



Reject fear-mongering over N.J. clean energy plan | Letters

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Sick from COVID-19? Don't call an economist

A recent Paul Mulshine column ([“A study of studies shows lockdowns should be locked out”](#)) referred to a Johns Hopkins University “meta-analysis” supporting the conclusion that lockdown policies had little to no effect on mortality rates from COVID-19.

Hold on! This report is the work of a Johns Hopkins professor of applied economics, Steven Hanke. He is also a [senior fellow at the Cato Institute](#), a libertarian think tank. His two co-authors are economists from other universities.

For the last two years, I've focused on the advice of epidemiologists and public health professionals as they studied and learned the nuances of the evolving virus. The emphasis has been to prevent transmission by minimizing exposure in large gatherings, masking and social distancing and the ultimate gift of science —vaccination.

I'll stick with Gov. Phil Murphy's approach to choose science. New Jersey deaths from Covid reached have 32,000. In Florida, whose governor made many mask, vaccination and closure mandates illegal, the deaths are 66,000.

My advice is, if you are feeling ill, don't be a knucklehead. Do not call an economist!

Richard Kochman, West Caldwell

Editor's note: Florida's population is more than twice that of New Jersey's; [the COVID-19 death rates per 100,000 are similar](#).