

## Talk Roadmap



- A few thoughts on how we've managed the pandemic and the problems it has exposed in our politics and society
- ▶ A few tech innovations that were accelerated by Covid
  - ▶ Telemedicine, dashboards
  - ▶ Plus a few that might have hit the tipping point, but didn't
  - ▶ Entering the post-EHR era: why and what that means
- A couple of areas in which everyone is saying the right things, but I worry about follow-through

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# The Dominant Challenge in Preparing for a Pandemic

"Everything we do before a pandemic will seem alarmist. Everything we do after will seem inadequate."

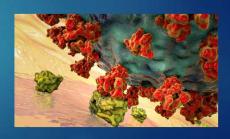
— Michael Leavitt, former HHS secretary



## The American Response

"Aspects of America's identify may need rethinking after COVID-19. Many of the country's values have seemed to work against it during the pandemic. Its individualism, exceptionalism, and tendency to equate doing whatever you want with an act of resistance meant that when it came time to save lives and stay indoors, some people flocked to bars and clubs. Having internalized years of anti-terrorism messaging following 9/11, Americans resolved to not live in fear. But SARS-CoV-2 has no interest in their terror, only their cells."





Ed Yong, The Atlantic, March 25, 2020

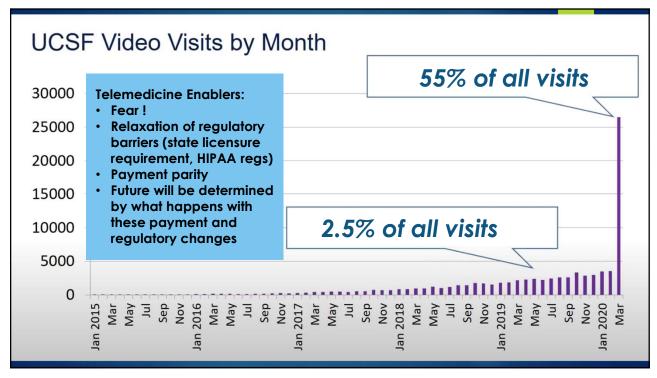


#### What Will 2021 Look Like?



- A coherent and more aggressive plan from Washington, with competently led federal agencies, relatively free of political interference
  - ▶ Efforts to promote/de-partisan-ize non-pharma interventions, especially masks and testing
  - ▶ Business and school openings depend on regional specifics
- Surges won't be tamped down until we reach population immunity levels of ~40% (combination of prior infections plus vaccines) − probably late spring
  - ▶ But new, more infectious variant may challenge this timeline and threshold
- ▶ Improved therapeutics will continue to lower mortality rate (though people's comfort with that will be tempered by potential for "Long Covid" & long-term health threats)
- ▶ Vaccine distribution will remain contentious particularly who goes first and the question of requiring vaccination/immunity passports
- ▶ "Back to normal": impossible to predict when; probably in fall and not quite "normal"

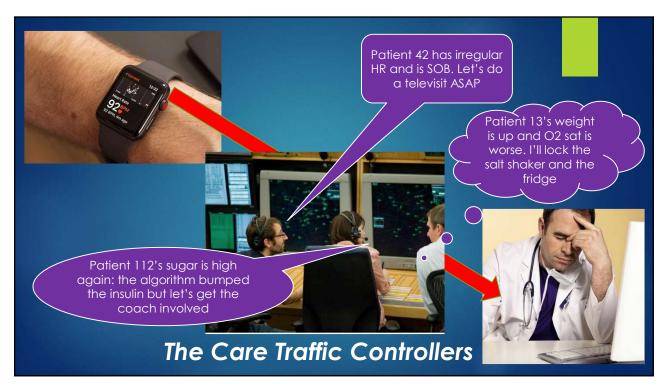




# The Fundamental Question About Telemedicine/Virtual Visits

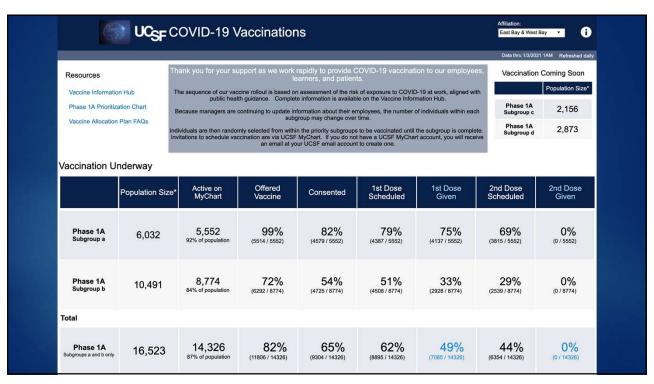


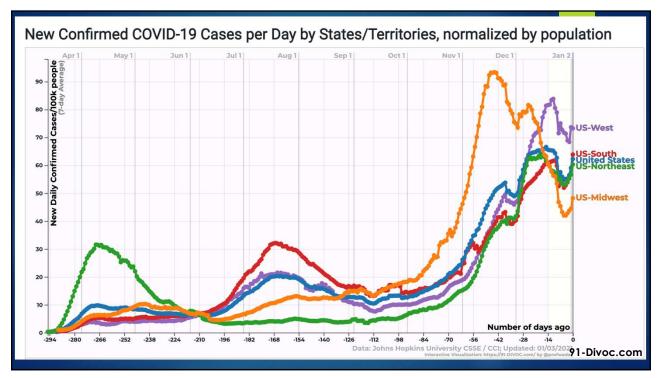
- Fine if so: convenient for patients, maybe for providers
- ▶ Opens up new non-geographically-determined care options
  - ▶ Potentially good for patients, but new competitive threats for health systems
- Or does it pave the way for true virtual care the real game-changer
  - ▶ Patients no longer coming into office to get BP, weight, glucose checks, etc. means new dependence on digital data streams
  - ▶ Measures less episodic; more semi-continuous
  - ▶ The billion-dollar question: how will we manage these new data flows?

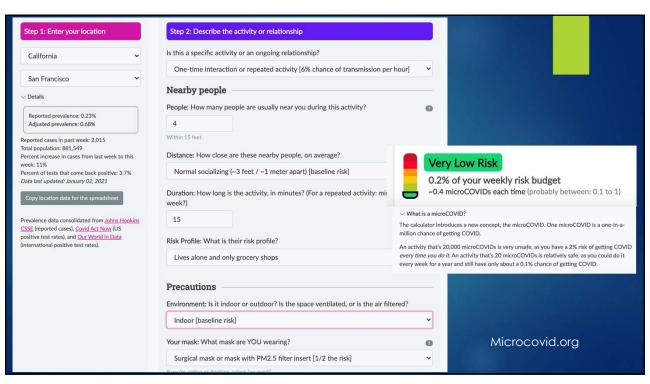




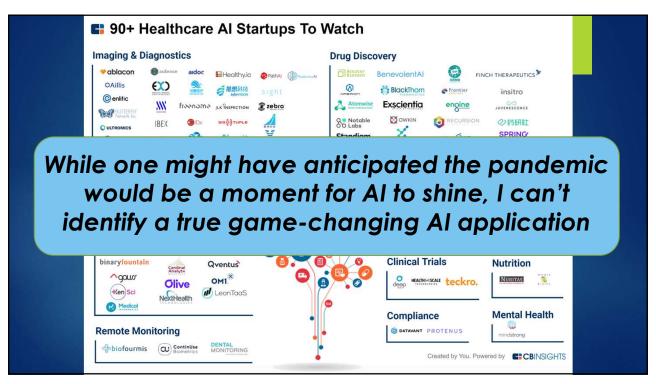


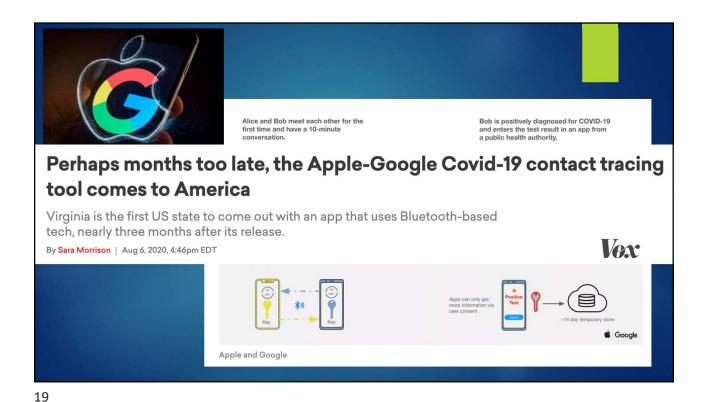


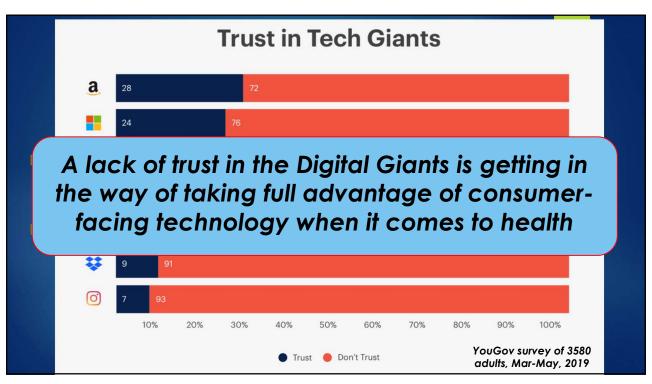


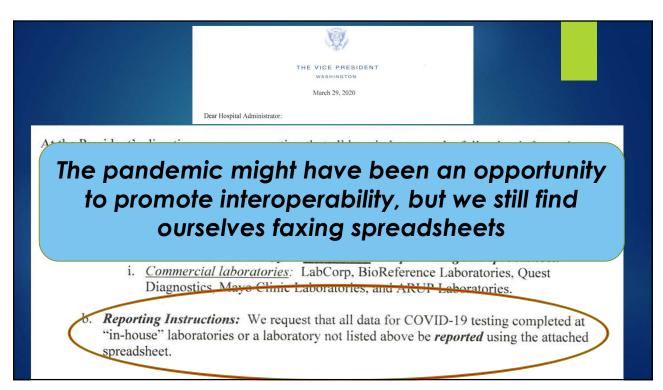






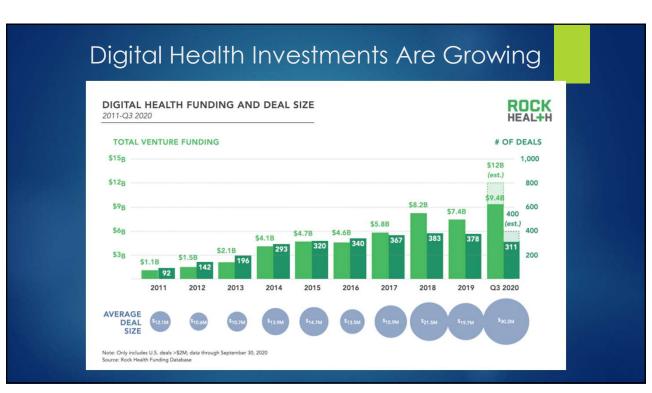








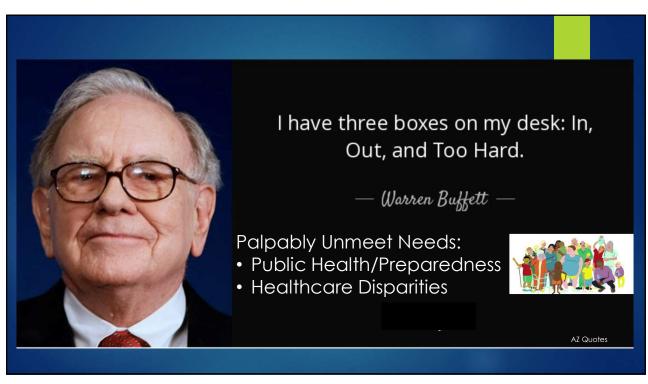






# Why Health IT May Finally Be Entering a New (Post-EHR) Phase Winners in EHR derby: healthcare-specific companies, good at collecting data & moving it around They were ready when healthcare went digital Not expert in consumer-facing tools, user interface, learning from data, communication, visualization.... Now entering the post-EHR era, facilitated by value pressure, population health needs, interoperability, cloud computing, Al, digital companies maturing... and the obvious limitations of what EHRs can offer







Preparing for the Next Pandemic

"The most promising way to deal with a possible recurrence is, to sum it up in a single word, preparedness. And now is the time to prepare."

Surgeon General Rupert Blue October 1918

# "Obvious" Changes That May Go Into the "Too Hard" Box

- ▶ Everyone will profess to be committed to adequately resourcing public health. Beyond having an off-the-shelf plan for the next pandemic, this support will weaken once the Covid-19 pandemic is over
  - ▶ No powerful constituency
  - ▶ Hard to find resources for prevention when pitted against current needs
- Everyone will profess to be shocked by the disparities illustrated by Covid-19 (although they've been well appreciated for decades). Expect lots of lip service about addressing them, and then it too will recede
  - ▶ Most relate to social determinants of health, so they'll require investments in housing, jobs, justice system, and education, as well as significant income redistribution... all of which are politically challenging

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#### A Time for Optimism?

