March 15, 2020

I've been observing this global CoronaVirus (CV) scare and decided to see what the numbers show. It most certainly has generated several questions in me; it would be good to find someone out there with the rational, _data-based_ answer. So, let's see what we have:

- In the 2018-19 season, there were 35.5 million influenza related illnesses in the US resulting in **34,200 deaths** (CDC)
- Approximately **50,000 people die** from pneumonia in the US each year
- In 2018, more than **140,000 people died** from measles around the world (WHO and CDC)

On the other hand…

- As of today, there are 169,333 CV cases worldwide:
  - Resulting in **6,500 deaths**
  - 76,618 patients recovered
  - 86,215 "active cases" are reported:
    - 80,294 cases qualified as "mild" (93%)
    - 5,921 cases listed as "serious" (7%)
- As of March 3rd, the WHO put the estimated highest mortality rate at 3.4%
- The highest mortality rate was measured in Wuhan (4.9%), while China's nationwide mortality rate was 2.1%. Average fatality rate in other provinces was 0.16%.
- Examining the total mortality profile, it emerged that 2/3rd was male, more than 80% were elderly over 60 year old and more than 75% had underlying diseases present such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and, in some cases, tumor.
- Elderly people with basic diseases, as long as they have pneumonia, were clinically a high-risk factor regardless of whether it is a coronavirus or not, and the case fatality rate was also very high, so it is not that the case fatality rate of pneumonia is high because of the infection with the new coronavirus. **"This point must be explained to everyone,"** concluded the NHC official.

Let's look at the "world's hot spot", Italy:
Population: 60,550,000
Total cases: 24,747
Deaths: 1,809
No. of cases vs. population: 0.04%   (4 of every 10,000)
Deaths: 0.003%   (3 of every 100,000)

To put this data into perspective: according to www.thelocal.it web site's data of January 19, 2020: "Since the start of flu season in October 2019, 2,768,000 cases across the country have been confirmed by laboratory tests…..A total of 488,000 cases were reported last week alone, signaling that flu season is hitting its peak in January as predicted….240 deaths have so far been reported ….Most of the fatal cases are elderly patients who suffered complications after contracting the virus."

In other words: there were **240 influenza related deaths** in 3.5 months between 2019 October and mid January, 2020 in Italy.

As a comparison, let's look at the US data:
Population: 329,450,000
Total cases: 3,535
Deaths: 65
No. of cases vs. population: 0.00107%   (1 of every 100,000)
Deaths 0.00002%   (2 of every 10,000,000 –ten million..)

(https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries)

Just to recap:
- **~34,000** people die in influenza every single year in the US alone
- **~50,000** people die in pneumonia every single year in the US alone
- **~140,000** people die from measles worldwide ever year

- ….we have **6,500** deaths worldwide of CoronaVirus

So, unless I'm missing something here, the question could be rationally asked: is this the reason we destroy the global economy, along with hundreds of millions of people losing or receiving significantly reduced paycheck?

If it was Ebola (death rate: 90%), --yes total quarantine, even curfew would be the right way to go. But –unless most published data are wrong- this entire phenomena is nothing but a severe case of mindless global hysteria.

Again (as most of the time) the media generated it, the herd mentality population followed it mindlessly, then governments felt the pressure to take radical steps. Yes, if I had a pregnant wife or a 92 year old grandpa, I would make sure I quarantine **_them_**. Which brings up another interesting issue of "we are quarantining the wrong people"; yes, we should hospitalize/quarantine the infected patients, but we should quarantine the vulnerable (like pregnant mothers and the elderly). Because someone needs to explain the upside of this scenario to me: little Lizzie goes with Mommy to Kroger, hangs on to the (just for the sake of conversation: infected) cart handle then goes home, jumps into grandpa's lap and gives him kisses. How this scenario will save grandpa while we are bringing the entire economy to the halt? Hm?

The scariest thing in this entire global phenomena how people (again) could be talked into something they mindlessly follow and cheer for (1939? Germany? Rings the bell?) Don't tell me this is a bad parallel; maybe you, but surely several of your neighbors have just come home from Costco (Kroger, Tom Thumb,…) where they bought a truckload of sugar, flour, toilet paper for 15 years, and 200 lb frozen chicken. Just in case. Just in case of World War III. And this is what you call "educated", "intelligent" and most of all "an adult".

But, I could be wrong, I could be missing something.