

Letter: Trump refuses to follow the COVID science

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Scott Atlas, Trump's newly minted COVID-19 adviser, is a charlatan posing as knowledgeable in infectious diseases but lacking relevant expertise. Atlas is a radiologist who has been repudiated by 78 of his former colleagues from Stanford Medical School for expressing opinions contrary to medical science consensus.

Herd immunity with a disease such as COVID-19 requires that 70% of the population become immune. With a current population of 330 million, this means 230 million Americans must contract the disease, recover, and become immune. Unfortunately, the jury is still out on whether those recovering from COVID-19 gain long-term immunity.

Case mortality in the U.S. is currently 2.9%. Assuming that this death rate applies to those Americans contracting the disease, over 6 million of us must die.

Additionally, many individuals recovering from the disease experience long-term damage to their lungs, heart and brain. Thus, in addition to the millions of deaths, Trump's plan will cause many thousands of Americans to suffer long-term health consequences.

At the same time as he's promoting American deaths, Trump is committed to eliminating the Affordable Care Act and eliminate health coverage for millions of Americans.

We have choices: follow medical science or proposals leading to millions of deaths.

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