Preparation for a responsible lockdown exit strategy

Researchers from Université libre de Bruxelles - ULB and University of Namur - UNamur propose a framework for a responsible lockdown exit strategy. Their interdisciplinary analysis is published in Nature Medicine, on 14 April.

“When and How” to get out of a lockdown is a major issue: the stake is to find a balance between health safety considerations and the social, economic and political consequences of a prolonged lockdown.

Researchers from Université libre de Bruxelles, ULB – Marius Gilbert, Mathias Dewatripont, Michel Goldman, Eric Muraille – and University of Namur, UNamur – Eric Muraille, Jean-Philippe Platteau – propose a framework for a responsible lockdown exit strategy. Their interdisciplinary article is published on 14 April in Nature Medicine.

They propose a framework for a progressive exit strategy out of a lockdown that relies on three complementary and continuous efforts: Social distancing; Increase in diagnostic capacity; Large-scale implementation of procedures.

Social distancing:
Social-distance measures should be maintained to reduce the overall transmission of the virus up to a point when hospitals can cope with a much lower number of patients.

Increase in diagnostic capacity:
The diagnostic capacity would need to be massively upscaled both for virus detection – with tracing and quarantine for infected population - and identification of immune individuals – which facilitates the estimation of the fraction of the population that contributes to "herd immunity".

Large-scale implementation of procedures:
The manpower and procedures needed to implement systematic tests and contact tracing on a large scale would need to be put in place. These tests would be first targeted at workers providing essential services: health, security, food, and transportation. The tests would support the progressive deconfinement of groups of the population based on their profile (expected contribution to the transmission and risk profile) and their contribution to restoring economic and social activity safely. These choices are political: the different target groups would need to be defined transparently, according to each country’s specific demographic and socio-economic context, and with the active involvement of the different stakeholders so as to maximize social acceptance.

The authors stress the necessity of a continuous monitoring (quantitative mathematical modelling) to adapt the strategy and fine-tune the actions or timing. They also emphasize the need for attention to the psycho-social dimension of a lockdown exit.

This progressive and responsible lockdown exit strategy would allow countries to manage the transition at a level sustainable for the healthcare system and allowing for the development of therapeutic innovations and a proper vaccine as well as for the gradual building up of “herd immunity.”
Preparing for a responsible lockdown exit strategy - Marius Gilbert (ULB), Mathias Dewatripont (ULB), Eric Muraille (ULB & UNamur), Jean-Philippe Platteeu (UNamur) and Michel Goldman (ULB) – in Nature Medicine, 14 April 2020
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0871-y.epdf?author_access_token=FPpdI1KTCtUenSVgfWdDzdRgN0jAjWei9jnR3ZoTv0OGrpIhU1pYsZySfbgNtkf1LL-M95v4qcdGstFwUFe53oN4-wrDCR_g5SKs-gaE6pv9hLFvQubosNiQZSUaFC1BU8pWpC1gTKDu-dn1SRb_A%3D%3D

Time to mobilize EU collective intelligence for responsive lockdown exit strategies

A national strategy is necessary but not enough.

On the initiative of Michel Goldman, I3h founder et co-director and coordinated by professors from Collège de France and 3 Nobel Prizes, a petition is on line: https://bit.ly/3e5M4Qb

The petition asks to European leaders to coordinate the lockdown exit and to mobilize collective intelligence to elaborate and implement responsible and sustainable lockdown exit strategies.

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