

Twitter Thread by Paul Matzko

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Having spent 2020 telling covid denalists that they were overly optimistic about the pandemic, I now look forward to spending 2021 telling covid maximalists that they are overly pessimistic about the end of the pandemic.

Telling a denialist in May that we shouldn't open bars back up = telling a maximalist in February that we should open schools back up.

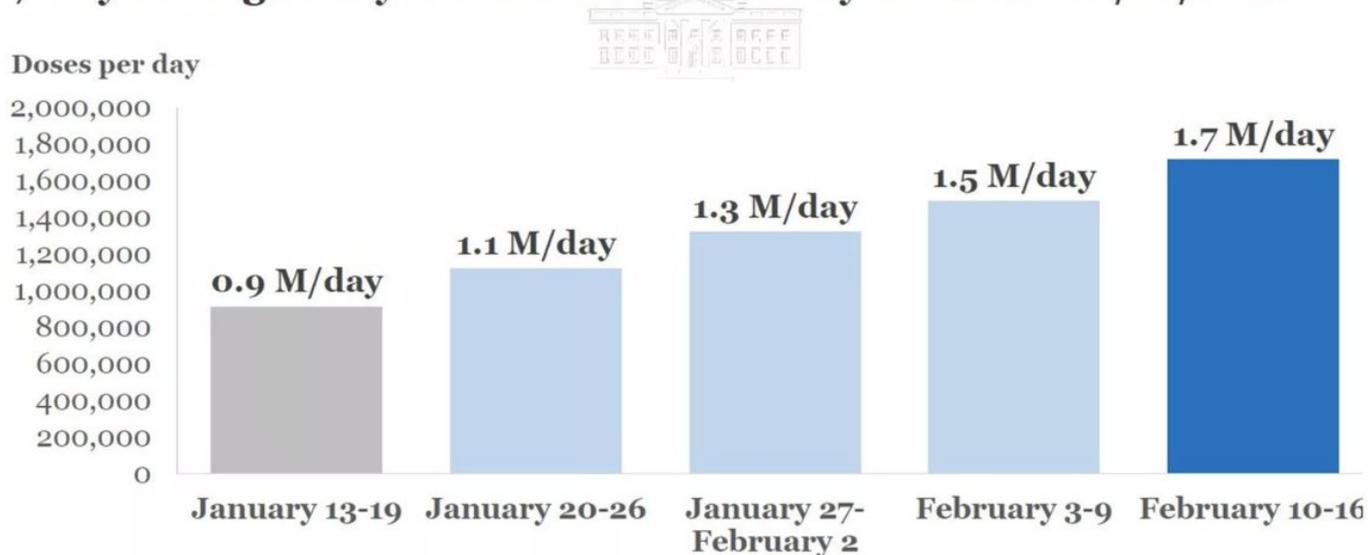
Look, folks, the math is straightforward. ~13% of Americans have been vaccinated as of this week.

<https://t.co/zgrPCnTCeK>

And the 7 day average continues to rise; we're approach 2 million vaccine doses per day. Meaning that we'll double that ~13% much faster than the two months it took us to get there.

The Vaccination Progress Report

7-day average daily doses administered by week as of 2/16/2021



The White House weekly vaccination progress report displayed at Wednesday's briefing.

So it's entirely reasonable that absent any other intervention, we should expect to hit ~30% vaccinated by the end of March.

And given that those doses are concentrated among the highest risk groups--the 70+ and medical professionals--the case fatality rate, which has already been falling because of improved treatments, is about to drop off a cliff.

Combine that 30% vaccinated number with those who have acquired immunity via natural infection. By the end of September the CDC estimated that 15% of the US had been infected. *September*. That's almost the halfway point for the US pandemic.

<https://t.co/T9368fNihk>

So even conservatively assuming that covid spread at the same rate in the five months since September as the five months prior to September, we should expect at least 30% of Americans (if not more) to have natural immunity at this point.

Sure, there's going to be some overlap between the 30% of those vaccinated by the end of March and the 30% who have natural immunity, we're talking about something in the order of 50-60% of the population who are immune to the virus by the end of March. Next month. Six weeks.

There are overly optimistic articles--cough, cough, WSJ--circulating about how the pandemic will be all over by April, but I also think the median person is overly pessimistic about how close we are to significantly ameliorating the severity of the pandemic.

I think the best, carefully optimistic case write-up is from [@jameshamblin](#) for [@TheAtlantic](#).

<https://t.co/u4frcQ49Bx>