

Infographic: Buying time: What we gain from strong coronavirus measures, including suppression strategies

Summary of the article: Strong coronavirus measures today should only last a few weeks, there shouldn't be a big peak of infections afterwards, and it can all be done for a reasonable cost to society, saving millions of lives along the way. If we don't take these measures, tens of millions will be infected, many will die, along with anybody else that requires intensive care, because the healthcare system will have collapsed. [Note: This article contains numerous informative infographics.]

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Here is how the Imperial College team modeled suppressions.

The infographic shows two scenarios of suppression, labeled 'green' and 'yellow'. Both scenarios show a sharp initial rise in the number of people infected, followed by a decline. The 'green' line represents a higher peak and a longer duration of infection compared to the 'yellow' line, which represents a lower peak and a shorter duration. The x-axis is labeled 'time' and the y-axis is labeled 'number of people infected'.

The green and yellow lines are different scenarios of Suppression. You can see that doesn't look good: We still get huge peaks, so why bother?

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Presented like these, the two options of Mitigation and Suppression, side by side, don't look very appealing. Either a lot of people die soon and we don't hurt the economy today, or we hurt the economy today, just to postpone the deaths.

This ignores the value of time.

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What if you were about to face your worst enemy, of which you knew very little, and you had two options: Either you run towards it, or you escape to buy yourself a bit of time to prepare. Which one would you choose?

This is what we need to do today. The world has awakened. Every single day we delay the [coronavirus](#), we can get better prepared.

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