Personal memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

L. Read
7/8/95

some numbers.
Ebola vs all the rest / Africa

Per our conversation.

~250 deaths in 25 years would not count much per se in the African experience. It would add up to perhaps 10,000 (WYLL) years on a scale of 184MM for TB and 325MM HIV; ~~453~~ 402MM malaria; 455. acute lower resp. (includes flu.) I am trying to get more numbers on flu.

Kikwit, says N.Y. Times, has about 500 000 people. Let's call that 1‰ of Africa.

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(x) .. x̄. ot→✓ 7/12/95

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Then the relative Ebola burden would be 10MM compared to 1B for the other I.D.S.

So it was not even the ~~mot~~ city mortality that was scary. It was

a) the open-ended possibility of spread and

b) 255 deaths among ? a few thousand contacts of the victims

that exhibited the potential.

At 1% mortality, including quite young, the years lost burden of a 1918 flu on today's population would ≅ 130MM years in a single year ≅ TB in 30.

Josh.

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