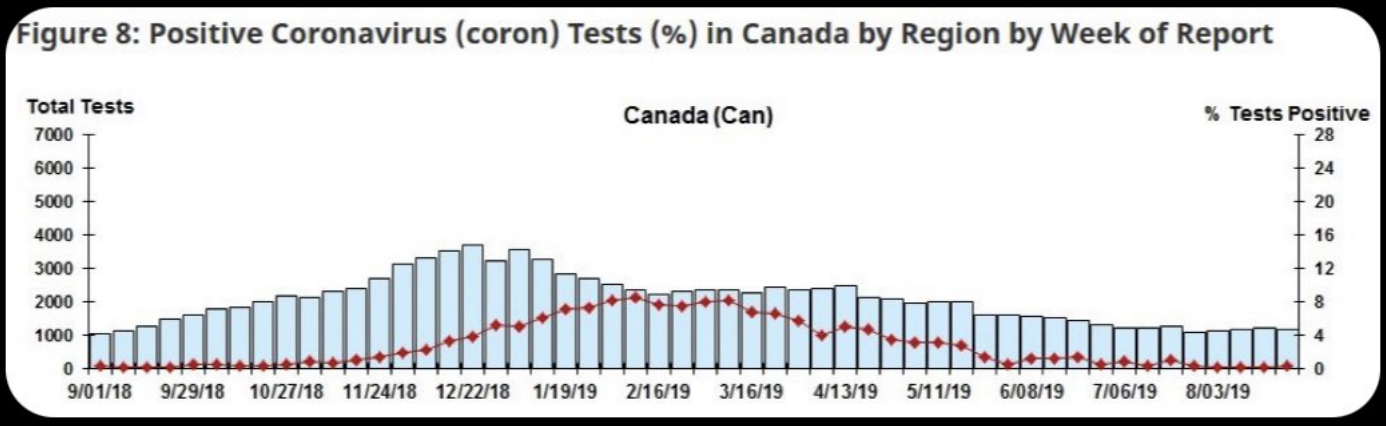
...1/24





Dr. Chris Mackie
@Healthmac

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



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.

...4/24


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.

...5/24

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

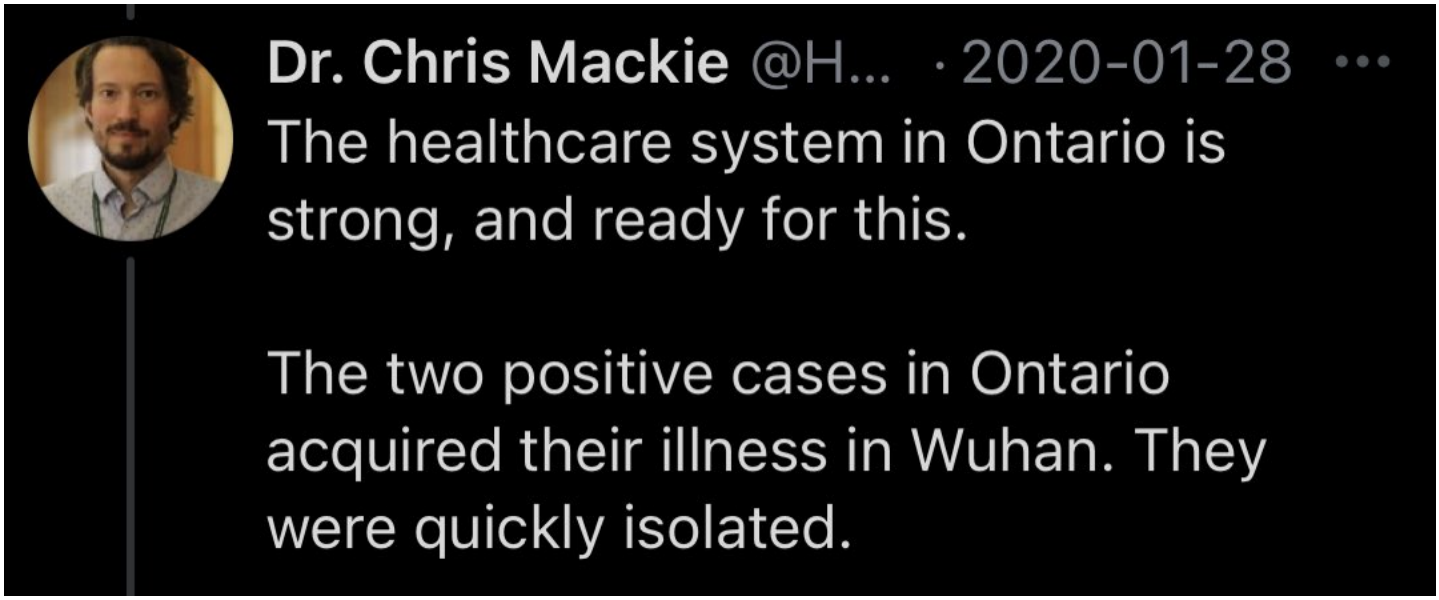
WeWork, Starbucks shut doors, Facebook tells employees to stay home as coronavirus spreads business.financialpost.com/news/retail-ma...



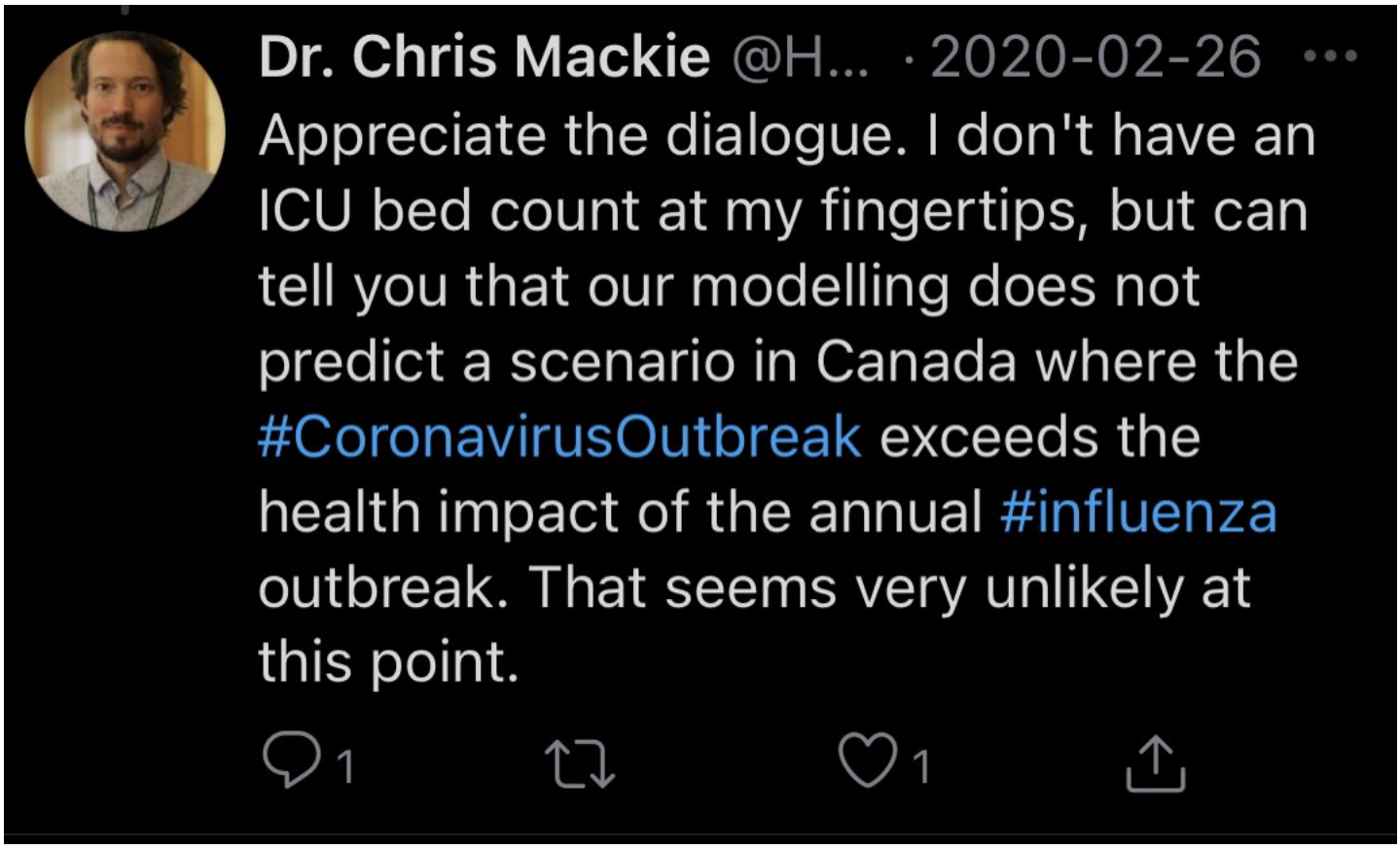
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Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-01-28 ···

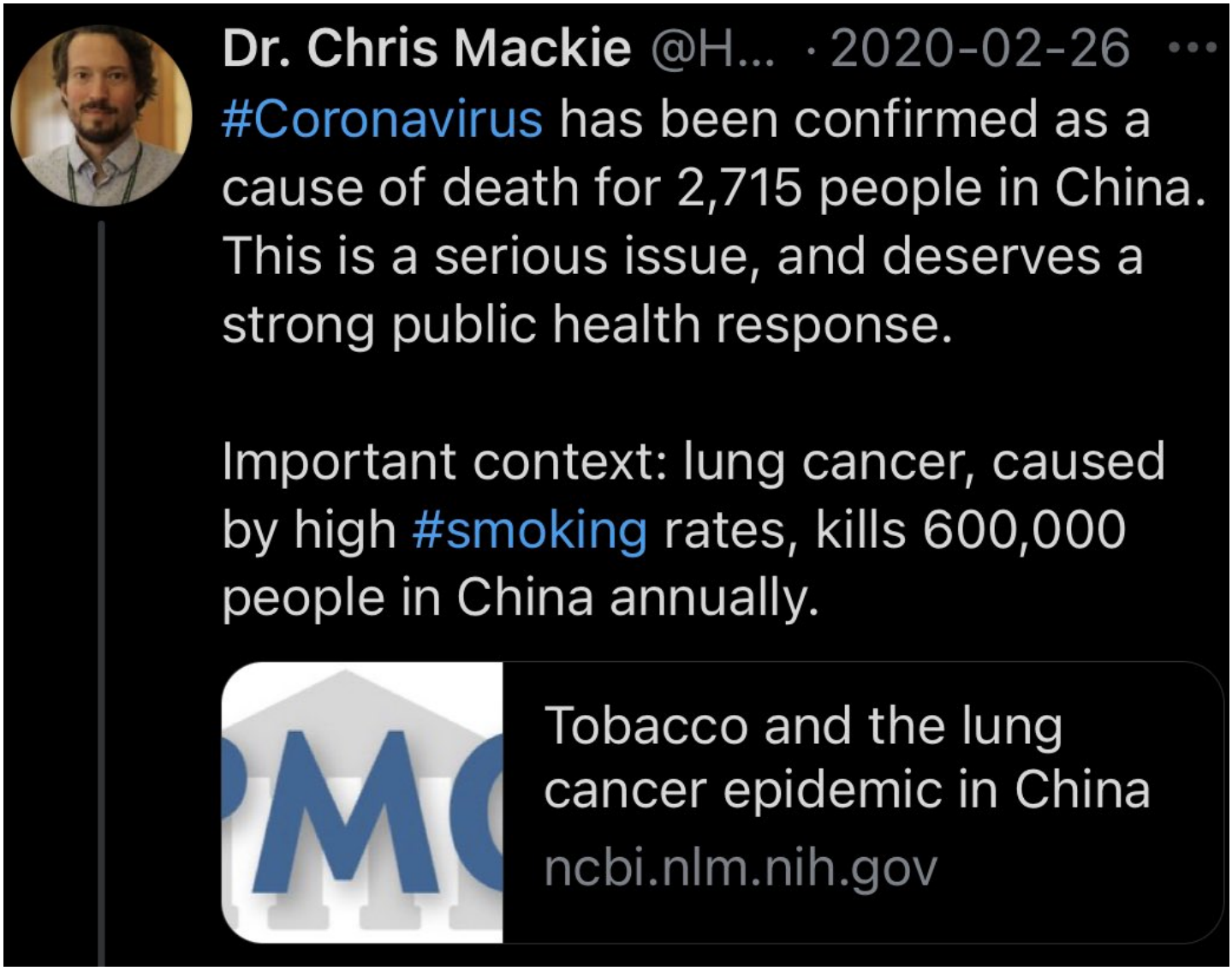
As written, this is blatant fearmongering. Please clarify that this is in China, not around the world.


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.

...7/24


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.
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1

...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

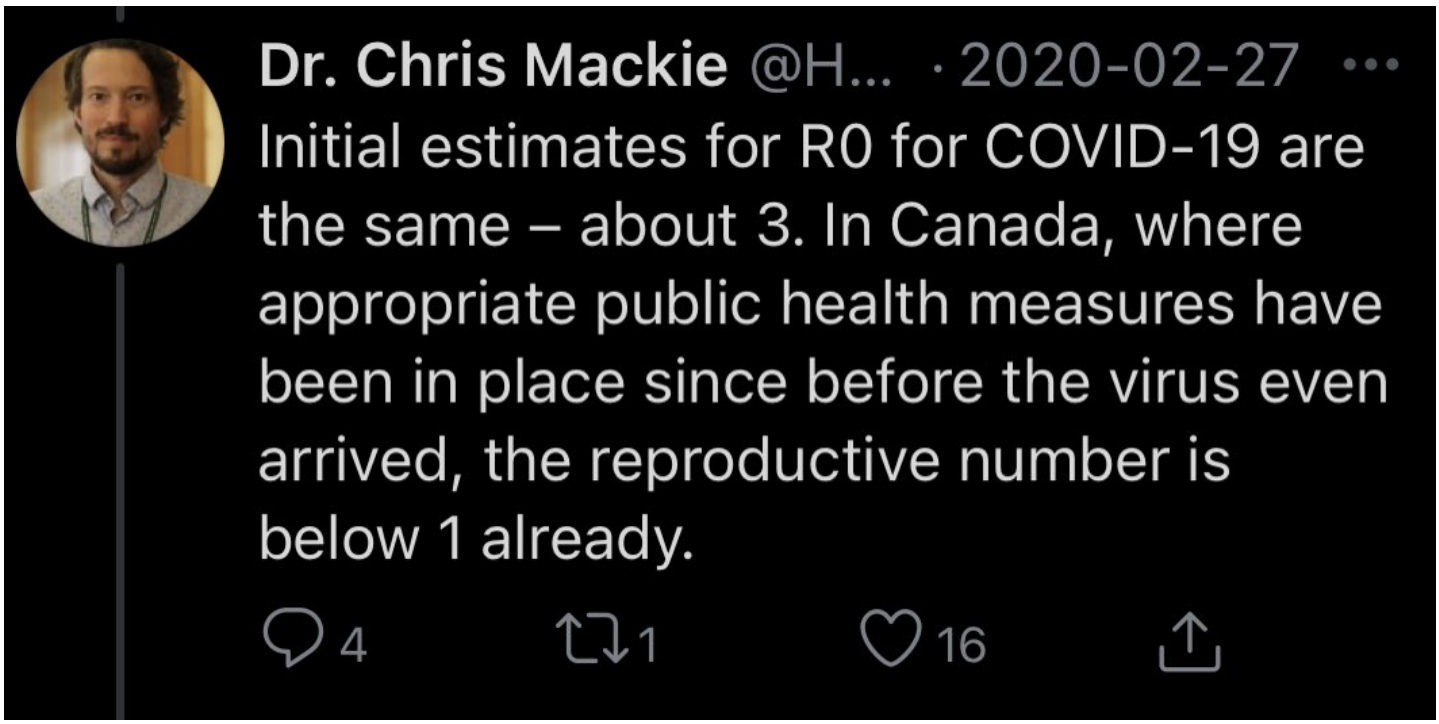

Anne Bills, Raptors a... · 2020-02-26
Fear haas spread around the world. Isn't it reasonable to take basic health precautions? Reconsider travel?
1
Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-02-27
It is reasonable to take basic precautions, and they are being taken at many levels. It is not reasonable to succumb to fear, which is spreading far more rapidly than Coronavirus.
2
1
3


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.
ADDING UP THE COSTS, FP1
GLAVIN: DON'T BLAME THE WET'SUWET'EN, A9
VOL. 22 NO. 103 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020
CORONAVIRUS FEARS SPREAD AROUND WORLD



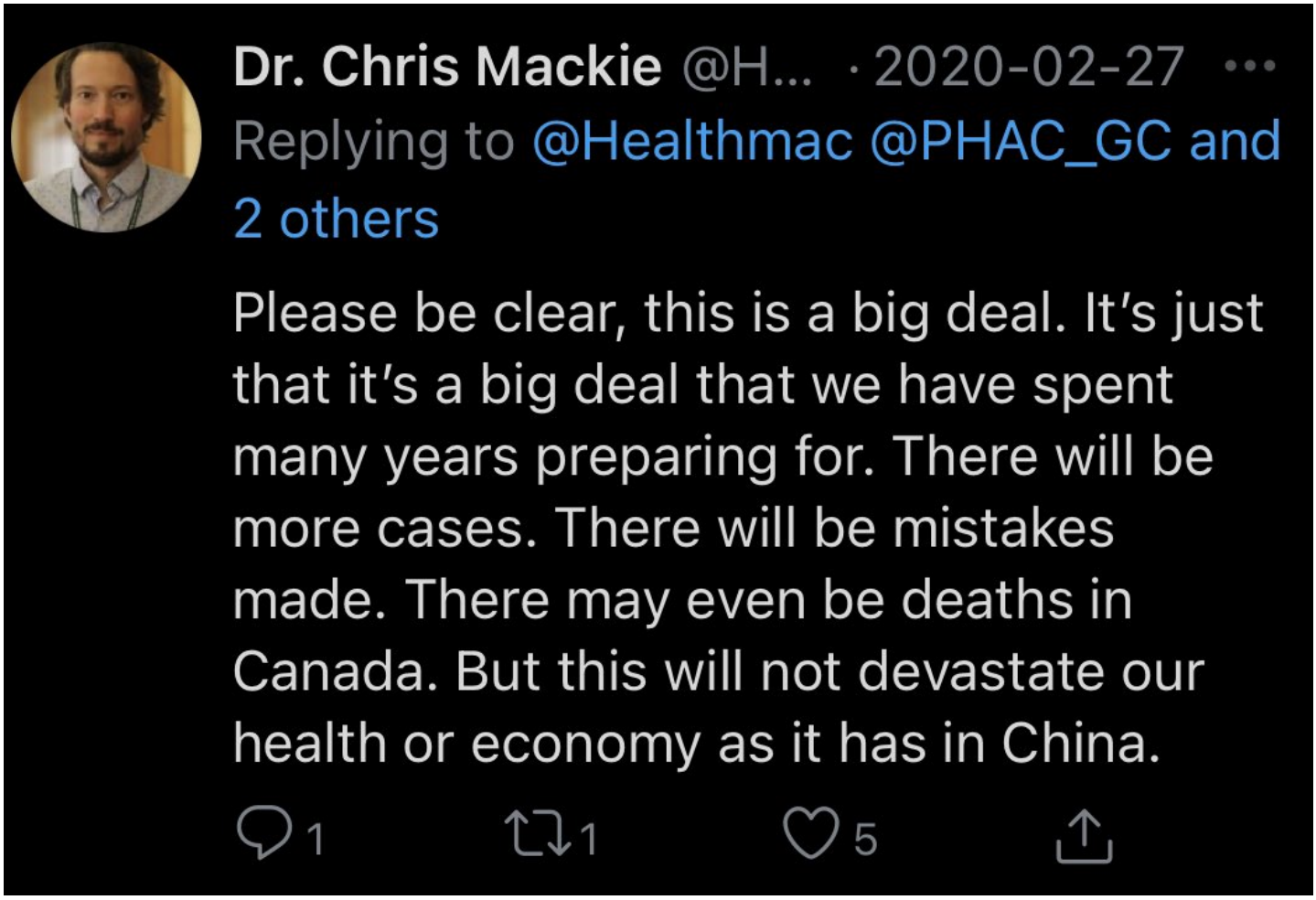
This is my personal favourite: When he claimed the reproductive value was below 1... At the end of last February. ■

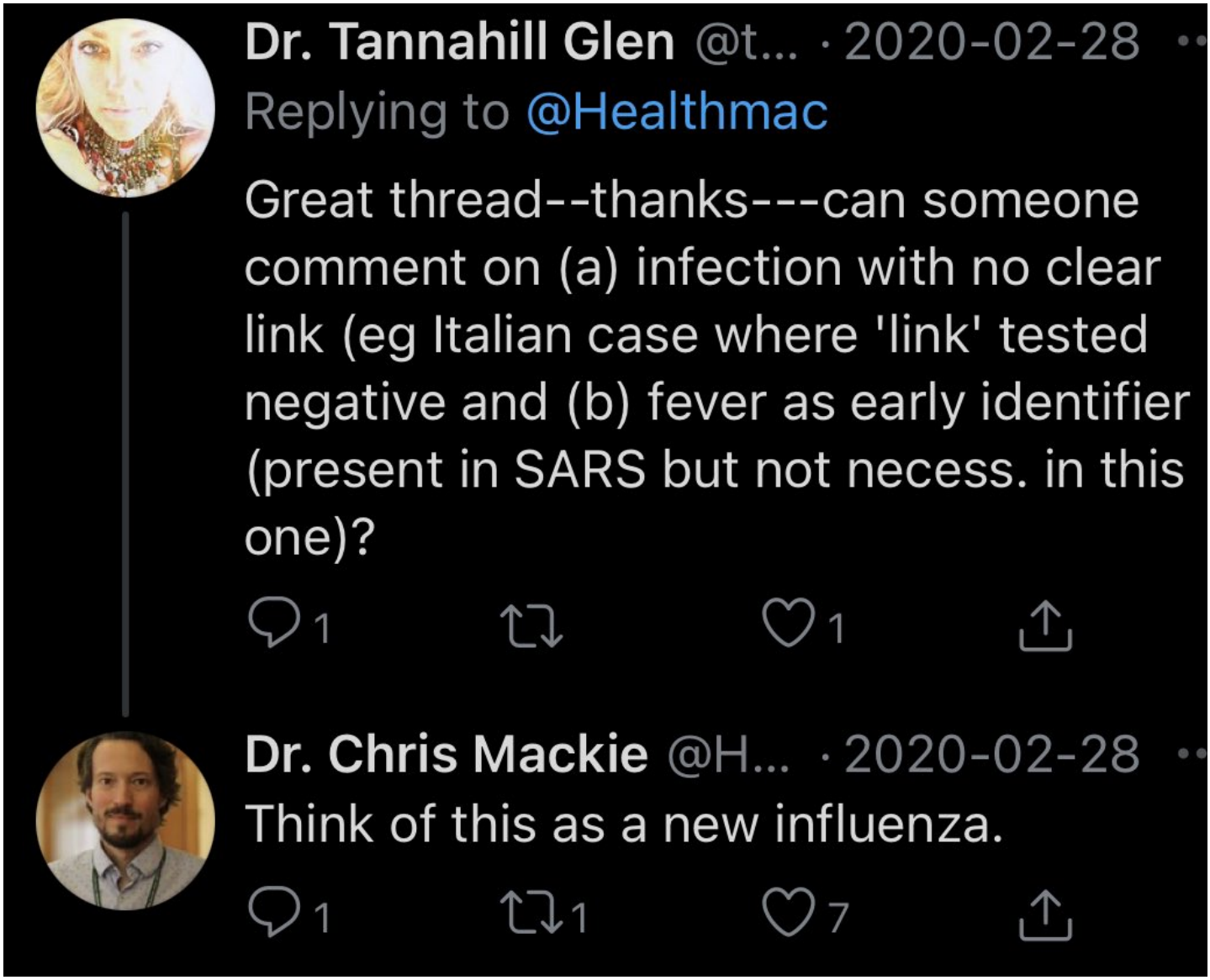
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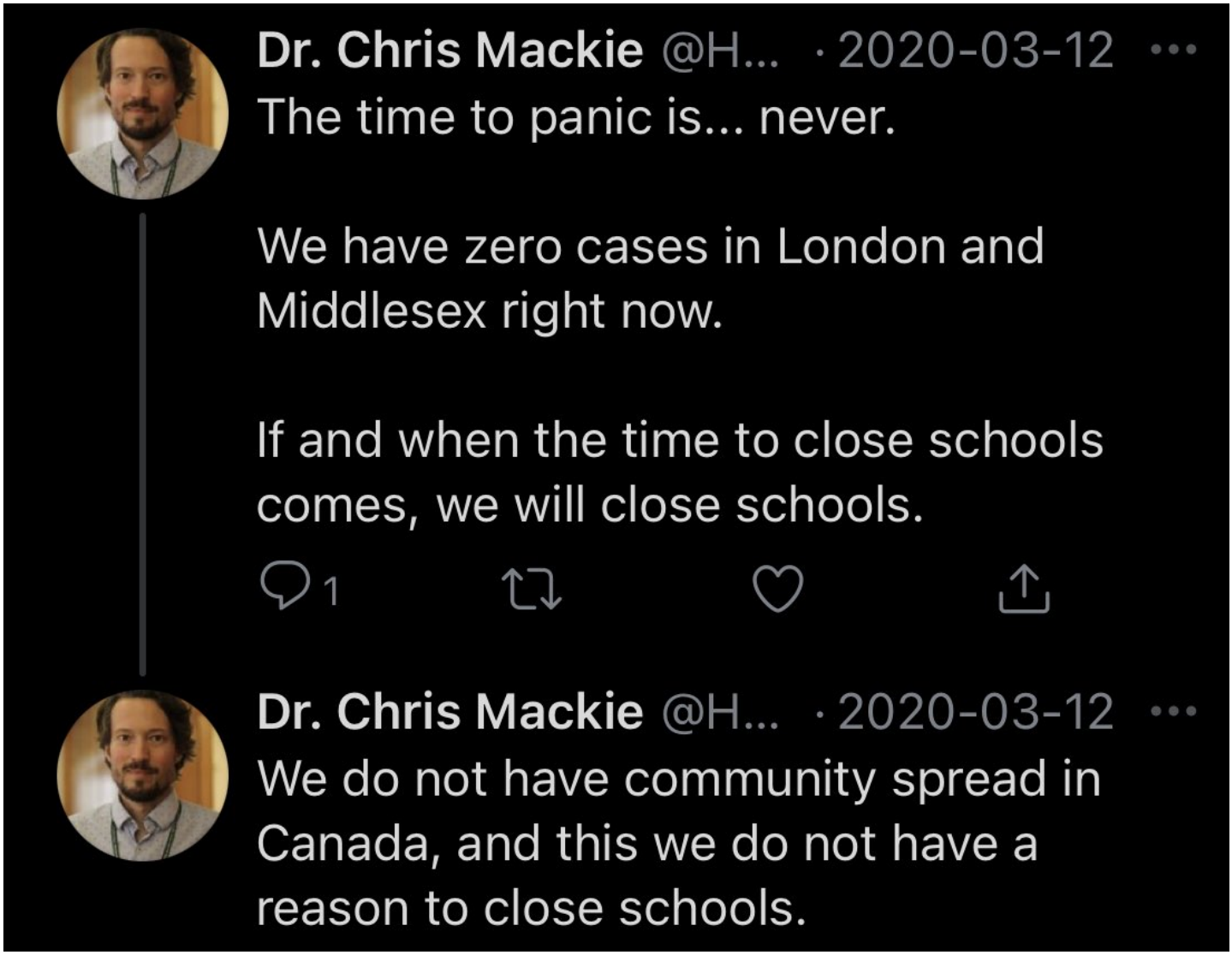
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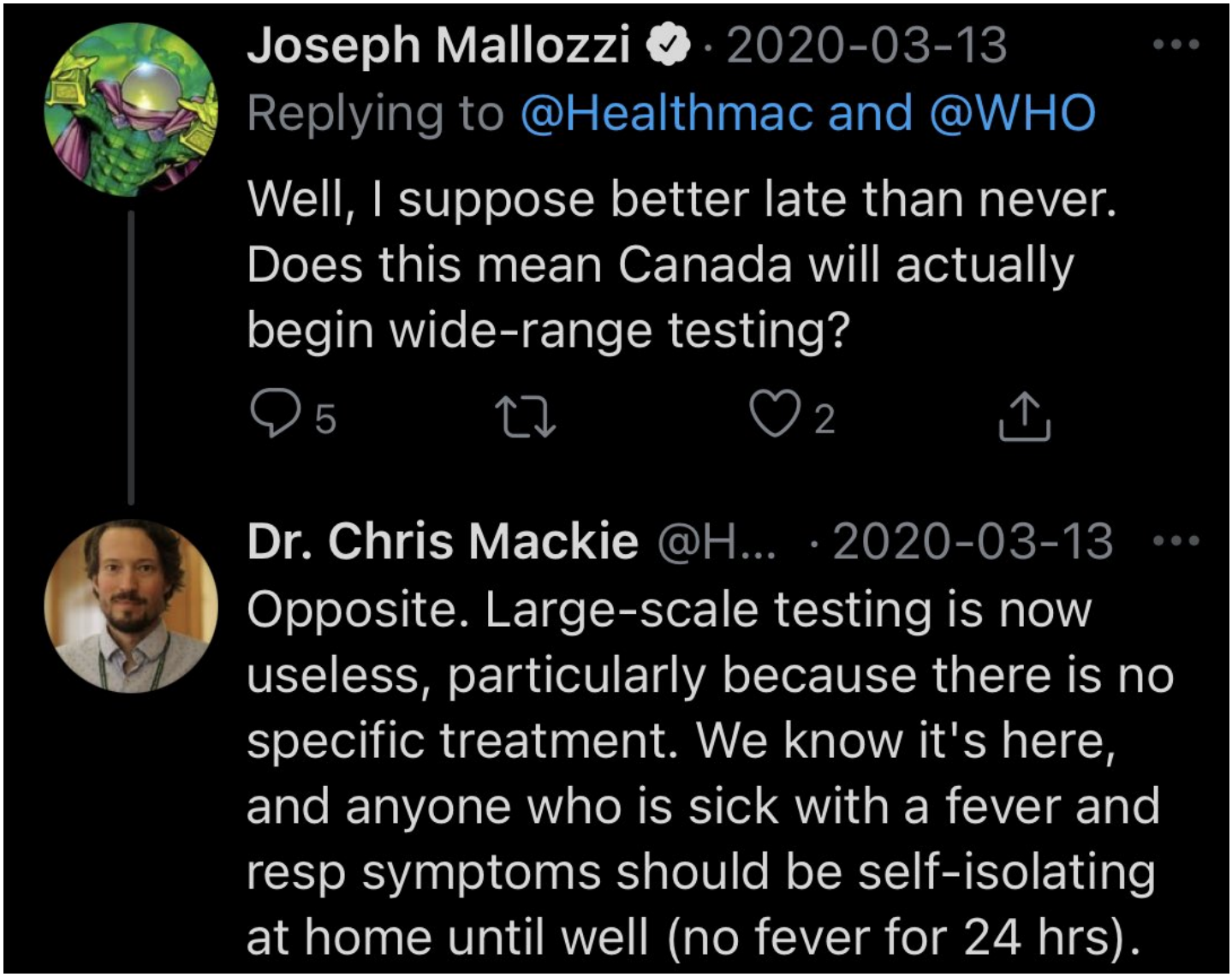

Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-02-27
Replying to @Healthmac @PHAC_GC and 2 others
To recap, compared with SARS, the COVID-19 situation is better because:
- Government in China communicating early and frequently
- Virus identified almost immediately
- Better lab test available much sooner in the outbreak
- 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.
1
1
5


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)?
1
1
Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-02-28
Think of this as a new influenza.
1
1
7


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?
2
1
Dr. Chris Mackie @He... · 2020-03-11
NO.
SORRY, AM I YELLING????

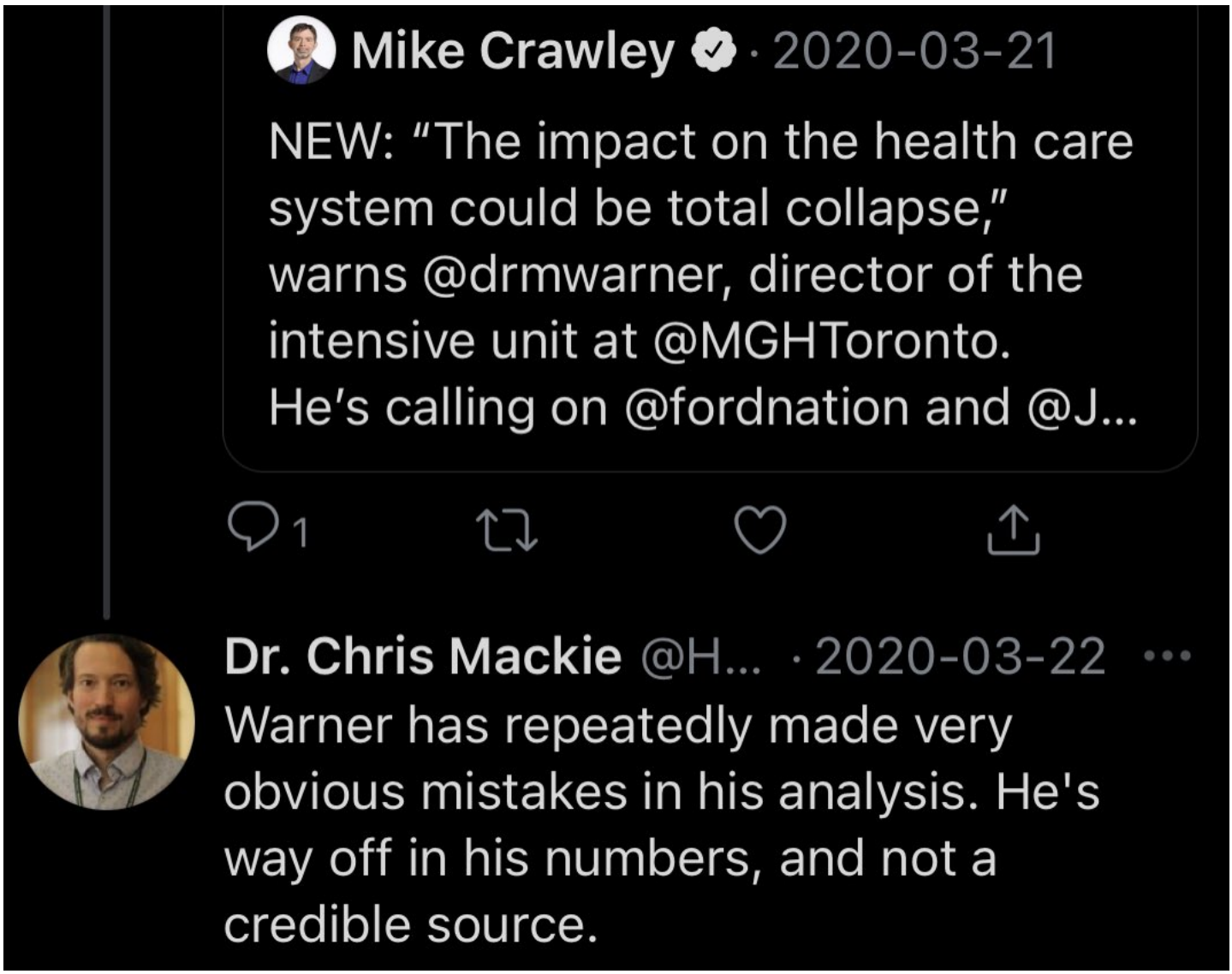

Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-03-12
The time to panic is... never.
We have zero cases in London and Middlesex right now.
If and when the time to close schools comes, we will close schools.
1
Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-03-12
We do not have community spread in Canada, and this we do not have a reason 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?
5
2
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).

...19/24

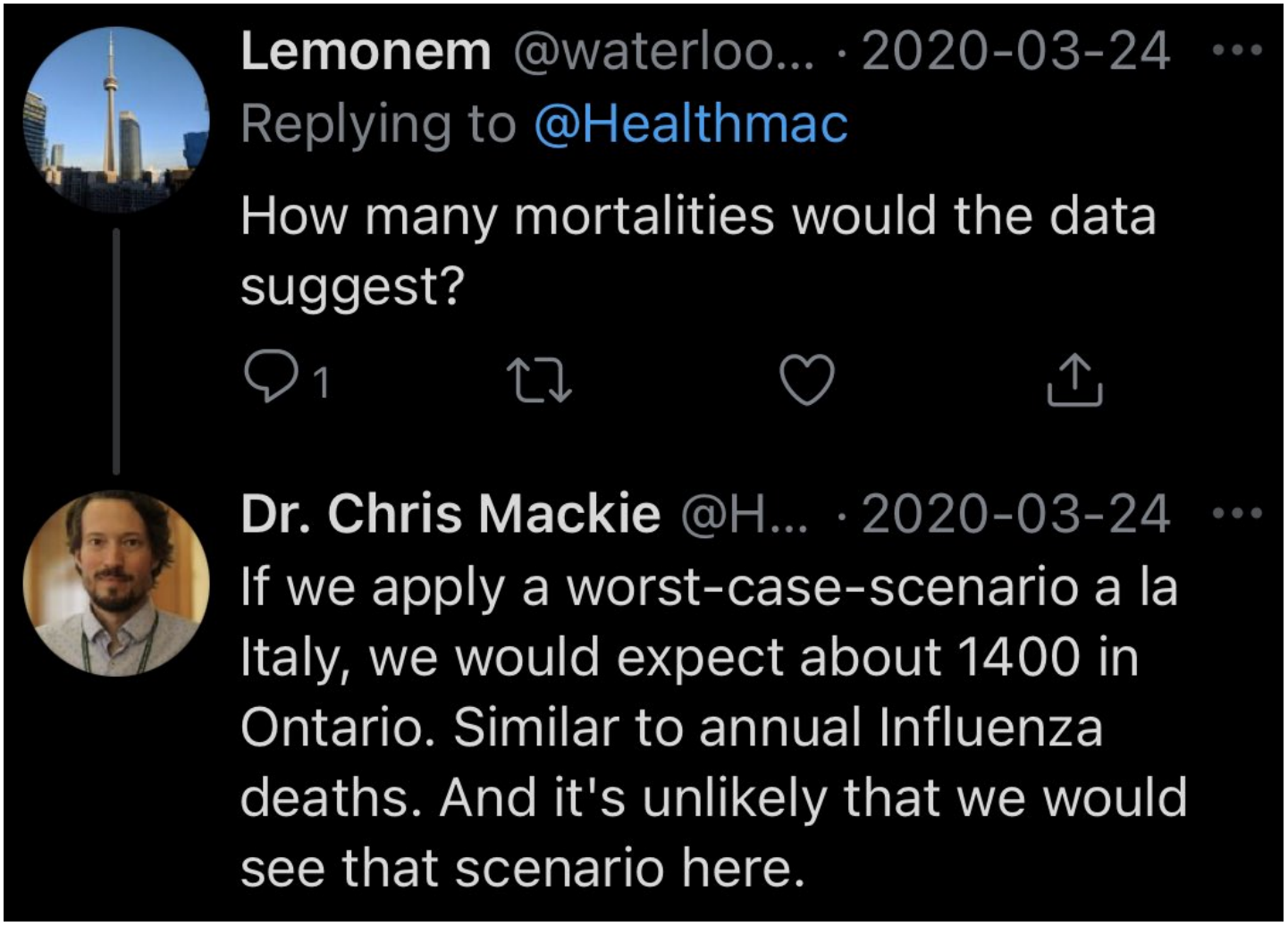

amandathompson @... · 2020-03-16
@Healthmac why are malls still open??
1
Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-03-16
They are pretty empty. Compared to a packed club, they are very low risk.

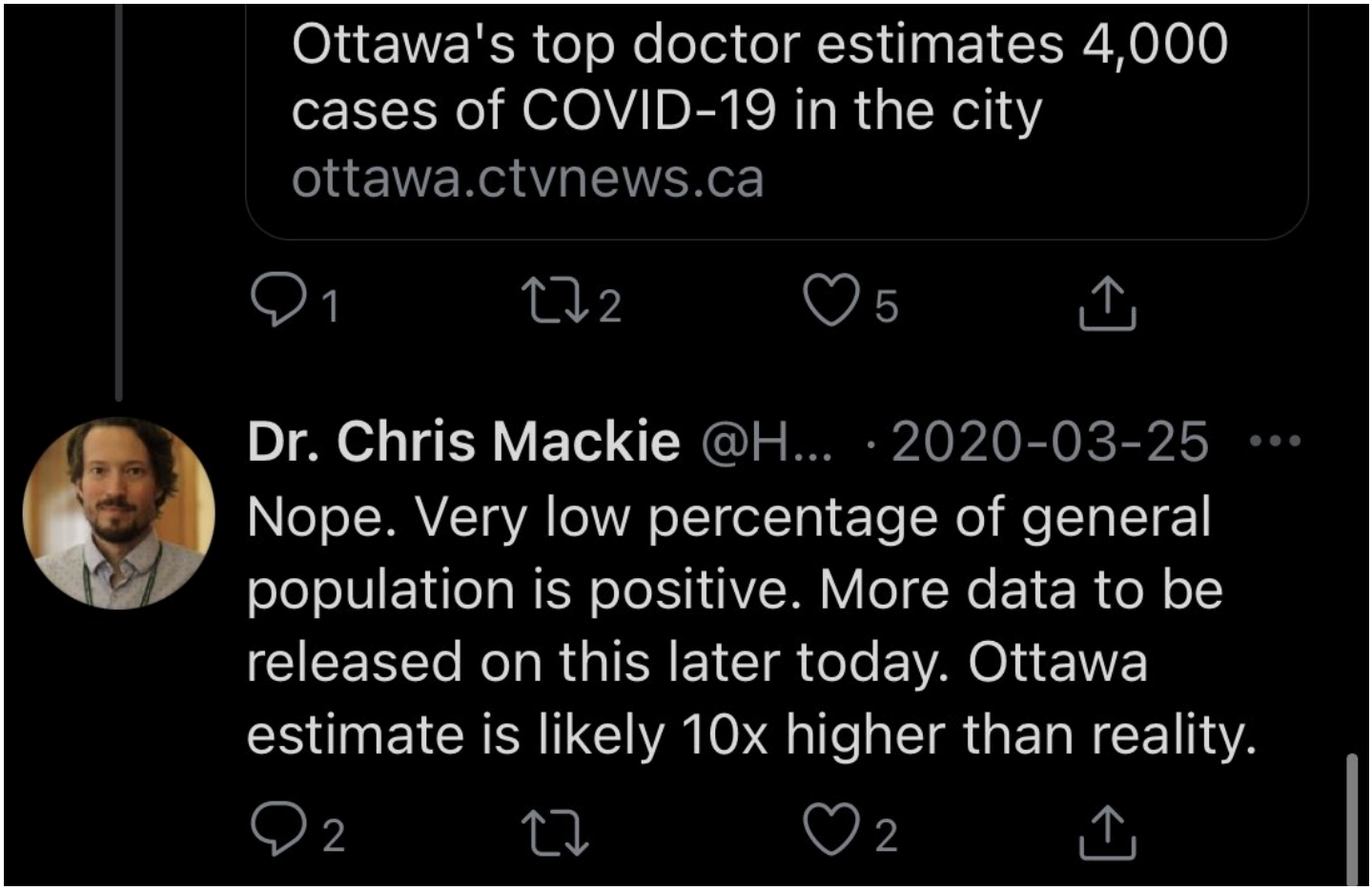
...20/24



And yet Mackie attacks modelers like @DFisman?

...21/24

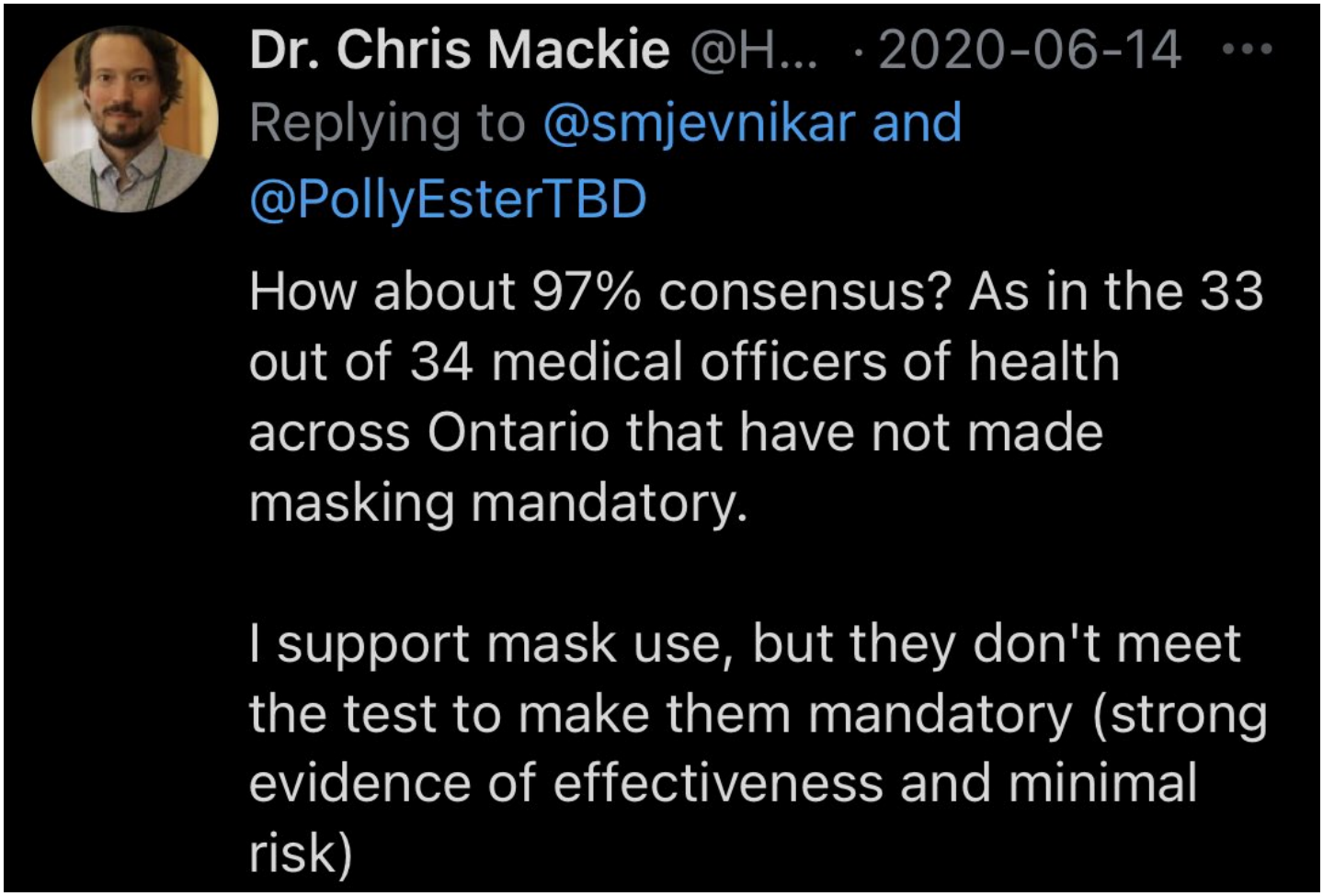

Lemonem @waterloo... · 2020-03-24
Replying to @Healthmac
How many mortalities would the data suggest?
1
Dr. Chris Mackie @H... · 2020-03-24
If we apply a worst-case-scenario a la Italy, we would expect about 1400 in Ontario. Similar to annual Influenza deaths. And it's unlikely that we would see that scenario here.


Ottawa's top doctor estimates 4,000 cases of COVID-19 in the city
ottawa.ctvnews.ca
1
2
5
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.
2
2

...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



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.