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Seeing a headline like this [in The Observer](#) this morning is worrying:

The Observer Conservatives

Tory MPs warn Boris Johnson's rivals to oppose tougher Covid new year rules

Leadership hopefuls told to block new limits in England as scientists model curbs on bars and cafes

The message from the far-right Covid deniers is that to lead the Tories you have to be willing to kill people.

In some sense there is little new about this. The Conservative Party has always been led by people willing to kill others. That was implicitly required by the tales of empire and suppression on which the Tory myth was built. The difference is that this time those under attack are the population of this country.

More worrying is that I have very little doubt that this demand will be heeded. Those same people who demand that two or more people gathered together in protest be considered a criminal threat to society are simultaneously willing to declare freedom for the right of those who wish to spread a virus that we know on the basis of all reasonable scientific evidence to be a massive threat to life, and thereafter to the economy and much else that we value.

The evidence that Tory party and sanity have parted company is complete. Brexit always made the case. Unnecessary austerity that caused vastly more harm than it ever delivered in supposed good was the foundation. But now we know that matters have moved beyond stupidity. They have now entered the realm of evil.

No one is sure who first said that only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing, but what we all recognise is the truth in it.

I suggest that the failure of the government to take major measures to limit the spread of Covid this week, acting at the behest of its right wing and those who would curry

favour with them to win the Tory party leadership, would be an evil act.

The question to ask in that case is what do we do about it, when assembling en masse only helps them achieve their goal of massive numbers of deaths from this disease?