

When will the COVID-19 follies stop?

6 April 2022

Peter C Gøtzsche, Director
[Institute for Scientific Freedom](#)
Copenhagen

I wonder when the authorities will think outside the “perpetuum mobile” (more of the same, indefinitely) box and conclude that we are in a situation that is not much different to flu seasons and allow us to live normally. The original SARS-CoV-2 virus is likely not worse than influenza but killed many people because the populations were non-immune, just like measles killed 10 times as many as usual when it hit the Faroe Islands in 1846. I write about this in my [vaccine book](#):

“The same virus can kill relatively few people, or it can become very deadly if there is overcrowding and it hits a nonimmune population. In the Faroe Islands, measles had not prevailed since 1781 when it broke out 65 years later, in 1846.⁴⁹ During the epidemic, 78% were attacked and the case fatality rate was 2.8%, which is over 10 times higher than the usual rate of about 0.2%.”

Now we have omicron, which likely corresponds to a relatively mild influenza strain. So why are there still closed restaurants, semi-empty airports, and mandatory use of face masks in several European countries?

And why did Sweden do relatively well, with fewer deaths per million than in France, Italy, Spain, the UK, and USA, despite having very little lockdown and not recommending face masks, which very few people used? ([Download](#) my book for free: *The Chinese virus: Killed millions and scientific freedom*).

Why do we not conclude, in accordance with a [study](#) John Ioannidis and colleagues did comparing minor with major lockdowns that found no difference, that we should NOT have major lockdowns with all its immense harms, and that it should be voluntary to wear face masks, as they have a tiny effect, if any (see *The Chinese virus* book)? The 1% difference in COVID-19 infections in the large RCT in Bangladesh can be explained by the fact that [5% more](#) people kept distance when they wore masks than if they didn't.

When do we admit that we overtested our populations to the extreme? Even the PCR test causes enormous harm, as it has a [2% false positive rate](#). Thus, when people are tested over and over, a huge number will be quarantined even though they are healthy. My country, Denmark, has a most embarrassing [world record](#) in testing:

Tests per 1 million people in Sweden are only 1.8, which is 8% of the Danish rate of 21.8. The high Danish rate means that every citizen could have been tested 22 times! This is totally, totally insane, and extremely costly.

I have no idea how many of these tests that are quick tests and how many that are PCR tests, but we can easily do a little mathematics, if we assume that all of them are PCR tests. If we also assume that all tests in the same healthy person have the same likelihood of 2% of being a false positive, this means that the chance of NOT being declared infected at any time when tested 22 times is $1 - 0.98^{22} = 1 - 0.64 = 36\%$.

Thus, the chance that a healthy person will be declared infected at least once is double as high as the chance that the person will be declared non-infected every time.

Will the follies ever stop?