

face masks, social distancing, and significant testing and contact tracing spared their citizens from the pandemic. However, the United States did not consistently follow scientific advice and cut short the lives of almost 300,000 citizens. The swift production of coronavirus vaccines promises relief. But their use will take government distribution plans.

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The failure to adhere to science which respects global climate disruption has also made our lives more difficult. Wildfires have ruined the air in the west and driven one million people from their homes. Intense hurricanes have disrupted thousands of people in the south with almost \$40 billion worth of damage in this year alone. The climate models predict that these dangers and many others will get much worse if we do not use science to address the climate crisis at home and around the world.

We have all the information needed to spare us from a return to the dark times. We know that we must substitute clean energy for dirty fossil fuels. The technology to do this is available and has become cheaper than the old methods. Science predicts that the climate crisis could increase the rate of infectious diseases. Science has, within the lifetimes of our older citizens, rescued us from such nasty, brutish, and short lives because the government used federal resources to promote the latest advances. If our leaders do not use science in this way, we might as well return to the dark times, when science was scarce and advances were buried.

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