A thread by Tom Inglesby  
*Shared on Twitter on 5/4/2020*

More states starting to ease social distancing. Important again to take stock of #COVID19 trends around US. On national level, first trend is there continues to be ~30,000 new cases a day. More than 200,000 new cases of #COVID19 in past wk alone. [https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html) 

1/x

COVID sickness & mortality in US in past month has been severe. In April alone, there were >800,000 new cases and >90% of our ~66,000 US deaths. Of course, continues to be horrendous economic loss around country, so its key to find safe path to restart econ, reverse job loss. 2/x

Unfortunately we've been in a national plateau in daily cases since before April began. While a stable daily rate is better than a rapidly rising one, national numbers haven't yet started to come down, and that's concerning, esp as many states moving to ease social distancing. 3/x

47 countries in the world have daily case counts that are falling. The US is not one of them. We are among 27 countries who numbers are in plateau. Another 69 countries have daily case counts that are rising. [https://nytimes.com/interactive/2020/world/coronavirus-maps.html](https://nytimes.com/interactive/2020/world/coronavirus-maps.html) 

4/x

At the individual US state level, the impact+trajectory of the epidemic is quite varied. There are about 7 states that look like they have more or less had 2 wk decline in cases that would meet White House gating criteria for easing social distancing. 5/x

Whether those 7 states, or others, have set the other conditions for a safer reopening – widespread dx testing to include mild cases; strong PH capacity to rapidly isolate cases, trace contacts&quarantine them; enough PPE+capacity in hosps – is harder to gauge independently. 6/x

There are a couple other US states that have low absolute numbers overall that may be lower risk. Also a few that have had a 2 week decline but whose absolute numbers are still so high that there would be substantial risks around rapid reopening. 7/x

Unfortunately, 25 states still have daily new cases rising. And 25 states have daily new case counts in the 250 or more range -- in states w/ those numbers it will be challenging to identify, quarantine all or most contacts. 8/x

There are many states above 10% positive in their diagnostic testing, and a substantial minority still close to 20% or higher – evidence that diagnostic testing needs to be substantially expanded in those places. 9/x
Not all states share same data publicly. All states should share trends in daily hospitalization rate, ICU bed rate, vent rate. Those are key early indicators of whether social distancing changes are being absorbed w/out negative consequence vs causing the epidemic to worsen. 10/x

States should also share daily updates on PPE supply (as compared to the need). And share the number of contact tracers on the job. Most states fortunately already share testing numbers, daily case counts and deaths. 11/x

As reopening moves ahead, there'll continue to be extraordinary need to protect the elderly, in whom lethality is highest by far. And great need to prevent outbreaks in larger institutions, inc. nursing homes, prisons, factories, where we have seen many big outbreaks. 12/x

Hopefully elective hosp + outpt care will be among the earliest efforts to restart around the country, given very high impact of deferred care. Hosps will need to have dx testing to prevent in-hosp outbreaks, and they should determine when they have capacity to safely resume. 13/x

Concerning to see some leaders, influencers implying country will be in the clear from this pandemic soon. When above less risky conditions are established in a state, it does make sense to begin to carefully ease social distancing, restart econ. But we won't be in the clear. 14/x

This virus remains the same highly transmissible virus that started all this. On March 1, the US had 100 recognized cases. 2 months later we have 1.1M recognized cases. We will need to respect the high capacity this virus has to do harm in the US until we have a vaccine. 15/x

Leaders & influencers should be communicating that even as some states begin to reopen, we're still in early stages of this pandemic, people need to continue their own 6 ft physical distancing, wear masks in public, avoid gatherings, telecommute, good hand hygiene, etc. 16/x

Some other countries have begun to reopen. They have far lower case #s than US does so they're starting in better position. But more importantly, there continues to be strong national societal and individual commitment to reducing risk.

https://nytimes.com/2020/05/03/world/coronavirus-news.html?referringSource=articleShare

17/x

We should all have that kind of sustained national and personal commitment to reducing risks in time ahead as we begin to move toward re-opening the economy, whether in work places, public spaces and in our own decisions. 18/x

The virus hasn’t changed, and will do what is has done since it appeared. But hopefully all of us will have changed the way we think and act, as we consider how to move ahead carefully to reopen country. 19/end