

Twitter Thread by Jonathan Koomey



Jonathan Koomey

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Here's a thread documenting the epic incompetence of the Trump administration + the GOP in dealing with the pandemic. Some Democratic politicians deserve severe critiques also (Cuomo and DeBlasio being the poster children there) but a national problem requires a national response.

Remember, that for pandemics as well as for climate change, "Speed trumps perfection". Stop obsessing about "optimality". There is nothing optimal about responding to a pandemic or to climate change, just move as fast as you can.

<https://t.co/Lijz3HKUYj>

Wow

This man is the global authority on the spread of disease. If you are a leader (in any capacity) watch this. If you are not, watch it too. <pic.twitter.com/bFogaekM>

— Jim Richards SHOWGR\U0001f399M (@JIMrichards1010) March 15, 2020

Hey look, the GOP (not Trump) hamstrung the Obama Administration's effort to build up strategic reserves to fight pandemics going as far back as 2011: <https://t.co/zwEqA8ApNI>

Hey look, there was a pandemic response plan developed by national security officials in 2016, which Trump and the GOP ignored: <https://t.co/eLZfUBFmY2>

EXCLUSIVE: White House national security officials prepared a \u201cpandemic playbook\u201d \u2014 a step-by-step guide to ensure testing, check on workers\u2019 equipment, even consider the Defense Production Act.

The Trump administration ignored it. <https://t.co/tykOlW5Nh> with [@nahaltoosi](#)

— Dan Diamond (@ddiamond) March 26, 2020

Hey look, Trump and the GOP disbanded the pandemic response unit in 2018: <https://t.co/9MjxmANFaI>

Hey look, [@AtomicAnalyst](#) called it on May 10, 2018: <https://t.co/RPp9TcSP8p>

When the next pandemic occurs (and make no mistake, it will) and the federal government is unable to respond in a coordinated and effective fashion to protect the lives of US citizens and others, this decision by John Bolton and Donald Trump will be why. <https://t.co/iMSzopSRaI>

— Stephen Schwartz (@AtomicAnalyst) [May 10, 2018](#)

Hey look, there was a ten-year old US pandemic early-response team ON THE GROUND IN CHINA. Trump fired them all two months before the coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China. <https://t.co/nQgkbasLMF>

Hey look, Trump and the GOP waited 8 weeks after the first confirmed case to do anything, squandering precious time: <https://t.co/ZFD2bt5ixI>

Just a reminder, the first confirmed Coronavirus case in the U.S. was on January 20th.

That's 8 weeks the Trump administration could have spent preparing tests, quarantine plans, respirators for hospitals, and stimulus packages... but chose not to.

— Nate Lerner (@NathanLerner) [March 16, 2020](#)

Hey look, in January 2020, a US manufacturer said they could produce millions of N95 masks, they just needed a guaranteed order so they could get their factory going. The Trump Administration inexplicably refused. <https://t.co/imOn54TALs>

Hey look, the Trump administration inexplicably nixed a plan to send out lots of masks for free to every US household. This would have saved tens of thousands of lives for sure. <https://t.co/1BJAqrw1bx>

Hey look, the Trump administration repeatedly blocked efforts to require masks on airplanes, airports, and other transit modes. <https://t.co/uNc8ohy2N2>

.@WhiteHouse repeatedly blocked efforts to legally require masks on airplanes, airports and other transit modes -- and rejected a CDC draft proposal -- even after extensive administration discussions <https://t.co/MUuRqJcipu>

— davidshepardson (@davidshepardson) [January 14, 2021](#)

Hey look, the US is #43 in the world in gene sequencing the virus. What? <https://t.co/W0SDfABRYP>

Hey look, here's a GOP governor criticizing Trump for failing to ramp up coronavirus testing: <https://t.co/ovwrpcfJtp>

Hey look, from Day 1 the Trump administration hollowed out HHS, thereby sabotaging future pandemic response. <https://t.co/htWM5UF5D1>

Day 1 of the Trump administration set the tone for what came next.

Health experts were ignored. Scientists who disagreed with Trump were later pushed out.

As a result\u20142014 when COVID arrived, the health agencies were already limping to meet it.<https://t.co/Fhxwe3xVAR>
new, from me

— Dan Diamond (@ddiamond) [December 31, 2020](#)

Hey look, here's a Republican who did the right thing. @Schwarzenegger set up a supply reserve for pandemic supplies, which was stopped by Democrat Jerry Brown (bad move, Jerry). <https://t.co/l7qsEXApx3>

But of course, @Schwarzenegger is a different kind of Republican, of which there are very few, nowadays.
<https://t.co/LqczHPP8ix>

My message to my fellow Americans and friends around the world following this week's attack on the Capitol.
<pic.twitter.com/blOy35LWJ5>

— Arnold (@Schwarzenegger) [January 10, 2021](#)

Mike DeWine of Ohio started strong, but things have gone awry more recently, as they have in much of the country in the absence of a competent national response. <https://t.co/itMTdkiEqp>

On pandemic response, this GOP governor was well ahead of the curve: <https://t.co/il5onwIL2b>

— Jonathan Koomey (@jgkoomey) [April 2, 2020](#)

Hey look, in October 2020, documentation of 130,000 to 210,000 avoidable US deaths from COVID 19.
<https://t.co/Gru9yDOOeV>

Now we're up to more than half a million deaths in the US from COVID-19, most of them avoidable. <https://t.co/FTfzC6waCA>

To first order, multiply all COVID death numbers by 1.4 to get a more accurate tally. <https://t.co/NeC5aDu5uF>

— Jonathan Koomey (@jgkoomey) [January 14, 2021](#)

Please, please, please, don't "both sides" this. There have been notable failures by Democrats (Cuomo, DeBlasio, Jerry Brown) but the responsibility for the national failures is 100% with Trump and the GOP. <https://t.co/1T6bjXzSHB>

So, I think @Yascha_Mounk article in @TheAtlantic is some ways a needed cry for help, of despair, but it starts to 'both sides' responsibility for the #COVID19 epidemic in the US, which I think is unfortunate and unhelpful. 1/
<https://t.co/OTR0UuBT7t>

— Gregg Gonsalves (@gregggonsalves) [June 14, 2020](#)

An article in The BMJ (a journal owned by the British Medical Association) sums it up here: <https://t.co/kXaapd0o6G>

Summary: The responsibility for the disastrous US national response to coronavirus is 100% with Trump and the GOP./fin

Addendum: Trump and the GOP even messed up the vaccine rollout! <https://t.co/PpIFeAR3sU>