

OCTOBER COVID SURPRISE: SO MUCH BULLSHIT, SO LITTLE TIME [UPDATE-4]

Here's a new post because the last post's comment thread is now unwieldy, and there's more fresh bullshit to wade through.

I have been wading through a bunch of material but don't have anything ready for publication. Community members still need some white space in which to discuss the latest Trump bullshit.

Have at it – I'll add content here shortly with any future updates to follow at the bottom of this post.

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Trump's little joy ride this evening did himself no favors. His body's under huge stress and he doesn't appear to recognize this, even if the Regeneron multi-antibody therapy is working.

There's a dearth of news about that antibody cocktail's success under compassionate use with other COVID patients. Regeneron released information about a study in which 275 out of a total 1100 participants received this therapy.

What's weird about the antibody cocktail is that they didn't release a study with data but a goddamned press release on Tuesday September 29, at 4:01 p.m.

Conveniently one minute after market close but before the debate, and potentially after some persons in the White House knew they were COVID-positive.

The steroid Trump received – dexamethasone – was the next appropriate step in the protocol for COVID based on Trump's depleted oxygen levels, which means the antibody cocktail wasn't working as quickly or as well as needed.

Dexamethasone would have been dispensed because Trump's oxygen level fell substantially; when asked, Conley said his level had not fallen into the low 80s – a level which would be cyanotic. This means Trump's O₂ probably did fall to 85% and likely needed oxygen and the steroid to prevent cyanosis.

A study this summer showed this steroid helps some patients:

RESULTS

A total of 2104 patients were assigned to receive dexamethasone and 4321 to receive usual care. Overall, 482 patients (22.9%) in the dexamethasone group and 1110 patients (25.7%) in the usual care group died within 28 days after randomization (age-adjusted rate ratio, 0.83; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.75 to 0.93; $P < 0.001$). The proportional and absolute between-group differences in mortality varied considerably according to the level of respiratory support that the patients were receiving at the time of randomization. In the dexamethasone group, the incidence of death was lower than that in the usual care group among patients receiving invasive mechanical ventilation (29.3% vs. 41.4%; rate ratio, 0.64; 95% CI, 0.51 to 0.81) and among those receiving oxygen without invasive mechanical ventilation (23.3% vs. 26.2%; rate ratio, 0.82; 95% CI, 0.72 to 0.94) but not among those who were receiving no respiratory support at randomization (17.8% vs. 14.0%; rate ratio, 1.19; 95% CI, 0.91 to 1.55).

CONCLUSIONS

In patients hospitalized with Covid-19, the use of dexamethasone resulted in lower 28-day mortality among those who were receiving either invasive mechanical ventilation or oxygen alone at randomization but not among those

receiving no respiratory support.

Source:

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2021436>

But Trump is NOT receiving respiratory support consistently based on yesterday's photos and proof-of-life video, this evening's his stunt ride as well as the sketchy information his physicians have given. The steroid would not be as beneficial to him as it would be to patients on ventilators.

To my knowledge Trump's physicians have already shot their COVID arsenal. If Trump has additional difficulty breathing he'll likely be put under anesthesia into an induced coma and intubated. If he gets to that point he won't have a choice about it because his low oxygen level could cause a cascade of organ failures – a crash.

We can deduce his lungs are compromised because of Dr. Conley's hedging about their appearance ("There's some expected findings, but nothing of any major clinical concern," he said).

It's likely Trump's being monitored for cardiac symptoms given the use of ultrasound and the frequency with which COVID causes myocarditis. We can't rule out the possibility Trump had cardiac symptoms when he went on an unscheduled visit to Walter Reed last November which may mean he's at greater risk of myocarditis.

And it's likely Trump's got some degree of COVID brain as well, which the steroid will make worse – he'll have cloudy thinking but with mania. A number of doctors from different fields have expressed concerns about dexamethasone's affect on Trump's capacity given the possibility of mania, delirium/confusion while under its influence.

We don't even know yet if Trump has been free of fever without antipyretic medication.

I'm not a doctor, but none of this suggests to

me that Trump will be ready to be released from Walter Reed tomorrow, joy ride or not.

Any future updates to follow at the bottom of this post.

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UPDATE-1 – 10:00 A.M. 05-OCT-2020 –

The cover-up continues. One of the White House correspondents, Michael D. Shear, has tested positive for COVID-19 and is now disclosing the White House has not made any effort to reach out to him as part of contact tracing. (Open pic link below to launch tweeted video clip of interview with Shear.)

JUST NOW: @shearm, one of the WH reporters who has tested positive says he has received ZERO outreach, no contact tracing at all.

[ZERO.pic.twitter.com/TngXhKuDUc](https://pic.twitter.com/TngXhKuDUc)

– John Berman (@JohnBerman) October 5, 2020

There has been no mention of the White House or members of the Centers for Disease Control reaching out to anyone else who was in attendance at the Barrett 'Rose Garden Massacre' where it's believed more than a couple people were infected.

As Marcy noted in Twitter, it looks increasingly like Trump was infected on Thursday or Friday, 24-25 September, and that he may be responsible for a number of the cases associated with the Barrett 'Rose Garden Massacre'.

But this also means Trump was infectious at the debate and may have knowingly attempted to infect his opponent, Joe Biden.

Melania also tested positive and was the only family Trump family member to wear a mask, though she did so while seated in the audience and not while on the debate stage upon Trump's entrance. Was she told not to wear a mask on

stage not only because Trump is anti-mask but because Trump wanted to increase the viral load on the stage?

This isn't just a case of indifference like that Trump showed yesterday by taking a joy ride in the presidential limousine, forcing Secret Service personnel into a hermetically-sealed vessel in which they could not escape any of his aerosolized exhalation which may have escaped his mask.

It's a deliberate effort to avoid handling the COVID-19 outbreak surrounding Trump, and a deliberate effort to hurt the election process by biological assault against an opposing candidate.

Back in April when the White House COVID-19 Task Force was working on a national plan to respond to the pandemic, there was a pointed effort *not* to roll out a national plan:

... Against that background, the prospect of launching a large-scale national plan was losing favor, said one public health expert in frequent contact with the White House's official coronavirus task force.

Most troubling of all, perhaps, was a sentiment the expert said a member of Kushner's team expressed: that because the virus had hit blue states hardest, a national plan was unnecessary and would not make sense politically. "The political folks believed that because it was going to be relegated to Democratic states, that they could blame those governors, and that would be an effective political strategy," said the expert.

That logic may have swayed Kushner. "It was very clear that Jared was ultimately the decision maker as to what [plan] was going to come out," the expert said...

It was Kushner's political calculus, with Trump's implicit imprimatur, to allow Americans in blue states to sicken and to die without testing or other federal public health assistance because their states didn't support Trump.

Who is responsible for the political calculus to allow members of Congress, White House staff and correspondents, Trump campaign team members, spouses and children, to be exposed to COVID-19 without any attempt to trace the source of the infection, to avoid making Trump look bad?

Any future updates to follow at the bottom of this post.

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UPDATE-2 – 11:00 A.M. 05-OCT-2020 –

Uh-huh.

Meadows has said the White House learned of Hope Hicks' positive test "right as" Marine One was lifting off and pulled some aides from the trip. Kayleigh McEnany was pulled around 45 minutes before Trump left, and wasn't given a reason why. <https://t.co/9rrP4tizH0>

– Rebecca Ballhaus (@rebeccaballhaus)
October 4, 2020

Reported through a Murdoch-owned outlet:

WASHINGTON—President Trump didn't disclose a positive result from a rapid test for Covid-19 on Thursday while awaiting the findings from a more thorough coronavirus screening, according to people familiar with the matter.

Mr. Trump received a positive result on Thursday evening before making an appearance on Fox News in which he didn't reveal those results. Instead, he confirmed earlier reports that one of

his top aides had tested positive for coronavirus and mentioned the second test he had taken that night for which he was awaiting results.

“I’ll get my test back either tonight or tomorrow morning,” Mr. Trump said during the interview. At 1 a.m. on Friday, the president tweeted that he indeed had tested positive.

Who are those “persons familiar with the matter” – Kushner? Others who’ve been covering Trump’s ass as well as their own because they have a vested interest in not getting embroiled in lawsuits or investigations?

Meanwhile,

The story I want to read today is about the fear and dread and rage among the lower level White House staff, who now know what their employer is capable of. (Not that they couldn’t have known before.) It has begun to come out here and there, but I want to see the full treatment.

– Jay Rosen (@jayrosen_nyu) October 5, 2020

We’ve seen feedback leaking out across Twitter indicating staff and their network are very unhappy with how the White House has handled this outbreak and Trump’s joy ride which risked the health of Secret Service agents for a campaign stunt.

How do we reconcile what WSJ reported when other details don’t stack up and staffers are fearful and unhappy?

Any future updates to follow at the bottom of this post.

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By the way, lest we forget: as of this update there have been 209,603 COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.

The country is on track to exceed 210,000 deaths from COVID-19 within the next 24-48 hours.

There were an estimated +618,756 new cases this past week, compared to less than 1,000 around the Pacific Rim countries.

I think I predicted 200,000 deaths by Election Day. I guess I was wrong, putting too much faith in state governments and in Americans to take the right measures to protect themselves since the Trump administration is intent on failing them.

The cherry on top of this disaster: Team Trump is now attacking Joe Biden for not having COVID-19 – utter insanity.

Any future updates to follow at the bottom of this post.

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UPDATE-4 – 11:40 A.M. 05-OCT-2020 –

I wish somebody could shut down this firehose.

Press Secretary McEnany attacked the media yesterday.

White House Press Sec. Kayleigh McEnany says she has tested positive for coronavirus days after Trump <https://t.co/UfBLYD2Z0t>

– Emma Kinery (@EmmaKinery) October 5, 2020

She should have self-isolated after being in contact with multiple infected persons but no. She deliberately attacked the press by exposing them to a biological agent during her maskless briefing.

I mean we've seen some hacks come and go as press secretary but I don't recall any of them

being this malicious with the people who are the reason they have a job at all.

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