

Subject: Tr: POLITICO Pro Morning Health Care: Damning COVID report — EHDS turns right — Early cancers on the rise

Date: Friday, 16 September 2022 at 12:36:39 Central European Summer Time

From: jeanpaul.z@laposte.net

To: info

Diana bonjour
on pourra peut-être présenter ce mail pendant l'AG ?
bises. Jp

----- mail transféré -----

Envoyé: vendredi 16 Septembre 2022 09:30

De : "Lorenzo Sonis"

A : "EPA Board 2022" ,"EPA-TEAM"

Objet : POLITICO Pro Morning Health Care: Damning COVID report — EHDS turns right — Early cancers on the rise

MORNING HEALTH CARE

By HELEN COLLIS

with Ashleigh Furlong, Sarah-Taïssir Bencharif, Carlo Martuscelli, Giorgio Leali and
Douglas Busvine

PRESENTED BY

SNEAK PEEK

— The Lancet COVID-19 Commission's damning report on global leaders' handling of the pandemic contains few positive words and plenty of advice, for now and the future.

— A lawmaker from Parliament's far-right political group will lead the health data space file, prompting a strong response from others.

— Early-age cancers are on the rise, but detection is improving.

Welcome to Friday's Morning Health Care! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it an Elon Musk failure? No. The giant fireball seen [streaking across the night sky](#) from Scotland and Northern Ireland this week was space junk (probably). One of the tens of thousands of bits of junk, like satellite parts, cluttering Earth's orbit.

Get in

touch: hcollis@politico.co.uk, cmartuscelli@politico.eu, afurlong@politico.co.uk, stbencharif@politico.eu and dbusvine@politico.eu. Tweet

us [@hcollis](#), [@carlomartu](#), [@ashleighfurlong](#), [@sarahbencharif](#), [@busvine](#)

DRIVING THE DAY

MILLIONS OF PREVENTABLE DEATHS: A global commission of leading experts has delivered a damning report of the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lancet COVID-19 Commission, led by American economist Jeffrey Sachs, found widespread, global failures at multiple levels in the response, leading to millions of preventable deaths and reversed progress made towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in many countries, according to the [report](#).

Presenting the findings to journalists on Thursday, Sachs stressed the following points, and urged countries to step up in a number of areas.

None the wiser: "We still today do not know where SARS-CoV-2 came from," he said, expressing consternation. Neither the lab leak theory nor the theory of natural spillover from the Wuhan marketplace "has been disproved."

Both need investigation: "We call on all governments including the U.S. and China and others to open the books," he said. "We don't want laboratory-created pandemics. And yet there was a lot of hidden, dangerous research underway," Sachs added. In addition, "there has been no animal tested positive that proves the market hypothesis," he said.

Empower WHO: "We need WHO to oversee biosafety because we don't have any global oversight of biosafety right now," he said. He urged political leaders to boost funding to the body for this, saying: "We need to know what's happening."

Experience served well: Eastern Asian countries fared relatively better with lower death rates because they had lived through SARS. That historical memory and "the institutionalization of preparedness through whole regional processes was extraordinarily helpful," he said.

Need for 'pro sociality': "Our main argument is that a pandemic requires cooperation at all scales," he said, in what the commission terms pro sociality. That means preventing infection at the individual and local level. "It can mean at the political level, not treating a pandemic as a partisan issue," he said.

Justice: "A pandemic is not an occasion to leave people to die because they're poor," he said: "It is a case for solidarity." Sachs said cooperation was "about efficiency that is stopping a pandemic at lowest cost. And it is about justice, ensuring that vulnerable populations ... are not just thrown by the wayside, by a pandemic."

Political whims: But instead of seeing pro sociality, "we have seen a pandemic handled, basically, nation by nation ... often by the whims of particular political leaders ... rather than systematic cooperative practice," Sachs said.

Still major risks: The report calls for boosting vaccination efforts plus so-called non-pharmaceutical measures as appropriate. Face masks are "not a deprivation of liberty, [but] a simple, standard, prudential measure of public health," he said.

Mark your calendars: Our [weekly health care calendar](#) lands in your inbox on Thursday. You can also [go online](#) to export and plan your week or [suggest your own event](#).

DIGITAL HEALTH

TURNING RIGHT IN HEALTH DATA SPACE: Things are heating up in the health data space. A lawmaker from the European Parliament's far-right Identity and Democracy (ID) group will [lead](#) the health data space file in the civil liberties, justice and home affairs (LIBE) committee,

a parliamentary insider told POLITICO. The file will be [jointly](#) led with the environment, public health and food safety (ENVI) committee, whose rapporteur will be selected from the European People's Party group.

Causing a stir: “The recent news on the ID rapporteurship in the Civil Liberties Committee is not one I welcome and will probably de facto position ENVI as the most adequate forum to exchange and channel relevant input,” MEP Susana Solís Pérez (Renew Europe) said in a written comment.

Striking a balance: The report needs to strike a balance between protecting fundamental rights and unleashing health data's potential, Solís Pérez said. “Now, from the ENVI Committee we must ensure that we come up with a good report that can balance out ID,” she said.

A dose of optimism: Though it's not an “ideal scenario,” Solís Pérez said she is confident they will deliver good legislation for patients and the European health sector as a whole.

****A message from Janssen:** Cost-effectiveness of new medicines is sometimes evaluated based on the burden a disease has on the health system, but the biggest impact of many genetic diseases is indirect — borne by patients, their families and social care systems. Read the [Case Study](#) here.**

COMPETITION

BLOCKING PATENT PROBE: The Swiss Competition Commission has, in collaboration with the European Commission, launched a probe into pharmaceutical firm Novartis as it suspects the company may have abused its dominant position in the field of dermatology. The commission suspects the firm “allegedly attempted to protect its drug for the treatment of skin diseases against competing products by using one of its patents to initiate litigation proceedings.”

Cooperating with authorities: The watchdog didn't name the company, but Novartis on Thursday [confirmed](#) it was the target of dawn raids on Tuesday, conducted by the Swiss commission, adding that the investigation was “into the assertion of a patent in the broader field of dermatology treatments.” The Swiss pharma group said it was “cooperating with the authorities” and that the investigation “does not imply any finding of wrongdoing or any financial impact.”

CANCER

EARLY-AGE CANCERS ON THE RISE: According to an article published in [Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology](#), the rate of early-onset cancers — defined as cancers diagnosed before the age of 50 — is on the up across a whole range of cancer types and in different countries.

The increase is real ... Part of this is down to more screening, but there is a real underlying trend of rising cases, finds a team of Japanese and American researchers. They attribute the increase to shifts in our lifestyles in the past 50 years, with everything from changes to our diet, obesity rates, environment and the microbiome potentially to blame.

... but detection is improving: The good news is that science is giving us ever more sophisticated tools to detect cancer. Scientists presenting at the European Society for Medical Oncology have for the first time shown [positive results](#) for blood tests used for the detection of early cancer across different cancer types, in patients whose cancer status was unknown.

The results: The PATHFINDER study looked at 6,621 people aged 50 years and over who were not known to have cancer. A positive result was reported for 1.4 percent of those. That result was then confirmed in just over a third. Just as important, a little over 99 percent of those who received a negative result had it confirmed.

A good first step: “This study indicates that hope is on the horizon for detecting cancers that are currently unscreenable, but of course much more work is needed and, with experience and larger samples, these assays will improve,” said Deb Schrag, of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, who was lead author of the study.

ABORTION