A thread by **Tom Inglesby**

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Serious concern that large scale quarantine for nCoV will be ineffective and could have big negative consequences. I think priority instead should be on maximum possible increase in diagnostic testing in Wuhan, and in provinces & cities around China. #2019nCoV (1/x)

All available biotech/diagnostic co./lab system capacity should be harnessed to expand capacity to diagnose cases. China should use its great industrial capacity to make all diagnostics it can. Need to know how extensive disease is to make wise, high impact decisions. (2x)

People w/ NCoV should be isolated in hosp only if they need hosp care. Others could be isolated at home – need to preserve hosp care for people who need it, and keep non acutely ill people out of hosp (until/unless they need it), and this diminishes risk of spread in hosp (3/x)

Making sure the public has confidence that they can get a clear diagnosis when they go to the hospital and that they can get good, safe medical care is really important. (4x)

Large scale quarantine could hurt these dx and isolation efforts. Could make it harder for people to get a Dx, make people less confident in overall response, or afraid of it. Could make it harder for public health, med, scientific professionals to get where needed. (5/x)

Large scale quarantines could make it difficult to move hospital supplies from place to place where needed. May make people less likely to want to self report their illness, or make them want to leave the area if they could find a way. (6/x)

Large quarantine will places enormous burden on government to ensure routine food, meds, basic necessities continue to flow into city and get to the many millions of people who need them. A prolonged logistical undertaking like this in huge cities hasn’t happened before. (7/x)

A logistical effort on this scale seems likely to draw resources away from focuse efforts to dx and isolate (home or hospital), and care for sick nCoV cases in affected cities and elsewhere. (8/x)

What needs to be a top priority now is to get clarity, though intensive diagnostic testing in Wuhan and around china, where the disease is. That will also define how often it is mild vs severe, and whether severe illness usually requires underlying medical conditions. (9/x)

Of course vaccine and Rx should be pursued in China and around world as quickly as possible, but in best possible case, those efforts will take a lot of time. (10/x)

Meantime, pub education, extensive Dx testing, hosp care for those who need it, strong hosp infxn control, home isolation for people with disease who are not very sick, transparent communication, working to preserve trust in government efforts – all will be pivotal. (11/x)
These things are key for the response in China and for any country responding to cases of this new disease. (12/x)