Twitter Thread by Adam Hamdy



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1. This thread has been given a new lease of life today. People keep saying, "We can't do #ZeroCovid, it doesn't fit with our way of life."

Look around.

What way of life?

The one we used to have?

The UK has been under varying degrees of restriction since March 23rd 2020.

> 1. \u201c#ZeroCovid is impossible\u201d
>
> I\u2019ve been arguing for #ZeroCovid before it even had a name, so I\u2019ve heard most of the counter arguments.
>
> It\u2019s too expensive.
>
> If countries like Vietnam can afford it, why can\u2019t we?https://t.co/1XUyzOuHtc
>
> — Adam Hamdy (@adamhamdy) January 4, 2021

2. Nearly a year of having our social and economic freedoms curtailed in one way or another. Nearly a year of muted economic activity. Nearly a year of mass death and disease.

#ZeroCovid doesn't fit with a way of life that doesn't exist anymore.

3. The question isn't whether it fits with our old freewheeling ways, but whether it would lead to better outcomes than the UK's current (poorly defined) strategy? Experiences in New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, China, Taiwan and elsewhere very much suggest it would.

4. #ZeroCovid isn't about what's possible. It's about what's necessary. Decide what's necessary and figure out a way to make it possible. We can't force travellers to quarantine in hotels for two weeks? Why not? Taiwan does. And if that's what's

necessary, why aren't we doing it?

5. I've heard some odd things said about #ZeroCovid

Simple-minded clod Matt Hancock said Zero Covid is impossible because no country has had zero cases.

Zero Covid sets out an ambition. It signals a country treats any infections as serious incidents.

https://t.co/oNLctulkhM

6. It gears public health institutions towards a target of zero, instead of 60,000 or whatever the UK government now considers acceptable. It recognises that aiming for zero gives every public health intervention its best chance of success. From social distancing to masks.

7. From test, trace, isolate and support to hospital treatment, everything works better if cases are as close to zero as possible.

8. Another argument I've heard from a few people is that it would take two years for Britain to become self-sufficient and that we couldn't close our borders to imports without severe disruption to food supply. Another misconception. #ZeroCovid countries have maintained trade.

9. Border closures applied to people, and even those were only temporary until infection control procedures could be established. China, Taiwan and South Korea all maintain international links, subject to strict infection control.

10. Independent SAGE recently published a useful document on improving safety measures in schools, calling for masks, ventilation, smaller teaching groups etc.

Unless the UK gets cases down significantly, I'm not sure these measures will be sufficient.

https://t.co/ncrJHwnwMg

11. The new variant and the more relaxed lockdown will make it very difficult to bring R below 1. How can schools be opened at full capacity against a backdrop of 50K to 60K infections, 3,000 to 4,000 hospital admissions, and 1,000+ deaths per day?

12. Some say the British people don't have the stomach for the measures taken in New Zealand, Vietnam, Australia and elsewhere. Do we have the stomach for what's happening now? Are we going to have the stomach for a nation conversation about death?

https://t.co/ixesiJTLeA

> 3. And Chris Whitty shared his thoughts on why, how and when restrictions might be lifted.
> pic.twitter.com/YtERJzhavU
>
> — Adam Hamdy (@adamhamdy) January 5, 2021

13. The government doesn't really have a strategy beyond straddling some awful middle way between the economy and health. It's giving the UK the worst possible outcomes; mass disease and death, and a crippled economy.

https://t.co/xhv4gU0k59

> 4. Instead, it has decided to go a \u2018middle way\u2019, balancing transmission against the economy. This approach is likely to increase negative public health and economic impacts, and the duration of restrictions on personal freedom. pic.twitter.com/NZsyXXhr4Y
>
> — Adam Hamdy (@adamhamdy) October 13, 2020

14. Scientists are calling for stricter measures. The public are desperate for an end to this.

https://t.co/lncKeYzYNe

15. The PM was not able to categorically commit to children being back in schools before the summer holidays, because even the eternal optimist understands this is a gamble. There are many uncertainties in the government's current approach.

https://t.co/kdHGRGfEky

> 1. At today\u2019s #DowningStreetBriefing @SamCoatesSky asked some excellent questions. The PM declined to guarantee children will be back in school before the summer holidays, but he is optimistic measures can be relaxed in spring. pic.twitter.com/uTc29TTgV7
>
> — Adam Hamdy (@adamhamdy) January 5, 2021

16. The plan to vaccinate the vulnerable and then open up comes with some serious risks and @dgurdasani1 does a great job of explaining them.

https://t.co/yYQUbiNqZj

> Thoughts on where we are in the UK right now with cases, and the new variant, and what this likely means for the future. And the focus of government solely on vaccination of vulnerable individuals- rather than mitigating transmission. This is short-sighted, and dangerous. Thread
>
> — Deepti Gurdasani (@dgurdasani1) January 8, 2021

17. If it goes wrong, we might find ourselves living with restrictions for another year or more. Pursuing a target of eradication using non-pharmaceutical interventions and vaccines gives both the best chance of success.

18. We know what works. We can see other countries enjoying success.

Why isn't there greater public outcry for the government to stop gambling on moonshots and longshots, and for it to deliver simple, effective measures that have worked elsewhere?

https://t.co/pK0Vtt8m00

> New Zealand has protected its people, its economy and its freedoms.
>
> Why aren\u2019t more people clamouring for our government to implement policies that have been shown to work?
>
> Look at those crowds.
>
> The prize that awaits those who adopt #ZeroCovid pic.twitter.com/D96OYACXsv
>
> — Adam Hamdy (@adamhamdy) December 20, 2020

19. How long do we accept suboptimal and risky policies?@AliNouriPhD @SafaMote @yaneerbaryam @devisridhar @dgurdasani1

20. Adding this pan-European call for more effective measures to contain #COVID19

h/t @ViolaPriesemann

https://t.co/WEmuj49Yor

21. And the John Snow Memorandum which called for countries to learn from those that had implemented effective measures to reduce transmission. https://t.co/DHwB2qP81J

> NEW Correspondence\u201480+ researchers warn that a so-called #herdimmunity approach to managing #COVID19 is \u201ca dangerous fallacy unsupported by the scientific evidence\u201d #WCPH2020 https://t.co/2gTtklAkwx pic.twitter.com/q4YNZFJM22
>
> — The Lancet (@TheLancet) October 14, 2020

22. And @endCOVID19 which offers information and resources for those interested in eliminating #COVID19 https://t.co/3R7GJpQKKA

> Worried about Covid spread in your community? YOU can make a difference. Lead a #GreenZone effort with our tools and guidelines. We are here to help everyone achieve #ZeroCovid #ECV https://t.co/fWgKVcEqG3 pic.twitter.com/3FjPRwTDch
>
> — EndCoronaVirus.org (@endCOVID19) October 13, 2020