

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

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Cyberspace vs. the COVID-19 – Shelter in place – out of an ?abundance? of caution

COVID-19 is in the growth phase. The US is now about 10 days behind Italy, which has locked down the entire country, allowing only food and pharmacy shopping. If you are in the US and not performing a critical infrastructure service, you should be looking at this option.

Isolation as a defense – a highly imperfect projection

Here's a projection based in inadequate and inaccurate facts, because the government has not provided them to us yet. Even Congress doesn't get the details from the experts, who fear the media frenzy. But here's what might reasonably happen – or not...

- Current US infections known based on testing (which is inadequate because too few tests have been performed according to the CDC) are (as of 4AM today Pacific time <http://nssac.bii.virginia.edu/covid-19/dashboard/>) 1700 active cases in the US.
- The rate of increase during the exponential growth period, which the US is now entering comes to something like a factor of 10 every week. That means:
 - 1 week 17,000 - 2 weeks 170,000 - 3 weeks 1.7M
 - **4 weeks 17M - 5 weeks 170M**
 - Here's what should be a sobering fact:
 - In California, as of now there have been 243 confirmed cases, 4 deaths, and 2 recoveries. The other 237 are still sick.
- The expert testimony before congress is that the total expected infections is on the order of 75M to 150M in the US. So **the exponential growth likely ends by the 4-5 week time frame** (mid April).
- The course of the disease lasts something like 10-14 days, so somewhere around mid June things will be returning to normal – less perhaps 1M US persons who will have died by then – EXCEPT!
 - If 5% of the cases (1/5th of whom would normally die) need hospitalization to survive, then at the peak there will be perhaps 5M people in need of intensive care. But the total capacity of the US for intensive care is, according to the experts, only about 200,000! So perhaps as many as 5M may die UNLESS
 - **If we start to shelter in place NOW, the growth will be slower!**
- In reality, since we are not testing anywhere near enough people, the true situation could be far worse – the US could be less than 10 days behind Italy – perhaps only a few days behind.

What do I mean by “shelter in place”?

- To the extent possible, do not leave the place you live – and if you have to – minimize all interactions with possible sources of the disease...

Here is an approximate plan for those who can:

- Work from home. Meet over the Internet. I have done it 95% of the time for the last 5 years – and quite a bit before then.
- Order food and other critical necessities delivered using the Internet.
 - The food can be delivered without contact with the delivery person keeping each of you from infecting each other.
 - According to the current best available information, COVID-19 will only live for 2-3 hours on normal packaging before it is dead enough to make it unlikely to infect people. So quarantine the deliveries (don't touch them) for 3-4 hours to be safe.
 - If you have an alcohol-based cleaner, you can apparently wipe them down as an alternative. **The delivery services should be providing for this in any case.**
- Other than going to medical services, there should be no reason to leave home, HOWEVER, if you live in a place where you can go out for a walk or other similar activity without getting within 6 ft. of anyone else, you should get out and about.
 - Your porch – if you have one – is a great place to be outside and keep your distance.
 - I go for walks early in the day and thus only encounter folks I see out on the trail. And we don't get up close and personal in the process.
 - Runners might enjoy running away from other people... just kidding... sort of.

If you are working for a delivery service or other critical infrastructure:

- Yes – delivery services are a CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE during this period. Millions of lives could depend on them.
- Keep your distance (6 ft. - 2m) from other people.
- Wash your hands (20 seconds soap and hot water or use a proper wipe) every time you contact anything not thoroughly cleaned since you observed it. Assume it is infected just in case.
 - The gas pump – wipe it down before you use it and your hands afterwards.
 - Door handles – same thing
 - Think about the other things you touch without thinking about it.
- Wear protective gear appropriate to your situation (gloves which you wipe down)
- Don't touch your face before doing a wipe of your hands.

Conclusions

This article is what I emailed my (adult) children today

I didn't write this article for you. I wrote it for them. I am sharing it with you.

Am I a bit paranoid? I don't think so. My projections may be way off. But on the other hand, they may be dead on. Stay safe!