A thread by **Tom Inglesby**  
*Shared on Twitter on 5/29/2020*

Very bad, consequential news that US has announced planned withdrawal from [@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO). Hopefully it reverses course or Congress stops it from happening. If not the US loses a critical partner on COVID19, and loses influence on global health & science.  

Is [@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO) perfect? No. There will be time later to consider changes. As compared to where it was 5 yrs ago? More operational, faster to respond. They provide substantial technical and operational assistance around world. With COVID, they moved quickly  

On the whole, [@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO) is respected by countries around the world. Spend time to explore this app on COVID and see the kinds of high quality technical guidance they present to the world  

For many countries in the world that don’t have their own capabilities or experts, [@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO) is the primary source of technical assistance and guidance.  

[@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO) provides frequent detailed briefings to the public about COVID developments. They are direct and informative. They are the kinds of briefings [@CDCgov](https://twitter.com/CDCgov) used to give but no longer does (CDC: Please begin those briefings again when permitted. WH: please permit them again)  

[@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO) is part of major international COVID vaccine development collaboration – together w/ [@CEPIvaccines](https://twitter.com/CEPIvaccines). The US has said it will not participate in that effort. Why further distance ourselves from an organization steering international COVID vaccine trials and development?  

Are there any leading US scientists, doctors, public health officials who believe the US should withdraw from [@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO)? – I doubt it. We should ask them. Also we had US people [@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO) all along.  

If it withdraws from [@WHO](https://twitter.com/WHO), the US will lose a key means of shaping global health guidance, norms and practices. It would be withdrawing from the dominant forum for international health collaboration.
The US would be withdrawing from a key means of support to poorest countries in the world. For decades the US has been a major supporter of @WHO efforts to help alleviate global health scourges. Withdrawal would be a reversal of that international leadership position. 9/x

It could mean the US no longer intends to comply w/ International Health Regulations (IHR). If other countries followed suit, then the IHR grows weaker, countries become less prepared to prevent + respond to future outbreaks. Then the world gets more vulnerable to epidemics. 10/x

Will the US be ending any support for @WHO efforts to end polio around the world? to stop TB? To control HIV? Why would that be in the US interest? 11/x

If we were in the middle of a massive hurricane that would last for 12-18 months, we would not eliminate the national weather service. Why would we endanger @WHO during the biggest pandemic storm of the last 100 years that could last 12-18 months or longer? 12/x

The decision to withdraw from US should be reversed. The US should work with other countries and @WHO to control COVID19, to develop a vaccine. And the US should continue to collaborate w/ and support ongoing work of @WHO to improve global health around the world. 13/end