

We're Being Locked-down for an Infection Fatality Rate of Less than 0.2%? Dr. Richard Schabas to Ontario Premier Doug Ford

By [Dr. Richard Schabas](#)

Global Research, January 19, 2021

[Mark Taliano](#) 18 January 2021

Region: [Canada](#)

Theme: [Science and Medicine](#)

*Below is an important letter from former Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, **Dr. Richard Schabas**, addressed to Ontario **Premier Doug Ford**.*

“The national lockdown was never part of our planned pandemic response nor is it supported by strong science”.

“Two recent studies on the effectiveness of lockdown show that it has, at most, a small COVID mortality benefit compared to more moderate measures. Both studies warned about the excessive cost of lockdowns.”

Dr. Richard Schabas, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
@gmail.com; 647

January 18, 2021

Premier Doug Ford
111 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1A8

Dear Premier Ford:

I served as Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health from 1987 to 1997. I helped train many current medical officers, including Dr. Williams and was Chief of Staff at York Central Hospital during the 2003 SARS crisis.

On January 15, 2021, MPP Roman Baber sent you a public letter calling on your Government to change course on Covid. MPP Baber made five key points and I believe he was correct on all five items.

First, reasonable estimates of the infection fatality rate (IFR) from Covid have been declining as we learn more. Outside of Long Term Care, the risk of dying if you are infected with Covid is probably less than 0.2% overall and deaths are concentrated in the frail elderly. Younger people and healthy people have a much lower risk. Models that predicted hundreds of thousands of deaths from Covid in Canada were badly wrong because they used incorrect, exaggerated inputs.

Second, lockdown was never part of our planned pandemic response nor is it supported by strong science. Lockdown has been used by almost every developed country and, in the great majority of cases, the lack of response speaks for itself. Two recent studies on the effectiveness of lockdown show that it has, at most, a small Covid mortality benefit compared to more moderate measures. Both studies warn about the excessive cost of lockdown.

Third, there are significant costs to lockdowns - lost education, unemployment, social isolation, deteriorating mental health and compromised access to health care. Lockdown is an affront to social justice because its burdens fall disproportionately on the young, the working poor and visible minorities. We will be paying for lockdown - in lives and dollars for decades to come.

Fourth, in April the government announced that it had added almost 1,500 critical care beds to cope with a Covid surge. Now, after nine months to prepare for the predictable resurgence of Covid, why do you have less ICU Capacity than we had last April?

Fifth, the government has resorted to fairmongering to encourage compliance with lockdown. An excellent example is in the government's response to Mr. Baber's letter. Instead of addressing his point about Covid IFRs, the government cited Covid's reported case fatality rate (CFR). Every knowledgeable observer of Covid understands that CFR is in itself an irrelevant number. IFR is the meaningful measure of virulence. CFR's only "virtue" is its ability to frighten by overstating the real risk of dying from a Covid infection. I can think of no other reason for the government to cite CFR except to promote fear.

Covid is a natural disaster with tragic consequences. Our well-intentioned but misguided efforts to control Covid are only compounding the tragedy. We need to change course. No one has all the answers but the first step is to start asking the right questions. Mr. Baber deserves great credit for his courage in trying open the discussion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Schabas

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums, etc.

We'd like to thank Mark Taliano for bringing this to our attention.

The original source of this article is [Mark Taliano](#)
Copyright © [Dr. Richard Schabas](#), [Mark Taliano](#), 2021

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Dr. Richard Schabas](#)**

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca