Twitter Thread by 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 politicos 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/bFogaekehM
>
> — 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/tykOlbW5Nh 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 Cornavirus 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\u2014 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/iI5onwIL2b
>
> — 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/PplFeAR3sU