

The pandemic has not been consigned to history in the U...

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I am aware that there are those who think I am a Covid pessimist. I would suggest that to describe me as a realist is more appropriate.

My concern is that undue optimism is creating expectations that cannot be fulfilled. In turn this will lead to lack of preparedness for three things.

The first is reopenings that may not happen, or which cannot be sustained.

The second is consequent economic cost resulting from continued disruption.

The third is the public anger as expectations are not met.

In my opinion it is entirely reasonable to anticipate such risks. It is also entirely reasonable to look at the evidence that they might be justified.

In that context this Tweet from Christina Pagel, who is Professor of Operational Research at UCL and a member of independent SAGE, is relevant:

<https://twitter.com/chrischirp/status/1374818825049415690?s=03>

As Prof Pagel says in the following thread, primary school children are not being routinely tested, and any testing impact on secondary children should have only had an impact for a week, but it is continuing. This does not prove school transmission but it is consistent with it. Whether the unvaccinated parents of these cohorts are impacted will, of course, be known in the next couple of weeks. But the likelihood that reopening is seriously increasing R already looks to be high, and as yet there is nothing else to explain this because no other change has taken place.

The Easter holidays may offer temporary respite from this growth in cases. But it will be temporary. It seems certain if school reopening has had this impact then the other reopening that will follow will have similar impact but in different parts of the population.

In that case will there be repercussions? I think so. The UK seems to believe that this pandemic is over as far as we are concerned. That seems to be very unlikely. We still face significant risk. It would be very wise for the government to recognise this. Johnson is not.

As I have [already said elsewhere](#) this morning, we could be in for a long hot summer of raised temperatures resulting from overheating tempers arising from new, and necessary, Covid restrictions that the government has done nothing to prepare the country for. It's that, or the possibility of a great many Covid deaths. And neither is a great prospect, but both are the reasonably foreseeable consequences of government decisions.