



Public Comment

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Fwd: COVID-19 ALERT (2): The Fast-Growing Firestorm f/ TERRY KAYES

3 messages

Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@edcgov.us>

Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 7:46 AM

To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Please include with the COVID item and make sure all board members and Don receive. Thanks Kim

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Terry Kayes <kayes.gov@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 20, 2020 at 11:07 PM

Subject: COVID-19 ALERT (2): The Fast-Growing Firestorm f/ TERRY KAYES

To: John Hidahl <bosone@edcgov.us>, Shiva Frentzen <bostwo@edcgov.us>, Brian Veerkamp <bostthree@edcgov.us>, Lori Parlin <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Sue Novasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>, Wendy Thomas <wendythomas@sonic.net>, Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@edcgov.us>, Don Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, David Livingston <david.livingston@edcgov.us>, Don Semon <don.semon@edcgov.us>, Karen Feathers <karen.feathers@edcgov.us>, <michael.ungeheuer@edcgov.us>, <lynnan.svensson@edcgov.us>, Kathryn Jeanfreau <kathryn.jeanfreau@edcgov.us>, Greg Stanton <greg.stanton@edcgov.us>, Dave Johnston <dave.johnston@edcgov.us>, Tiffany Schmid <tiffany.schmid@edcgov.us>, Rafael Martinez <rafael.martinez@edcgov.us>, Tameka Usher <tameka.usher@edcgov.us>

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On Thursday, September 3, 2020, I sent an email message titled "**COVID-19 ALERT (1): The Coming Firestorm (1)**" out to all those in El Dorado County government who I thought ought to be aware of the seriousness of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and I hoped were doing something substantive about it, to limit its fast-growing spread and (potentially) catastrophic human-health, economic and society-wide consequences -- which as far back as March (and weeks before that) were predicted by several of the world's top infectious-disease, virology, epidemiology, immunology and public-health experts, such as [Dr. Michael Osterholm \(PhD, MPH\)](#), the deeply experienced (1975-present) "hands-on" epidemiologist and the Director (and founder) of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Public Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis. Read more about Osterholm, CIDRAP, and the growing pandemic at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Osterholm and <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/>

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/about-us/cidrap-staff/michael-t-osterholm-phd-mph>

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/podcasts-webinars>

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/12/cdc-advisors-recommend-moderna-covid-vaccination>

In terms of practical experience and almost always being on target in his facts-based predictions and advice, I think Osterholm is the "best of the best" of those having a strong research and decision-making background in epidemiology on President-elect Biden's newly-appointed COVID-19 Advisory Board (see <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/11/president-elect-biden-names-covid-19-advisors>). While typically diplomatic and sensitive to people's feelings, "Bad-News Mike" (as he has sometimes been called), unlike too-many scientists and public officials doesn't equivocate in what he says and writes about, regarding the seriousness of the COVID pandemic and the tragic way too-many people almost invariably underestimate the enormous threat that epidemic diseases pose, and the suffering they can cause if not dealt with both quickly and responsibly by a large majority of the individuals of those human populations they infect. To not do the latter is to invite a protracted catastrophe, which can have adverse consequences for years after the usual recurring outbreaks of the disease subside. That is what both history and knowledge-based science teaches.

In a December 14, 2020 email message titled "**A Compendium of Credible 'Facts' About the Worsening Pandemic**" I pointed to a recently-published (10/27/2020) book (written for non-scientist readers) titled Apollo's Arrow: The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way We Live by Dr. Nicholas Christakis, an eminent and highly-credible quantitative sociologist, physician and leading researcher and scholar at Yale University's Human Nature Lab, who did what no "other source has done to date, which is to provide authoritative science-based facts and insights [in readable book form] about the U.S.'s rapidly-worsening nation-wide coronavirus pandemic."

What is especially noteworthy about both Dr. Osterholm's and Dr. Christakis' perspectives as an internationally-respected epidemiologist and a top research sociologist and practicing physician, respectively, is the extent to which they agree that the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. will last considerably longer, and will soon be far worse, than most Americans believe -- or are willing to act on fully and decisively, to prevent the rapidly-growing catastrophe that will soon be arriving "full force" in the months of January, February and March of 2021.

That predicted, now fast-growing "firestorm" will very likely continue on for months afterwards, despite the availability and deployment of any and all vaccines, regardless of their efficacy and durability, between now and the close of 2021. The likelihood that a sufficiently large majority (meaning at least 70 percent) of the entire U.S. population of over 328 million people will

fully comply with public-health guidelines or recommendations to achieve "herd immunity," whether by surviving infection or by being vaccinated, is fast becoming doubtful, in light of the ongoing widespread disregard of such guidelines and recommendations by the many people who don't believe the pandemic is "real" -- or that they or those they care about will contract the virus.

For an overview of what "herd immunity" is and the consequences of not achieving it are, read the article on the John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health website, at:

<https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/achieving-herd-immunity-with-covid19.html>

The salient question for the end of the year 2020 is, What are Californians and the people of El Dorado County going to do when the hospital and other medical-response systems, which they generally assume are always there for them, are stretched to their limits and overwhelmed by a continuing widespread pattern of denialism and wishful thinking in the general population?

(Note: the ongoing pandemic was predicted by "those in the know" at least 18 months before it began in China in the final months of 2019, but the early warnings, as usual, were ignored.)

For an up-to-date (12/19/2020) overview of the rapidly-deteriorating pandemic mortality and hospitalization situation in California, read the article at <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/530972-california-battles-skyrocketing-coronavirus-cases>.

More on the above and related matters in due course -- probably next year, in January 2021.

Have a pleasant, restful, and safe (stay-at-home) Holiday Season.

Terry Kayes
Placerville, California
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EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>
To: Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@edcgov.us>

Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 8:26 AM

Will do.

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Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@edcgov.us>
To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 8:27 AM

Thanks

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