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You may have noticed something about your social media contacts.

They think cases go up when people disregard state-imposed restrictions, and go down when they comply.

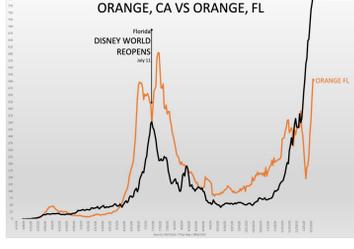
These are people who haven't seen any charts.

Some of the ones that follow were generated by Ian Miller (@ianmSC), and some by me using the Worldometers site.

Let's start with two Orange Counties, one in California and one in Florida. The one in California has been shut down for eight months. It is the home of the only Disney property in the world that is still closed. California has a young population: it's the 44th oldest of the 50 states.

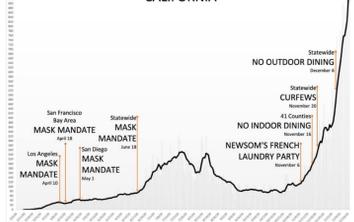
The one in Florida is completely open, including theme parks and entertainment venues, with no state-imposed occupancy restrictions. Florida is the second-oldest of the 50 states.

Isn't it funny how closely the two track each other -- until the end, of course, when California's goes through the roof?



I guess California and Florida obey and then disobey at exactly the same time. What a coincidence!

Well, let's check in on California at large -- all those restrictions must be really helping:



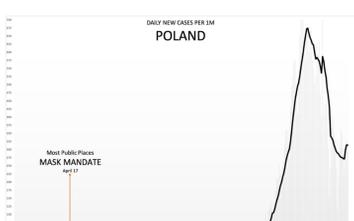
Ahem.

Let's check on Mississippi and Alabama. They're right next to each other, with very similar populations, but they've imposed mask mandates at different times and had different timetables and policies for the reopening of various kinds of businesses. Their charts must be wildly different, right?

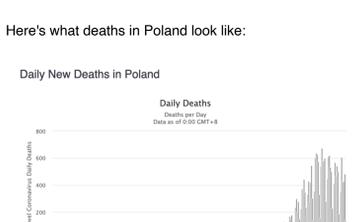
And yet:



Poland has had a mask mandate as of April 17. Apparently they must have started ignoring guidelines and began traveling for some kind of Polish Thanksgiving in early October:

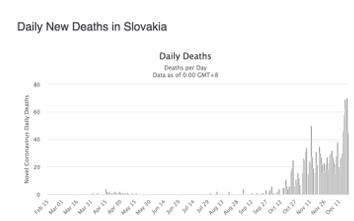


Here's what deaths in Poland look like:



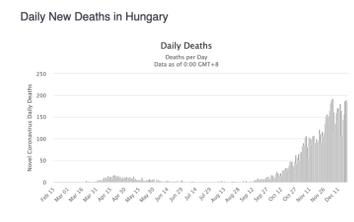
Back in May, we got stories about Slovakia like this one in the *Atlantic*: "Lessons From Slovakia—Where Leaders Wear Masks. The country's politicians led by example, helping it flatten its curve."

Here's Slovakia right now:

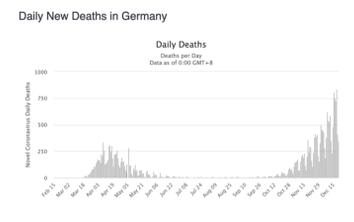


I guess there's some Slovakian tradition in October where they burn their masks.

Or how about Hungary:



And here's Germany, the land of \$5000 fines for not wearing masks:



Isn't this weird? It's like all the peoples of central Europe conspired to ignore public health recommendations all at once!

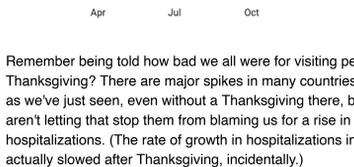
It's almost like there's some kind of seasonal pattern going on in central Europe -- but we know that can't be, because rises in deaths are always *somebody's fault*.

Let's make a quick trip to Asia: check out the similarity of the curves in Japan and South Korea. How weird that their peoples followed, then disregarded, then followed, and then again disregarded public health recommendations at precisely the same time in both places!

Remember being told how bad we all were for visiting people during Thanksgiving? There are major spikes in many countries of the world, as we've just seen, even without a Thanksgiving there, but our betters aren't letting that stop them from blaming us for a rise in hospitalizations. (The rate of growth in hospitalizations in the U.S. actually slowed after the Thanksgiving, incidentally.)

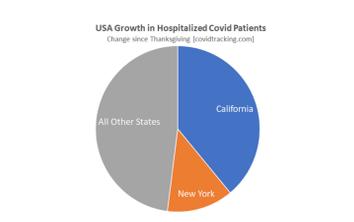
But here's the problem:

More than half of the hospitalization increase after Thanksgiving occurred in California and New York! Didn't those jokers hear that the way to avoid this is by lockdowns and masks? Sheesh!



Oh, and here are North and South Dakota. North Dakota imposed a bunch of occupancy restrictions to "stop the spread." South Dakota didn't.

Gee, isn't that funny -- their numbers look exactly the same:



I think I've made my point.

And remember: you're not fated to be surrounded by COVID zombies. Join me in my private group and you'll be virtuous in your sanity by smart, well-informed people who don't think the virus is your fault. And you'll keep up with what's really happening, as opposed to panic propaganda.

Entry is this way:

<http://www.SupportingListeners.com>

Tom Woods