7 Levels of Coronavirus Attack and How We Can Fight Back
7 Levels of Coronavirus Impact

1. Biological & Medical (Life & Death)
2. Psychological (Emotion – Fear & Love)
3. Economic (Employment, Productivity & Financial Burden)
4. Political (Partisanship & Policy)
5. Social (Collective Cognition, Panic & Conspiracy)
6. Existential (Civilization-Level Extinction)
7. Philosophical (Meaning of Life)
Level 1: Biological & Medical

• Pain:
  • 100K to 10M+ may die
    (estimated annual mortality burden of influenza: 290-650K [10])

• Challenge:
  • People: Social distancing, wash hands (don’t infect & don’t get infected)
  • Infrastructure: Healthcare and service workers fight on the frontline
  • Medical: Test, treat, and trace
  • Science: Antiviral drugs, vaccines
  • Manufacture & logistics: Ventilators, test kits, protective equipment

• Hope:
  • Minimize loss of life: Flatten the curve – avoid overwhelming resources
  • Dress rehearsal: Prepare for a much worse future pandemic – invest in science, healthcare infrastructure
  • Technology: Discuss role of technology for managing spread pandemic that balances privacy and health.

For the full list of references visit: https://bit.ly/coronavirus-levels

[2, 3, 10]
Level 2: Psychological

• Pain:
  • Fear of uncertainty at all levels (health, job, food, water, power, internet)
  • Existential dread & social/family tensions

• Challenge:
  • Stay calm, stay informed: reason over emotion
  • Re-evaluate your life journey: Ask yourself “Am I living my dream, my passion?” and if I'm not, “What personal revolution can start that will change that?” Now is the time for a revolution. Starting writing. Start planning. What business do you want to create? What new career do you want to pursue?

• Hope:
  • Improve: Re-evaluate your life and start a personal revolution if needed.
  • Compassion: In the face of great uncertainty, love conquers fear.
Level 3: Social (Collective Cognition)

• Pain:
  • Social distancing has led to a reliance on social media for connection and gradual replacement of individual thought with collective cognition
  • Panic (magnification of Level 2 through social media)
  • Misinformation and conspiracy theories

• Challenge:
  • Meditation: Do not connect to the hive mind of social media. Listen to your inner voice.
  • Facts: Read source scientific material not opinions on the material
  • Think: Think critically on your own.

• Hope:
  • Tool: Social media and the internet becomes a useful tool for gathering scientific findings and well-reasoned opinions (from many opposing perspectives).
  • Connection: Social networks grow up to be a place that encourages friendships, real human connections and not dopamine-fueled drama.
Level 4: Economic

• Pain:
  • 2020 global GDP growth -2.0% to +2.7% (+3.1% originally predicted) [4]
    • Some economists predicting a depression (-24% GDP drop in Q2) [6,8]
  • 3-7 million US jobs may be lost by summer (service industry, hotels, restaurants, travel industry) [5]
  • 50% of US small businesses may go bankrupt [7] in 3 months (or be forced to completely reinvent themselves, slashing costs and jobs)

• Challenge:
  • (As Citizen) **Stimulus**: Hold politicians accountable. Stay informed on the details of the fiscal stimulus. Make sure it benefits people who need it.
  • (As Consumer) **Spending**: If you can, keep purchasing things you need, especially supporting small and local businesses.
  • (As Business) **Reinvent**: Add online component, diversify, pivot, etc.

• Hope:
  • **Financial Burden is Universal**: We are in this together. You are not alone.
  • **Fast Recovery (V not U)**: Fiscal stimulus works to empower consumers to resume spending, businesses restart, unemployment drops back
Level 5: Political

- **Pain:**
  - Partisan divide (impeachment, elections) lead to politicization of the virus
  - Diminishment of our rights and freedoms for slowing spread of pandemic

- **Challenge:**
  - **Democracy:** Do not let a few charlatans in government (of any party affiliation) capitalize on our fear (see level 2) with an overreach of power (surveillance, martial law, detaining people w/o trial, cancelling elections)
  - **Unity:** Do not look at the coronavirus through a political lens
  - **Stimulus:** $1+ trillion stimulus package in US

- **Hope:**
  - **Government:** Federal infrastructure that responds to global threats
  - **Reinvigorated Citizenry:** Reminder that we can accomplish more on big issues if we don't engage in cheap political bickering
  - **Don't Politicize Science:** Allow everyone to do their part with experts leading the way (doctors, scientists, engineers, etc).
Level 6: Existential

- **Pain:**
  - Dress rehearsal for global catastrophes and existential threats: engineered and natural enemies

- **Challenge:**
  - Investment in large-scale scientific research

- **Hope:**
  - Learn to worry about a problem before it’s too late to stop it from killing 1+ billion people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Estimated probability for human extinction before 2100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall probability</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular nanotechnology weapons</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintelligent AI</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>All wars (including civil wars)</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineered pandemic</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear war</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nanotechnology accident</td>
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<td>Natural pandemic</td>
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<td>Nuclear terrorism</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table source: *Future of Humanity Institute*, 2008.[16]
Level 7: Philosophical

- Pain:
  - Life is full of suffering

- Challenge:
  - Love for fellow human beings

- Hope:
  - Greater sense of community