Thanks Barry. I actually think there is some common sense to be had with Lambert et al. I’ve worked with others to craft a response highlighting different ideas of yours without worming the pieces of ground we might agree to stand in together. These are difficult times, the stakes are high, people are suffering and I think that doesn’t have to cause us to veer off course and sometimes to emerge contumacious. It can be really hard to sort out the noise.

Meanwhile, there are several important points to consider.

1. **Epidemiological Evidence**: The idea that the authors downplay asymptomatic transmission is not supported by recent research. Studies conducted in the early stages of the pandemic highlighted the importance of asymptomatic transmission, which is a significant factor in the spread of COVID-19.

2. **Public Health Advice**: The recent NEJM editorial by Peter Morgan highlights some of the key points that need to be considered in the context of asymptomatic transmission. Morgan emphasizes the importance of monitoring and isolation for those who are asymptomatic but infected, which is crucial for containing the spread of the virus.

3. **Public Perception**: The authors attempt to suggest that Washington and Inslee’s policies are based on an inaccurate understanding of the data. However, Morgan’s letter to the editor challenges this perception, pointing out that the decision-making process is complex and often involves a variety of factors.

4. **Racial Justice**: Morgan’s letter also raises important questions about racial equity and the potential for discriminatory practices in health policy. Morgan expresses concern about the “no new cases for 3 weeks” criterion, suggesting that it may disproportionately affect certain communities.

5. **Risk Communication**: Morgan’s letter underscores the importance of clear and transparent communication with the public. He encourages open dialogue and collaboration to ensure that public health policies are grounded in rigorous scientific evidence.

In conclusion, it is essential to continue monitoring the situation closely and to adjust public health strategies as necessary. The authors should consider these points and adapt their approach accordingly to address the evolving landscape of COVID-19 transmission and containment.