

The Delray Democrat

“You’re Doing a Heck of a Job, Donny”¹

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A Facebook friend recently shared a slick post (likely made in Macedonia) that read “All my Trump hating friends you can send your Trump checks to me since he is not your President.” When I challenged him, he conceded that Trump “was slow to start” but claimed that Trump was “now moving quickly.” He concluded, “I don’t think anyone would have done it better.”

I told him it’s actually difficult to imagine anyone doing a **worse** job than Trump (other than perhaps Jared Kushner). Here’s why.

First, and dispositively, being “slow to start” is pretty much the whole ball of wax. Testing is the only way to break the back of the virus, and yet – and despite Trump’s claims to the contrary – over three months into the pandemic testing is STILL not widely available. Of course, as the [The Times](#) noted over three weeks ago, experts now believe “the virus has probably spread well beyond our ability to contain it [through testing].”

As the magnitude of the crisis finally penetrated Trump’s narcissism, he disclaimed responsibility and defended himself with multiple inconsistent arguments, claiming “[I knew it was a pandemic long before it was called a pandemic](#),” and also that “[nobody knew there would be a pandemic or epidemic of this proportion](#).” In the words of the Bard, “These lies are like their father that begets them – gross as a mountain, open, palpable.”

Trump repeatedly claimed that the threat was minimal and that his administration had it under control:

- [January 22](#): “We have it totally under control.”
- [February 2](#): “Well, we pretty much shut it down coming in from China.”
- [February 10](#): “Looks like by April, you know, in theory, when it gets a little warmer, it miraculously goes away.”
- [February 26](#): “Low Ratings Fake News MSDNC (Comcast) & @CNN are doing everything possible to make the Caronavirus look as bad as possible.”
- [March 4](#). “It’s very mild.”
- [March 8](#): “I’m not concerned at all . . . No, we've done a great job with it.”
- [March 10](#): “It will go away, just stay calm.”

Even after the severity of the threat became undeniable, forcing him to react, he resisted taking measures and signaled the desire to backtrack on the too-little-too-late measures he’d taken.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, April 2020, p. 6.

- On [March 23](#) he insisted “We’re not going to let the cure be worse than the problem.”
- The [next day](#) he said “ “I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter.”
- As to his claim that “no one could have known,” this just illustrates the extent to which Trump’s laziness, his profound and inexcusable ignorance, and his lack of concern for the well-being of anybody but himself render him unprepared and unqualified for the office he occupies, indeed for any office.
- [A week](#) before Trump’s inauguration, members of Obama’s administration briefed 30 senior officials of the incoming administration on responding to a pandemic, warning they “*could face specific challenges, such as shortages of ventilators, anti-viral drugs and other medical essentials, and that having a coordinated, unified national response was ‘paramount.’*”
- [Just last year](#) Trump’s own Department of Health and Human Services conducted an exercise that “*drove home just how underfunded, underprepared and uncoordinated the federal government would be for a life-or-death battle with a virus for which no treatment existed.*” The exercise modeled the path of a virus that originated in China and led to 110 million Americans being exposed, 7.7 million hospitalized, and 586,000 dead.
- [January 29](#): A memo from Peter Navarro warned: “*The lack of immune protection or an existing cure or vaccine would leave Americans defenseless in the case of a full-blown coronavirus outbreak on U.S. soil. This lack of protection elevates the risk of the coronavirus evolving into a full-blown pandemic, imperiling the lives of millions of Americans.*”
- [February 23](#): While Trump continues to downplay the threat, a second Navarro memo warns “*increasing probability of a full-blown COVID-19 pandemic that could infect as many as 100 million Americans, with a loss of life of as many as 1.2 million souls.*”

Trump attempts to claim the mantle of “Wartime President” fail as miserably as his effort to rewrite history:

- Even though Trump has repeatedly invoked the Defense Production Act to require companies to provide military equipment, he balks at [using](#) the Act to ensure adequate supplies of masks, ventilators, and other urgently needed life-saving equipment.
- Rather than organize the production and distribution of vital medical supplies, he tells “governors to “[try getting it yourselves](#),” creating [chaos](#) as states bid against one another as well as the federal government.
- Proving he [challenges](#) Gov. Cuomo’s estimate of the number of ventilators needed: “You go into major hospitals sometimes, and they’ll have two ventilators.”
- As venal as he is incompetent, he warns governors that if they want critically needed supplies, they have to show they are [appreciative](#) of his efforts.

- Trump undercuts the CDC call for cloth face masks to be used in public by emphasizing that it's purely voluntary and adding that he won't be using a mask. And today, one week before the Easter on which Trump hoped to have the country "raring to go," there are 367,507 confirmed cases and 10,923 dead. We lead the world in the former and will soon lead in the latter. "Make Americans Dead Again" should be his reelection slogan.