

MICHIGAN'S MILITIA-LIKE MORONS CAN'T MATH [UPDATE]

[Check the byline, thanks. /~Rayne]

They didn't look very smart, the armed motley mess which staged a protest last Thursday on Michigan's capitol steps culminating in a tantrum in the rotunda.

The protest reminded me of GOP representatives storming of a closed-door House hearing on the Ukraine quid pro quo – a staged protest meant to interfere and interrupt official governmental proceedings while providing a photo op for media and distracting the public from the underlying problem.

But last week's armed protesters looked bad even if they were merely a distracting photo op. How does this serve their interests? They've undermined any credibility their right-wing 'Blue Lives Matter' brethren pushed since Ferguson protests in 2014.



They're an embarrassment to this state just as their whiny predecessors were during their Gridlock protest on April 15, violating the executive Stay Home order to rally on the capitol building's steps, waving their Confederate flags and talking smack about the governor while puling about their lawns not getting cut and their roots not getting colored. Both protests two weeks apart violated the state's laws related to the governor's executive powers under a state of emergency.

But the embarrassment doesn't end at the sight of the right-wing monkey horde barking like mad dogs at public servants who are only doing what they're paid to do. It's the horde's inability to do basic math which makes them look deeply stupid.

The math:



Key:

Pink: 21 days from exposure at Easter to likely recovery.

Blue: 21 days from exposure at Gridlock protest to likely recovery.

Yellow: 21 days from exposure at Armed protest to likely recovery.

Lavender: 21 days from latest likely secondary exposure via Armed protest to likely recovery.

The period from exposure to COVID-19 carriers to average date clear of virus is about 21 days. The two protest rallies are marked off, Easter included since at least one church planned to hold service in spite of Governor Whitmer's Stay Home order.

(Note a boo-boo on my part, should have marked April 30 as the first of 21 days ending on June 10.)

If Michiganders hadn't had their little Gridlock tantrum on April 15, we'd have been done with Stay Home and more Michiganders would be alive today.

If all Michiganders stayed home uniformly as ordered and scrupulously obeyed the Stay Home order instead of a few hundred protesters having an armed conniption fit last Thursday, had they rigorously used masks whenever venturing into public spaces for essential business only, we'd have been done with the Stay Home order on the very day these rabid cretins protested in Lansing.

But no.

It's bad enough that Easter observations in violation of the Stay Home order may have caused a spike in deaths 9-10 days later. But a protest which was supposed to be confined to cars?



Deaths were trending downward until the idiots' Gridlock protest. It would be nice to know how many of the spike in deaths were people who attended the protest, or who broke the Stay Home order because they were inspired by Gridlock to do so. We may never know how many deaths were because of asymptomatic carriers exposed on that date unless researchers conduct a forensic genetic examination some time in the future.

To ignore this calculus and show up in the capitol without masks, ranting and exhaling in a confined space where law enforcement and lawmakers work is just plain moronic, risking personal health and life in a manner which also threatened others.

Or it's something far worse – a deliberate attempt not only to interfere with the deliberative process in which all Michiganders have a stake and are represented by their democratically elected officials, but a terror attack intended to hurt and possibly kill the targets of protesters' ire.

How many of the Michigan State Police, capitol police, lawmakers and staff will come down with COVID-19 as a direct result of this protest?

How many will represent minority majority regions of the state, disproportionately affected by COVID-19?

And how long will the rest of Michigan put up

with the death cultists who threaten others, waving guns around inside our representatives' workplace while blowing contagious viral material at others?

At this rate we'll be under some form of quarantine all damned summer because these spoiled, stupid wretches can't make the connection between their bad behavior and Michiganders' deaths.

This is an open thread.

UPDATE – 05-MAY-2020 2:45 PM EST –

It doesn't seem obvious to some people why Stay Home/shelter-in-place/lockdown is necessary in the absence of either proven pharmaceutical interventions to treat COVID-19 or a proven safe and effective vaccine targeting the underlying virus SARS-CoV-2. This tweet sums up the primary reason why Stay Home orders are necessary:

Going around my infectious-disease doctor friend's circles: "The end of stay-at-home orders doesn't mean COVID isn't a problem. It means they have room for you at the ICU."

– tedfrank □ (@tedfrank) May 4, 2020

Henry Ford and Beaumont hospitals in the Detroit area experienced a month ago what happens to our health care system when people aren't restricted from their former normal behavior. ICU beds are swamped, overflow capacity is likewise exceeded, ventilators and other respiratory aids are in short supply, painkiller and other drug inventory is decimated. Health care workers are overwhelmed and more likely to become sick themselves from a combination of stress, too many hours exposed to massive viral loads especially after personal protective gear has been depleted.

Lockdown to slow down the rate of contagion buys time for the health care system to handle the additional demand COVID-19 places on it – not to

mention easing the pressure on other peripheral systems like refrigerated trucking and mortuary services.

It's as if these armed cretins have already forgotten bodies piled up in hallways in at least on Michigan hospital.

But one additional benefit from a firm, well-enforced, and rigorously-observed lockdown: a change in citizens' perspective. A societal reset, a reboot of our expectations.

There will be no return to what we once called normal. It's done, gone, like poodle skirts and Brylcreem, rotary-dial phones and Betamax video, along with home parties hawking baby shit gold Tupperware.

These assholes spraying saliva as they scream at police – some of them out-of-state provocateurs – aren't saving anything with their assault weapon intimidation. They are hanging onto a past by their fingernails while the virus has its mindless and predictable way with our population.

As contributor Peterr wrote, a virus doesn't care. Those of us staying at home do. We don't want to excessively burden our health care workers and system, we don't want to hurt our friends and families by infecting them or causing them sorrow.

We want our state to get through this protracted period of discomfort and come out on the other side healthy and alive.

We'll observe the lockdown orders long enough to break the growth of contagion. We'll learn how to make and wear masks, and our lawmakers will learn how to ensure our law enforcement have the framework they need to maintain the break in contagion. If confirmed cases and deaths increase again, we'll go back into another lockdown until we break it again.

This will be our new normal, our new social compact, until drug therapy and/or vaccines are

ready in a year or two if we are lucky.

Lastly, we'll observe the lockdowns because this isn't the end of it. COVID-19 is only our here and now. Something else is out there waiting for us in the future once our new normal has been built.

These saliva-speckled jackasses screaming about their freedom while interfering with our democracy demonstrate our society isn't ready if another pathogen like SARS-CoV-2 emerged as the climate crisis worsens.

Stay home. Wear a mask when you can't. Keep your distance. Wash your hands.