A thread by **Tom Inglesby**

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Maryland announced a series of new decisions about reopening today. I’ve been asked what I think of the decisions. While I agree with the public health messages communicated yesterday, I don’t agree with a number of the decisions. [https://baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-hogan-wednesday-20200610-weroxiv7danchhntfrsyrht2ae4-story.html](https://baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-hogan-wednesday-20200610-weroxiv7danchhntfrsyrht2ae4-story.html)

I do agree with a number of statements by Governor and Dec Sec Phillips yesterday afternoon: “Fight against virus not over”, “All of us have to exercise personal responsibility”, “Stay 6 feet apart, wear face coverings”, ”outdoor safer than indoor”... 2/x

And.. “Confined space is higher risk, and the longer the time you spend in that space the higher the risk”, “Be prudent if you have underlying conditions or are older”, “just because something is open doesn’t mean you should go do it” 3/x

But I don’t agree we should end limits on indoor large gatherings. We shouldn’t restart conventions. There’ve been outbreaks of COVID in indoor restaurants and bars, so they will also be higher risk. Casinos will also pose new risks unless major mitigation efforts made. 4/x

Group gatherings are situations where this virus has great capacity to spread widely. 5/x

COVID #’s have been moving in right direction in MD. Cases hospitalizations, ICU beds trending downward. But since May 29, MD has opened offices, manufacturing, construction, dealerships, insurance, outdoor restaurants, personal services. We haven’t had time to see impact. 6/x

And in last 2 weeks there have been sizable protests in the state that could contribute to increased spread of disease. We should wait to see how the state does in the coming weeks before making more changes. 7/x

We had 519 new cases yesterday in Maryland. We need to drive that number down. More disease control would bring more public confidence, would be better for the state economy. We can’t let hundreds of cases a day become our new normal. 8/x

We need to diagnose extensively, contact trace extensively, manage cases very closely. Contact tracing will be very hard to do effectively and sustain with many hundreds of new cases a day. 9/x

Our numbers are moving in right direction, but future success is about what we choose to do next. Some states w/ earlier success now have rapidly rising cases. We should continue to strive to be a state that keeps driving numbers down until this virus under tighter control. 10/x