

Have You Been Tested?

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A test is an orchestrated attempt to reveal an entity's potentially unknown properties or capacities.

(Marres & Stark 2020)

A test is a **critical moment** that **stands out**.

A test is frequently a **proxy** that **stands for** something.

When someone or something is **put to the test**, of interest is whether it **stands up**.

A test is a **critical moment** that **stands out**.

- typically, in a deliberate and separate setting
- but, in the digital environment, testing can be ubiquitous, continuous, and in ignorance.

A test is frequently a proxy that **stands for** something.

Examples:

- the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT);
- a driving test, whether as examination or as field tested.

Because they stand for something, tests have a **representational** component -- even diagnostic tests, especially in the aggregate.

When someone or something is **put to the test**, of interest is whether it **stands up**.

A **stress test** is a simulation -- the stress test of a bank, for example, or a cardiac stress test. e.g. UK National Health Service failed pandemic stress test

Daily Telegraph 28.3.20.

But there are also **tests under stress** when we observe behavior under extreme conditions. "The German hospital system has not yet been tested."

NY Times 27.03.20.

Who is infected or has been infected
with the corona virus?

Who is infected or has been infected with the corona virus?

Who represents the corona virus?

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The history of democratic institutions is about the incorporation of more and more actors into the political system, the working class, for example.

Politicians represent people. But who represents the ozone layer, rivers, bees, the corona virus?

Who represents the corona virus?

The virus is powerful but invisible.

Tests are an important means to represent the virus, its properties, its behavior, its whereabouts.

OK. But where are the **demonstrations**?



Where are the **demonstrations**?

We've been seeing them all over the place these past weeks...

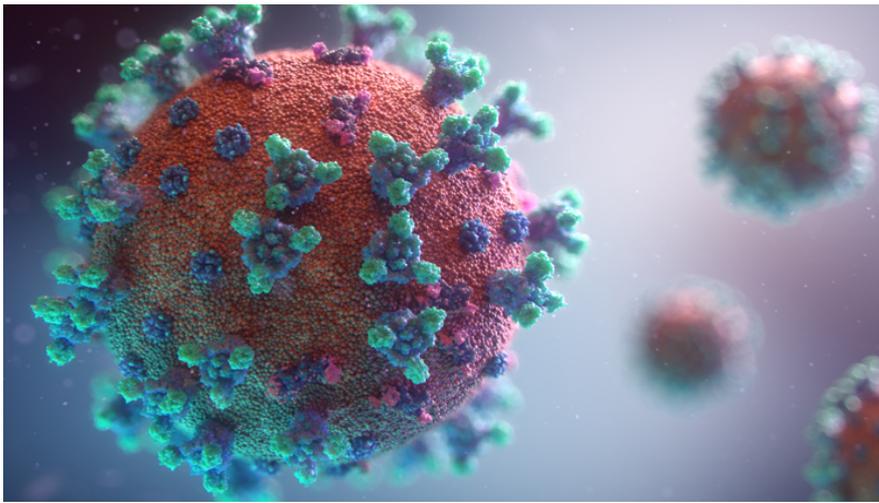


Chart 7: Timeline of Events in Hubei

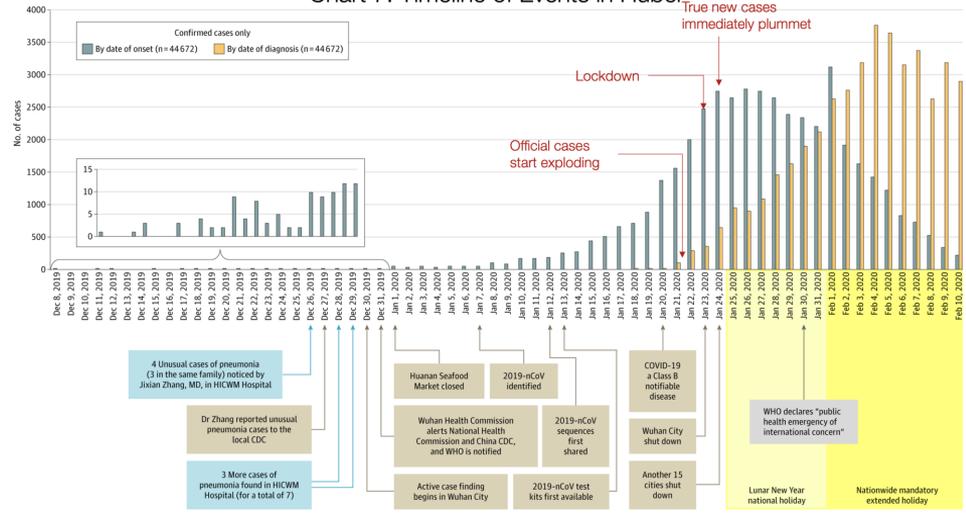
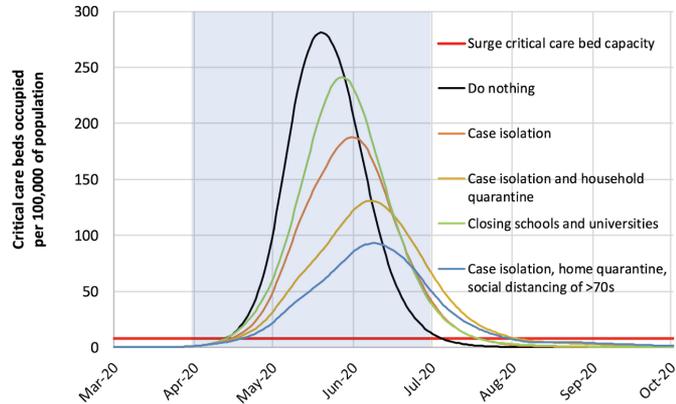
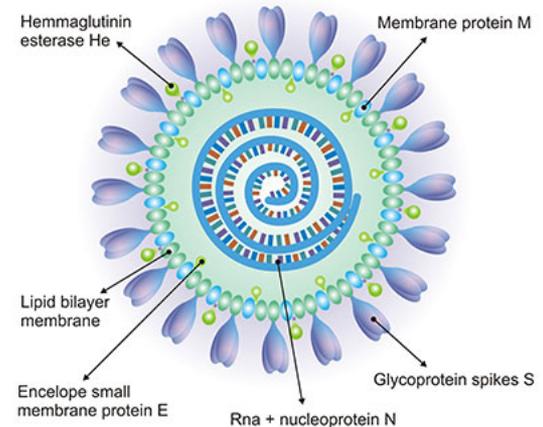


Chart 5: Peaks in Need for ICU Beds in the UK for Different Social Distancing Measures



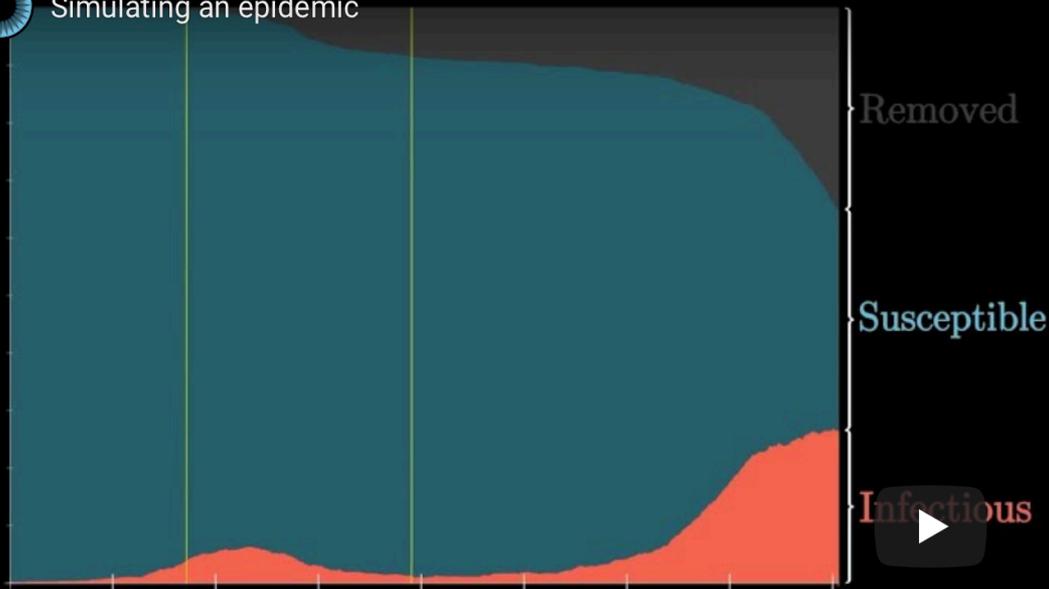
Source: Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID19 mortality and healthcare demand, Neil Ferguson et al, Imperial College



And many of them are **models**.



Simulating an epidemic

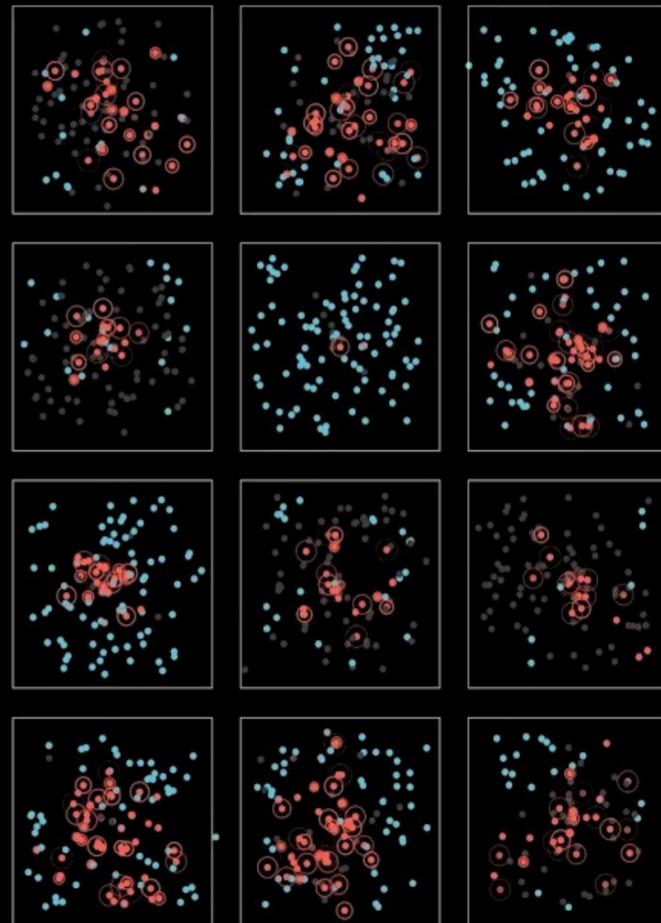


Simulating an Epidemic



Watch later

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Phase 1. **Who is infected?**

Individuals, singularly identified.

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Phase 2. **How** is the virus distributed?

Populations.

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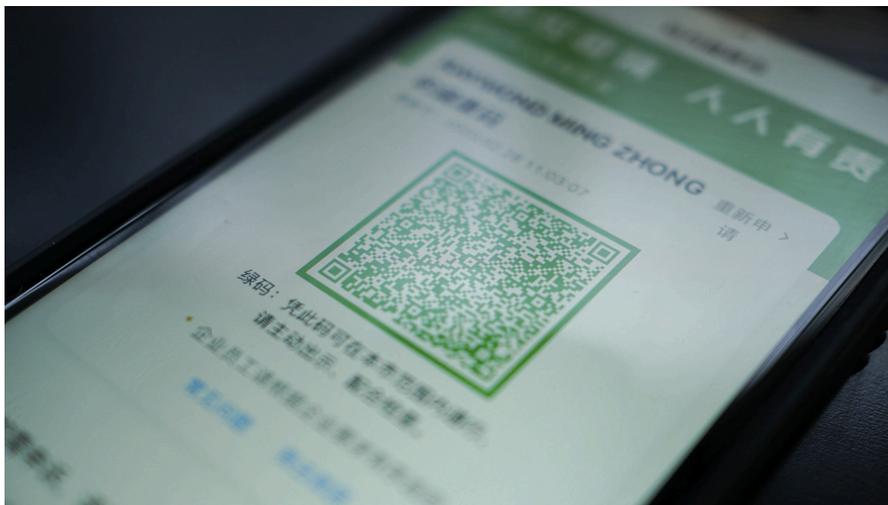
Populations.

Phase 3. **Who is immune?**

Individuals, singularly identified.

Who is infected?

QR code for Hangzhou developed by Alibaba



Detained

Scrutinized

Free to move

Who is infected?

QR code for Hangzhou developed by Alibaba

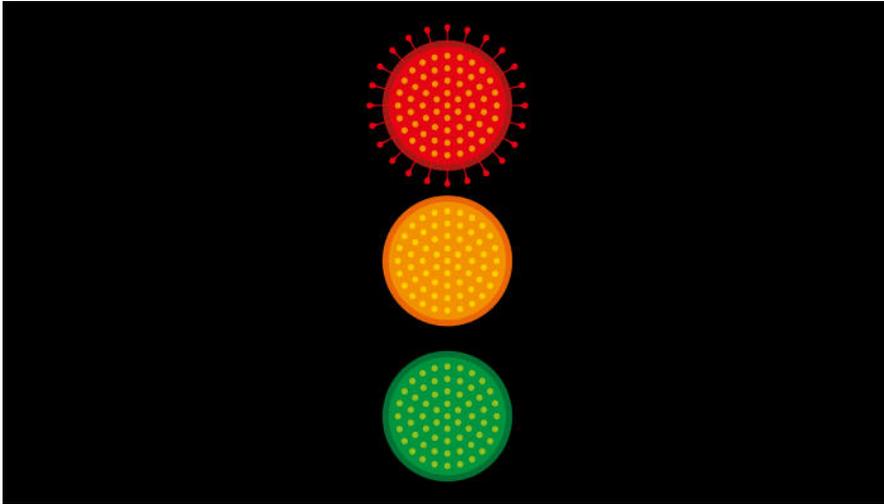


Detained

Scrutinized

Free to move

Who is immune?



Infectious

Risky and at risk

Immune

Who is immune?



Infectious

Risky and at risk

Immune

“Immunity passports” *The Guardian*, 30 March 2020.

Such classifications of persons might be based on serological tests, now in development.

But they could also be based on a different regime of testing - **algorithmic prediction**.

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Less risky because you have a good credit rating, because you write in concise sentences and make lists.

More risky because of your risky behavior, because you associate with others with risky behavior, because you make spelling mistakes or use too many exclamation marks in your social media posts!!!