



Amy Coopes @coopesdetat

22 Oct · 40 tweets · [coopesdetat/status/1319171637212631041](https://twitter.com/coopesdetat/status/1319171637212631041)



Tweeting from a session with [@VictorianCHO](https://twitter.com/VictorianCHO) & [@devisridhar](https://twitter.com/devisridhar) on [#COVID19](https://twitter.com/COVID19) at [#austph2020](https://twitter.com/austph2020). Will thread below

We will hear from [@devisridhar](https://twitter.com/devisridhar) first and then [@VictorianCHO](https://twitter.com/VictorianCHO) and then a Q&A [#austph2020](https://twitter.com/austph2020)

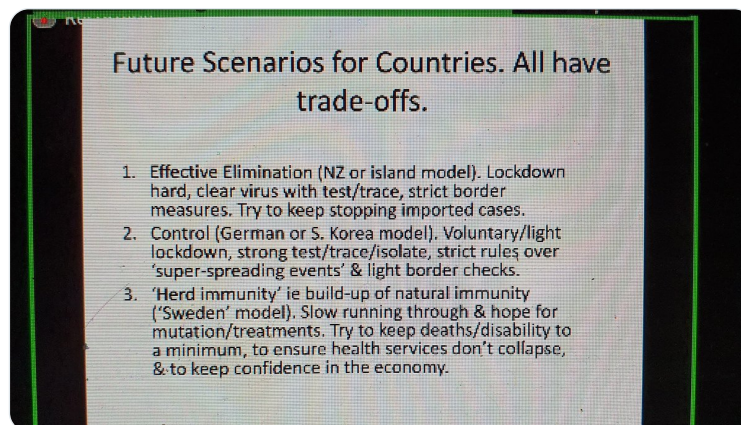
Devi is going to start with a global snapshot of [#covid19](https://twitter.com/covid19). Number of cases increasing every day. It's just taking off, every day new records set and things accelerating. In a growth phase and yet to peak

Contrary to expectations this pandemic has not hit hardest in poorer areas says Sridhar. People are getting fatigued. Australia from global perspective seen as a success - winning, and second wave a 'bump' relative [#covid19](https://twitter.com/covid19) [#austph2020](https://twitter.com/austph2020)

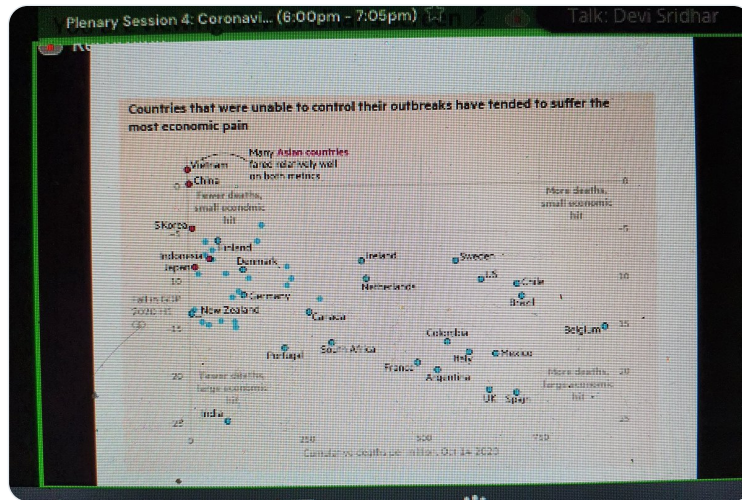
We have made progress on some things but not others. Nowhere near broadscale popn exposure in terms of immunity question. We don't know how long immunity lasts, but also how immune system responds, fully [#covid19](https://twitter.com/covid19) [#austph2020](https://twitter.com/austph2020)

[#longcovid](https://twitter.com/longcovid) another big questions, how do we rehab these people? Aged 30-59 typically. How long does recovery take? Treatments. Children - why do different ages respond differently, what does this mean for schools [#austph2020](https://twitter.com/austph2020) [#COVID19](https://twitter.com/COVID19)

Potential roadmaps ahead, from [@devisridhar](https://twitter.com/devisridhar) [#austph2020](https://twitter.com/austph2020) [#COVID19](https://twitter.com/COVID19)



Sridhar says we are going to see multiple waves and the 'herd immunity' argument is a straw man. Uncontrolled outbreaks also cause most economic pain [#austph2020](https://twitter.com/austph2020) [#COVID19](https://twitter.com/COVID19)



Hearing from [@VictorianCHO](#) now [#COVID19](#) [#austph2020](#)

Apparently [@VictorianCHO](#) has had more Google hits in 2020 than Emma from [@TheWiggles](#) [#covid19](#) [#austph2020](#)

We have to use this crisis to be forward looking and to be as constructive as possible, says Sutton. We have short memories with regard to pandemics [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

The fact is we dodged a bullet with SARS, it was an epidemic that lasted for 7 months, ultimately managed through track and trace and with a really robust and vigorous case response. 10% CFR vs 1-1.5% for [#COVID19](#) [#AUSTPH2020](#)

[#covid19](#) did place a magnifying glass on social issues - inequity and disadvantage. We need to take a lesson and address these when we rebuild. Also popn ageing, economic interdependence, climate change, biodiversity loss. This virus is a zoonosis [#austph2020](#)

Traditionally we have a zoonosis every 25 years, we may be approaching a time where that happens every decade or less, Sutton warns. We are pushing our planet to its extreme [#austph2020](#) [#covid19](#)

Sutton talking about huge value of public health, illustrated by this pandemic. 2.5million life years lost in US so far to [#COVID19](#), and that doesn't count [#longcovid](#) he says [#austph2020](#)

Of course public health decisions must be proportionate, impossible decisions, but he says many tens of thousands of cases have been averted in Australia and in Victoria particularly [#COVID19](#) [#austph2020](#)

Sutton talking about importance of decentralised public health models, agile and bespoke responses. Importance of diverse public health workforce with skills in comms, cultural capacity, econometrics. And need for strategy & succession plan [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

He says we need to make sure that we don't lose skills built in [#COVID19](#). Must build on and grow. Importance of teams in decision-making and consulting broadly. Importance of new and challenging perspectives [#austph2020](#)

Questions now for Sridhar & Sutton [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

What is best path fwd for UK and what prospect they will take it, Sridhar is asked. She says there is a question of feasibility and then question of what is optimal. East Asia and Pacific winning - strong test trace isolate, clear messaging, strong border controls [#austph2020](#)

Sridhar says very far off that in UK. Taking a week to turn round tests. Only 18% of positive cases isolating, 11% of contacts. Fatigue setting in, going for herd immunity strategy. At a quite dangerous moment, people very sceptical abt lockdown, no pay-off [#COVID19](#) [#austph2020](#)

Sridhar says vaccine will be a tool to help, not a silver bullet or fairytale ending to the pandemic [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

She says way to go is Australia, NZ, East Asia model. People really resisting border closures in Europe and major contributor, vs successful nations [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

Sutton says should not be one voice, mode or message, need to recognise diversity of audience. Local input. People need to be taken on journey and be engaged. Honesty is important [#covid19](#) [#austph2020](#)

Drivers of more frequent pandemics? Climate change big one but also urbanisation, increased connectivity of populations, and increasing human:animal links says Sridhar. Key for us to understand how COVID spilled over [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

Sutton says it is a complex interrelationship (pandemic and climate change). Really substantial challenges for the human race going forward. Surveillance needs to be a key measure, seen how important this was w [#COVID19](#). Symptomatic, sequencing

Asked how to navigate social media in the [#COVID19](#) era as a public health official. Sridhar says clear science is under attack and being made a scapegoat for people's emotions and reactions [#austph2020](#)

We have to keep speaking truth in a world where disinformation is rife says [@devisridhar](#). COVID has occurred in a populist, polarised world. Have to keep coming back to evidence, ethics, morals [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

Sutton says key is to be faithful to the science, speak the truth about really difficult realities. Recognise in a space where people want simple solutions and easy way out you will have high emotions, esp when this comes to the most intimate details of life [#austph2020](#)

No absolute clear single pathway, we must be frank and fearless in the advice we give. No one questions how a fire-fighter fights a fire, and this is the situation we are in. Proliferation of armchair experts. Acknowledge the uncertainty [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

Question on stamina. How do you keep going? Sridhar speaking about burnout and frustration of expertise being ignored. But this is our life's work, there is a path & we

will find the way through. Next 4 months in Europe will be rough but we will come through [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#).

Sutton says it is a challenge. Started at a sprint in late Jan and have been sprinting ever since. Significant burden for so many. Did not expect a marathon at this pace. Pillars of self care - eating, sleeping, some respite where you can get it [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#)

Sutton says family being caught up in things in recent days has been the worst part of the last 12 months. But he does feel optimistic about 2021 [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#).

[#covid19](#) has exposed and exacerbated inequalities in [#sdoh](#) and we need to recognise and address these, says Sridhar. What kind of world do we want to live in? [#austph2020](#)

ACCHO sector getting a massive hat tip here. Sutton says it has lessons for everyone - what happens when affected community takes leadership, ownership of their own destiny. Understood needs, nuances [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#).

Sutton says he hopes this year not just seen as challenge to health systems and services but shows the undeniable value of public health. Herculean efforts of so many but public health has been at the heart of our success [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#).

Sridhar says next debate will be around how to target vaccine - worst affected, or those most likely to spread? We need to know how long the immunity will last, and also about [#longcovid](#) morbidity and scale of that. Will inform strategy [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#).

Jokes that Melburnians ought to get the vaccine before Sydneysiders. But other unknowns - role of kids in transmission, what the drivers are at the time. How big numbers are. What kind of vaccine it is [#austph2020](#) [#COVID19](#).

Sridhar says single biggest lesson from [#COVID19](#) should be humility and learning from each other. For Sutton he says he hopes for optimism, resilience. Such forbearance and grace seen. As gregarious animals we really do need each other [#austph2020](#)

That is a wrap on the session, thank you for following along. Will wrap this over at [@CroakeyNews](#) soon! [#austph2020](#)

• • •