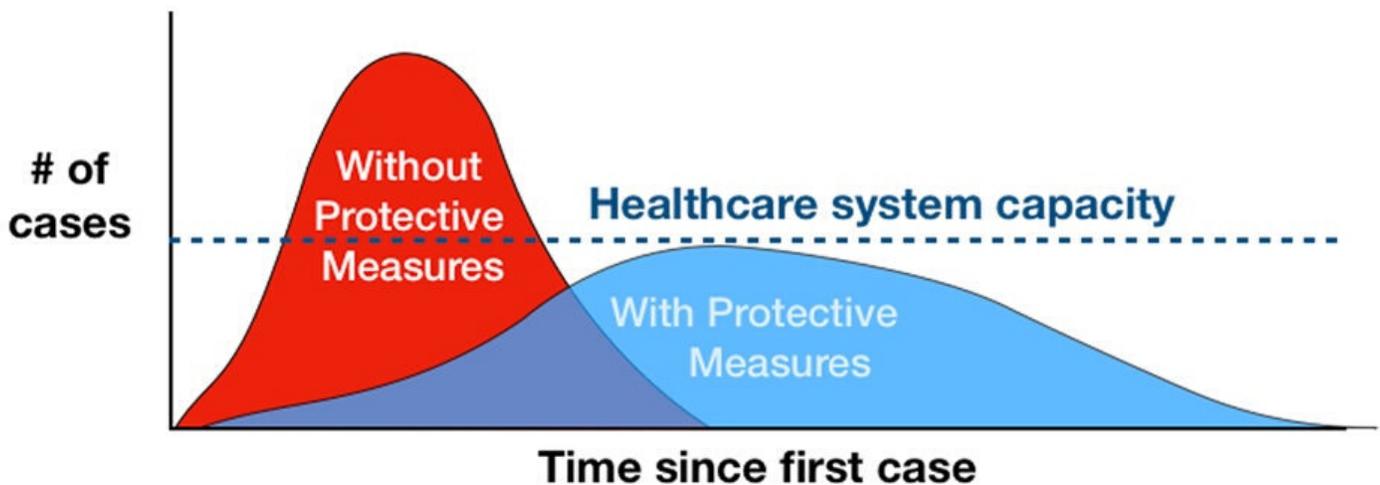


Flattening The Curve

Why Gatherings Are Cancelling and Protective Measures Are In Place

- From "Why 'Flattening The Curve' May Be The World's Best Bet To Slow the Coronavirus" - Stat, March 11, 2020



Adapted from CDC / The Economist

“If you look at the curves of outbreaks, they go big peaks, and then come down. What we need to do is flatten that down,” Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told reporters Tuesday 3/10/2020. “That would have less people infected. That would ultimately have less deaths. You do that by trying to interfere with the natural flow of the outbreak.”

On any normal day, health systems in the United States typically run close to capacity. If a hospital is overwhelmed by Covid-19 cases, patients will have a lower chance of surviving than they would if they became ill when the hospital's patient load was more manageable. People in car crashes, people with cancer, pregnant women who have complications during delivery — all those people risk getting a lesser caliber of care when a hospital is trying to cope with the chaos of an outbreak. “I think the whole notion of flattening the curve is to slow things down so that this doesn't hit us like a brick wall,” said Michael Mina, associate medical director of clinical microbiology at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital. “It's really all borne out of the risk of our health care infrastructure pulling apart at the seams if the virus spreads too quickly and too many people start showing up at the emergency room at any given time.”

“Powell, Wyoming, has three fully-occupied senior living facilities and only two intensive care beds in our local hospital. The concern about capacity to meet the potential care needs for our town during an outbreak is very real.”

- Dr. Dean Bartholomew