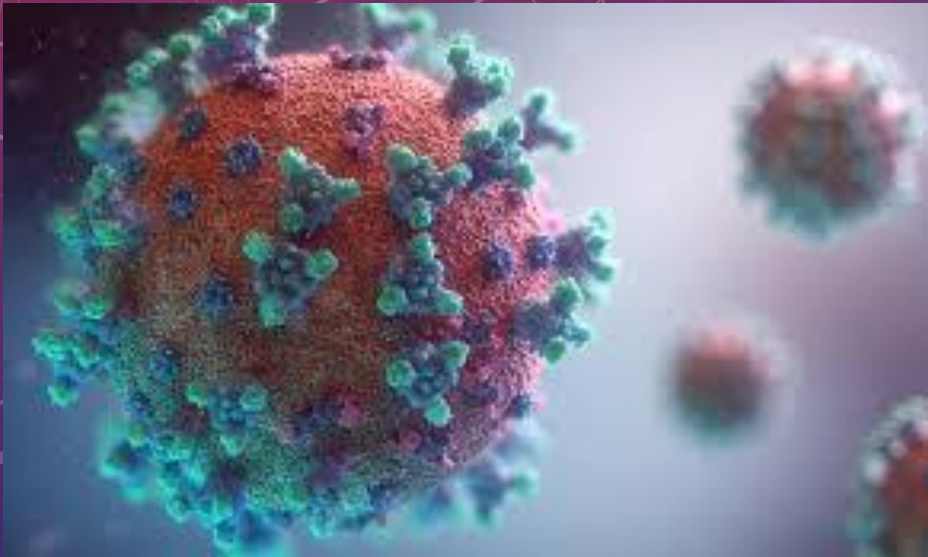


THE COST OF IDEOLOGICALLY DRIVEN POLITICAL DECISION MAKING DURING A PANDEMIC



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An *ideology* is a set of opinions or beliefs of a group or an individual. Often *ideology* refers to a set of political beliefs or a set of ideas that characterize a particular culture.

Oxford Dictionary Definition - system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy.

Science can put what we know on the table and acknowledge that leads to a variety of options. Government will then consider public opinion, electoral contests, fiscal priorities, and so forth”.
All through the lens of ideology.....

King A. (2016). Science, politics and policymaking: Even though expert knowledge has become indispensable for policymaking, providing scientific advice to governments is not always easy. *EMBO reports*, 17(11), 1510–1512. <https://doi.org/10.15252/embr.201643381>

WORDS IN ITALICS ADDED BY PRESENTER

Ideological differences.....

IN POLITICS IS IT THE CASE THAT THE FACTS
ALONE CANNOT TELL US WHAT TO DO? Or.....

`HERE`S THE CONCLUSION WHAT FACTS CAN
WE FIND TO UNDERPIN IT?`

IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES.....

IN SCIENCE THE FACTS ALONE DO TELL US
WHAT TO DO.....

`HERE`S THE FACTS WHAT CONCLUSION CAN
WE DRAW?`

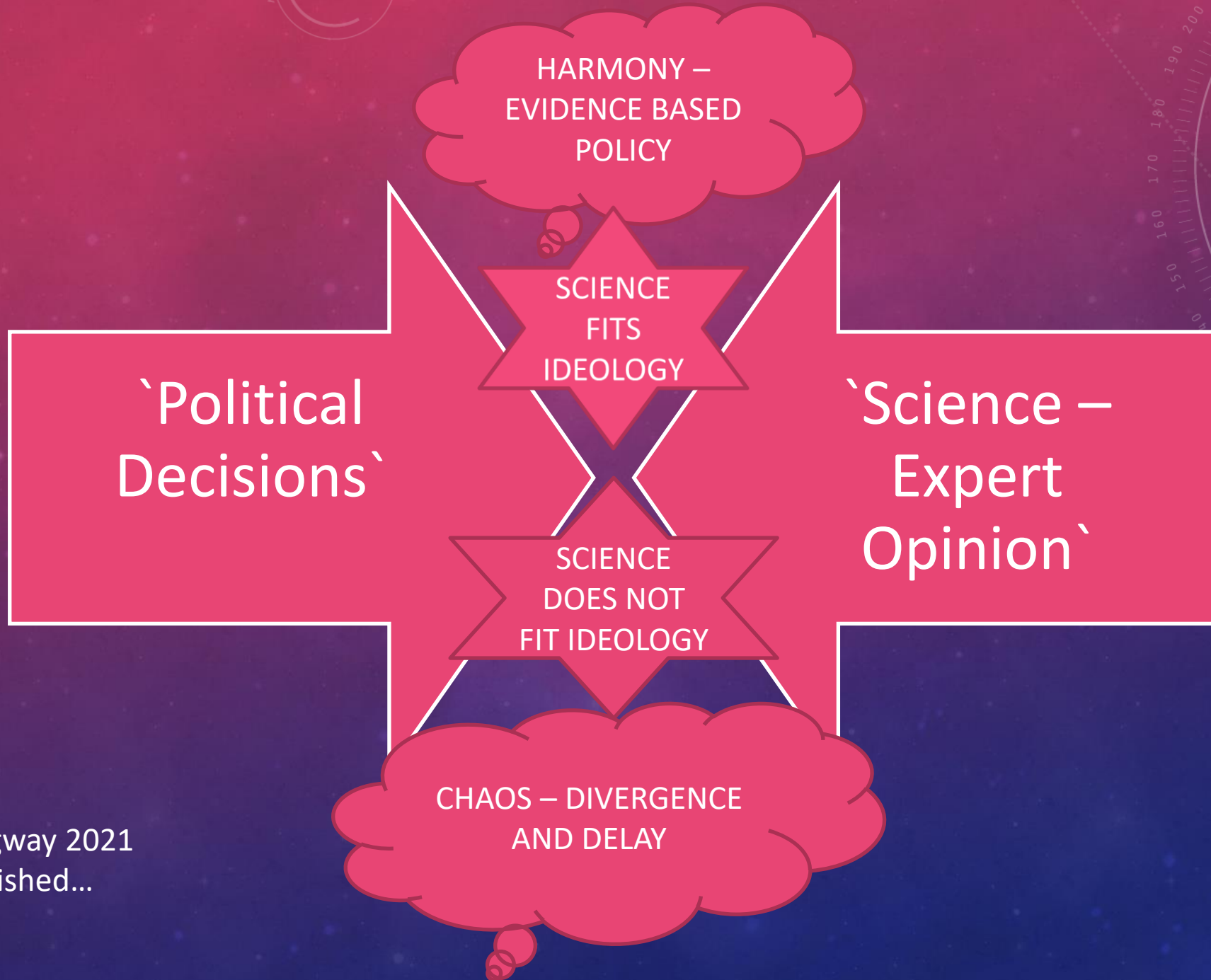
As one of the founders of epidemiology, John Snow, said in 1853 during the middle of the 19th-century cholera epidemics:

“The question of contagion in various diseases has often been discussed with a degree of acrimony that is unusual in medical or other scientific inquiries. The cause of the warmth of feeling that has been displayed has, in most cases, probably been unknown to the disputants. It is the great pecuniary interests involved in the question, on account of its connection with quarantine.”

The pecuniary interests in 2020/1 were the interests of businesses that were shut down through lockdown, the interests of the government which focused on maintaining an economy of the type they favoured, and the personal interests of the many individuals who suffered financially.

International travel...a commonly used excuse for not limiting flights into the UK has been that it is an international travel hub...





Hemingway 2021
Unpublished...

2020 - The mortality rates from COVID-19 in the most deprived areas are more than double the least deprived areas, for both males and females. This is greater than the ratio for all cause mortality between 2014 to 2018 indicating greater inequality in death rates from COVID-19 than all causes.

`Disparities` in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 – Public Health England August 2020

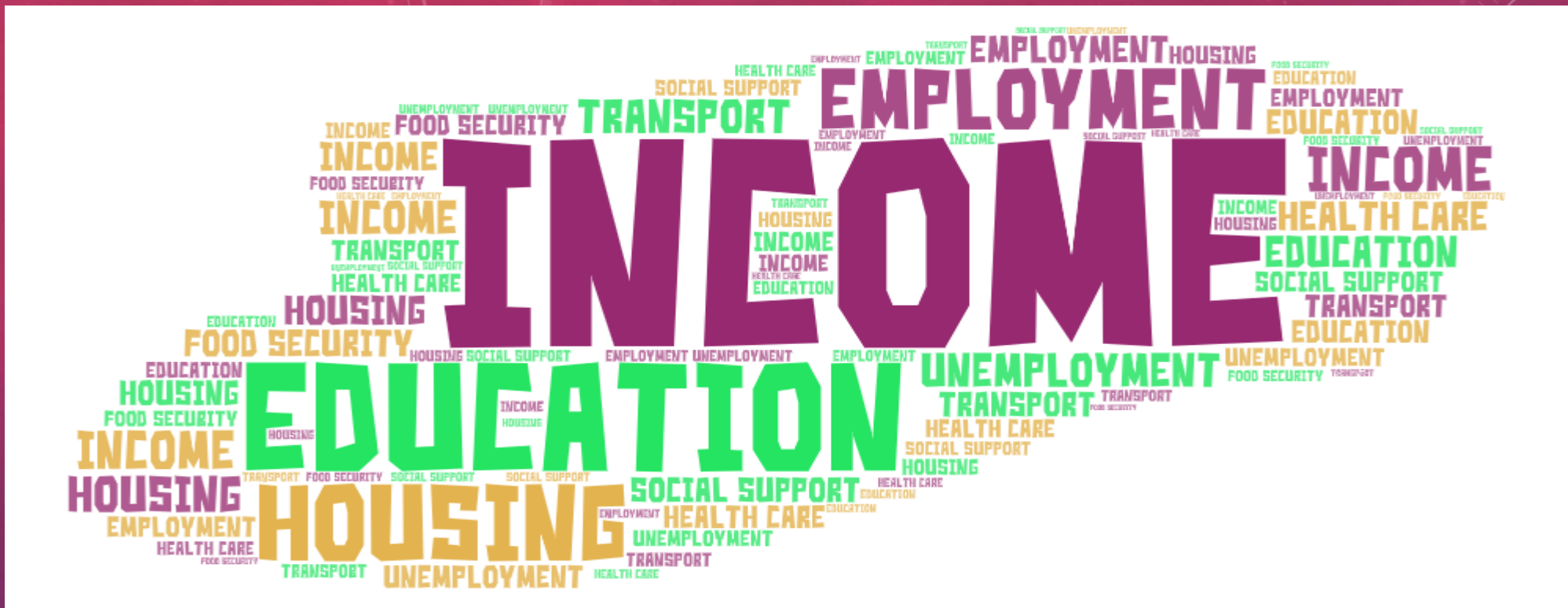
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf

A study of 2595 adults tested for COVID-19 found that both race and poverty were associated with higher risks of hospitalization; only poverty and financial hardship were associated with higher risks of escalation to intensive care units.-This suggests that environmental factors associated with poorer socioeconomic circumstances tend to have more adverse outcomes with COVID compared to biological factors. Reasons may be continued active employment where working from home is not feasible, using public transportation, despite lockdowns; in combination both of which may increase exposure to viral load and worsen overall prognosis.

2021 - The newly revealed analysis by the JBC (Joint Biosecurity Centre), a government agency set up in May 2020, concluded that “interconnected factors” such as deprivation, poor housing and work conditions, and delays in the test-and-trace system, were all “likely to be significant contributors” to the high coronavirus rates in some areas.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/17/englands-poorest-areas-hit-by-covid-perfect-storm-leaked-report>

In February 2021 deprivation and ethnicity were for the first time recognised as risk factors for severe Covid in [new modelling](#), which led to 1.7 million more people in England being advised to shield and 800,000 being fast-tracked for vaccines.



Research shows that the social determinants can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health. Numerous studies suggest that they account for between 30-55% of health outcomes. The contribution of sectors outside health to population health outcomes exceeds the contribution from the health sector.

https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1

What are the social determinants of health all important in the pandemic....

Income and social protection
Education
Unemployment and job insecurity
Working life conditions
Food insecurity
Housing, basic amenities and the environment
Early childhood development
Social inclusion and non-discrimination
Structural conflict
Access to affordable health services of decent quality.

All these issues negatively impact on health outcomes for those people, families and communities who experience them

Bearing the Brunt...these figures are from last year an example of inequalities and their influence in a pandemic

Areas with high numbers of Delta variant COVID cases 14/6/21 (in white)

The government had updated extra [guidance for people in the following Areas of England](#) -(tighter lockdown) Greater Manchester, Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire (area covered by Lancashire County Council Including Pendle, Burnley & Oldham), Kirklees, Bedford, Leicester, Hounslow and North Tyneside. Birmingham, Blackpool, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Liverpool City Region, and Warrington.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-52530518>

In these places, "wherever possible, you should try to":

- meet friends and family outside
- keep 2m (6ft) apart from people you don't live or bubble with
- minimise travel in and out of affected areas

(Deprivation measures used in Indices of Deprivation include income, employment, education skills & training, health & disability, crime, housing and living environment.)

Top 20 areas with the most deprived neighbourhoods in England: English Indices of Deprivation 2019 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

1. Middlesbrough
2. Liverpool
3. Knowsley
4. Kingston upon Hull
5. Manchester
6. Blackpool
7. Birmingham
8. Burnley
9. Blackburn with Darwen
10. Hartlepool
11. Bradford
12. Stoke-on-Trent
13. Halton
14. Pendle
15. Nottingham
16. Oldham
17. North East Lincolnshire
18. Hastings
19. Salford
20. Rochdale

4m children live in a family which has lost income

1.6 million of these live in a family that has lost a third or more of its income



27% of UK families with children are living on a reduced income

vs



17% of those without children



Twice as many families with children are using credit to make ends meet



31%

vs



15%

3m

children live in families who find it a constant struggle to buy food and other necessities



13%

of families are behind with their rent or mortgage payments, 5% of households without children are behind



16%

of families with children are behind with household bills, compared with 7% of those without children

4.9m children live in households with no savings



BEARING THE
BRUNT
4TH COVID
FINANCIAL
IMPACT
TRACKER

[https://www.
standardlifeo
undation.org.
uk/docs?editi
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SYNDEMIC OR PANDEMIC.....?

NCD'S are hypertension, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer

- With almost 6 million deaths globally from COVID-19 so far in the last 2 years are we dealing with a pandemic or a syndemic?
- Writing in The Lancet in 2017, together with Mendenhall and colleagues, Singer argued that a syndemic approach reveals biological and social interactions that are important for prognosis, treatment, and health policy. Limiting the harm caused by COVID will demand far greater attention to Non-Communicable Diseases and socioeconomic inequality than has hitherto been admitted.
- The most important consequence of seeing COVID-19 as a syndemic is to underline its social origins. The vulnerability of older citizens; Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities; and key workers who are commonly poorly paid with fewer welfare protections points to a truth so far barely acknowledged—namely, that no matter how effective a treatment or protective a vaccine, the pursuit of a purely biomedical solution to COVID-19 will fail.
- Horton R. Covid – 19 is not a Pandemic, The Lancet. Vol 396 September 26, 2020
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32000-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32000-6/fulltext)

UK COVID-19 deaths

In 2020, there were over 695 thousand deaths in the United Kingdom, making that year the deadliest since 1918, the height of the Spanish influenza pandemic. As of May 30, 2021, there have been 1,134,485 deaths across the whole of Europe due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) since the first recorded European death in France on February 15, 2020. The United Kingdom currently has the highest number of deaths in Europe, 156,844 coronavirus deaths as of Jan 16th 2022.



WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?????

(LITERALLY WHICH SIDE OF THE ROPE ARE YOU ON...IN PORTUGUESE)

PUBLIC V PRIVATE ASSUMPTIONS

- RESPONSIVENESS
- OUTCOMES
- LEGACY

`NHS` TEST
TRACK TRACE
AND ISOLATE

VACCINATION
ROLL OUT



**Enough of your
Warning Bells—
You're Out of Here!
This is a Post-Truth
World where Rats
and Mice like
Professional
Politicians can Thrive
Unmolested.**



SCIENTISTS....

We are all
outside
our
comfort
zone...



THINK OF THE POTENTIAL LEGACY INVESTMENT IN SERVICES IF THE MONEY SPENT ON PRIVATE COMPANY PROVISION OF TEST, TRACK, TRACE AND ISOLATE HAD BEEN INVESTED IN EXISTING PUBLIC SERVICES

Local health protection team`s job is to provide specialist support to prevent and reduce the effect of infectious diseases...

Activities include:

- Local disease surveillance.
- Investigating and managing health protection incidents and outbreaks.
- plans for infectious diseases at local level...
- Delivering and monitoring national action

www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-regions-and-local-centres 2020



(CONTINUED)...

Local public health experts job is to –
Support local action to promote and protect health and wellbeing, and create a health care system which improves health and reduces inequalities *in health outcomes (for different income groups, caused by the social determinants of health).*

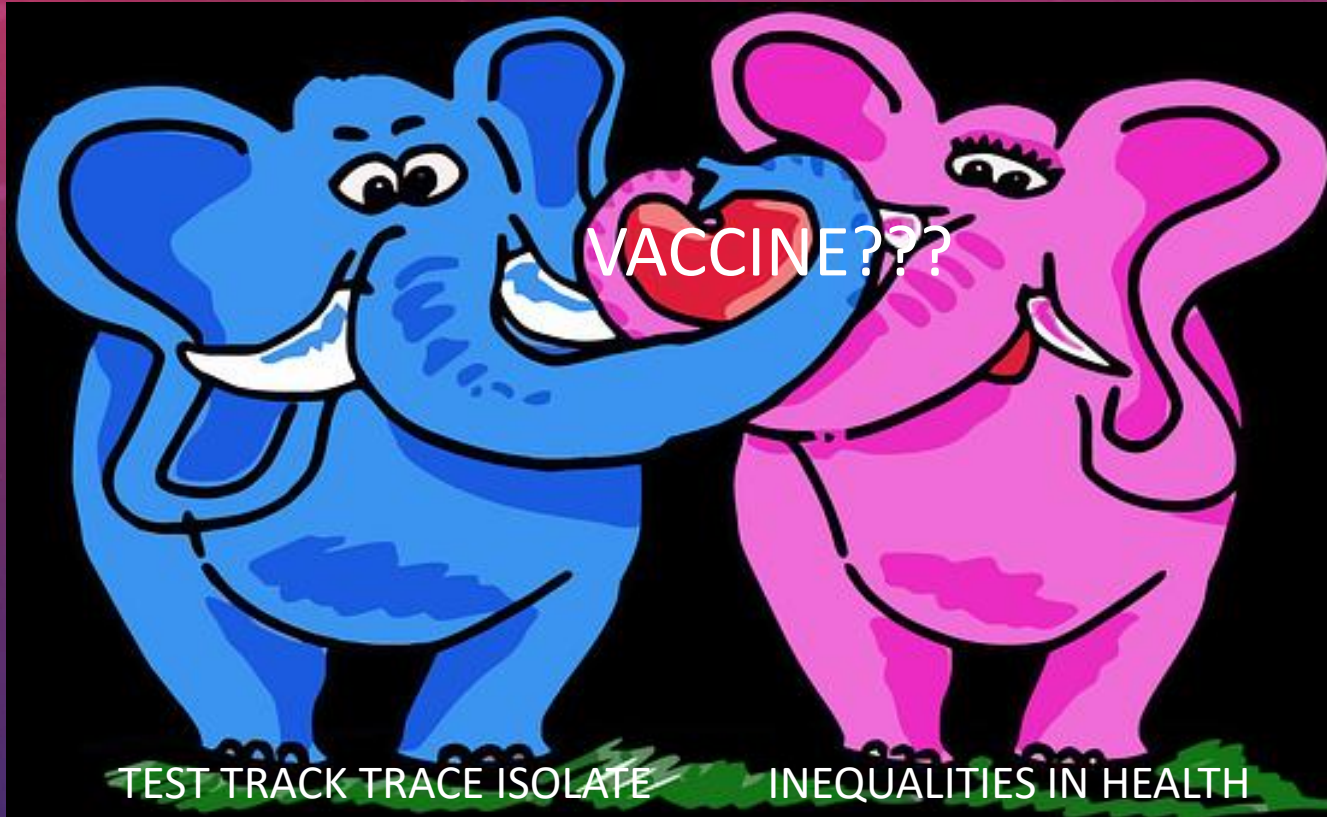
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www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-regions-and-local-centres 2020

Whose opinion matters anyway?



"I'm sorry, Jeannie, your answer was correct, but Kevin shouted his incorrect answer over yours, so he gets the points."



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