



COVID-19 NARRATIVES
By Dr David Nabarro

Get ahead!

Do not be late

Dr David Nabarro
WHO Director-General Special Envoy on COVID-19



COVID-19 grows exponentially

One case leads to...

Chains of transmission, that lead to...

Established community transmission, that can lead to...

Explosive outbreaks in just 2-3 weeks

COVID-19 grows exponentially

The pandemic doubles in around 2.5 days – that means

- an 8-fold increase in a week

- a 250-fold increase in 3 weeks

- a 1000-fold increase in 4 weeks

It is 20 days since the WHO reported on the China experience
The problem is now x500 greater

This spread of COVID-19 is accelerating with new outbreaks appearing in communities everywhere.

Because the spread is exponential it is easiest for communities to get ahead of the virus at the start of an outbreak.

Urgency is of the essence

Combined and coordinated action by leaders of all nations is needed urgently

Unconditional demand-driven action by leaders of business, finance, science and society is needed now

The intensity is far greater than reported, we are only testing a fraction of cases

The spread into Latin America, Africa and Asia is happening at speed



These tasks are critical

Suppress	Suppress COVID-19 outbreaks everywhere to avoid massive loss of life
Sustain	Sustain resilient health systems (including non-COVID-19 patients) by protecting and prioritizing the needs of health workers and assuring essential supplies
Maintain	Maintain physical distancing to reduce opportunities for transmission everywhere
Enable	Enable the just recovery of societies and livelihoods following major social and economic crisis

Government leaders are recognizing that if you try to get ahead of the virus with linear responses, even if these are part of a crisis response, it feels like you are standing still

Get ahead before it is too late..

1

Test, test, test

Get ahead. Identify cases.
Trace contacts. Isolate. Break
chains of transmission.

2

Dramatically boost capacity

Get ahead. Staffing, urgent
care beds, ventilators, PPE.


3

Make it easy to do the right thing


Get ahead. Physical distancing,
economic security, clear and
direct messaging.

Get ahead: don't be late..

Global – Global crises need global leadership for resolution. Act now to address health, social and economic imperatives.



National – Be Fast. No Blame. No Regrets. Implement physical distancing measures immediately, transform emergency care capacity as an urgent priority, move to stabilize the economy, mobilize to support health, food, logistics, security.



Local – The Solidarity Response. Organise now. Hygiene is critical. Support your community, leave nobody behind.

To get ahead of the virus all involved in implementation have to adapt their strategies and pivot synchronously so that impact is achieved through a demonstrable jump in intensity and effectiveness of action.

This has to be achieved at speed.



Ending the pandemic...

Every day of delay has a tragic cost in human life and suffering

Those hit hardest will be those least able to protect themselves, those who weren't a part of the spread.

Rapid and rigorous responses to early clusters suppress outbreaks and reduce consequences

Keep making the jump in mindset and action! Keep ahead of the virus..