


# UKE professors: 'Numbers don't justify fear of corona'

 [abendblatt.de/hamburg/article228908865/hamburg-corona-virus-uke-infektion-covid-19-pueschel-coronavirus-krise-patienten-impfstoff-immunitaet-krankenhaeuser-kontaktverbot-kliniken-infektionsrate-krankheit-pandemie-test-lungenkrankheit-sars-cov-epidemie-sars-cov-2.html](https://www.abendblatt.de/hamburg/article228908865/hamburg-corona-virus-uke-infektion-covid-19-pueschel-coronavirus-krise-patienten-impfstoff-immunitaet-krankenhaeuser-kontaktverbot-kliniken-infektionsrate-krankheit-pandemie-test-lungenkrankheit-sars-cov-epidemie-sars-cov-2.html)

Lars Haider

Hamburg. One is one of the country's best-known child and adolescent psychiatrists, and the other is currently investigating people who died at or with Covid-19 as a forensic doctor. **Michael Schulte-Markwort** and **Klaus Püschel**, both professors at the **University Hospital Eppendorf**, have now joined forces because they find the political and social handling of the **Corona Crisis** dangerous.

"None of the figures we know justifies the fear that is being stoked in Germany about the virus," says Schulte-Markwort. On the contrary, he has the impression that the fear is gradually becoming self-sufficient, that "good news in connection with the virus is no longer perceived at all". On 26 March, for example, Health Minister Jens Spahn spoke of the "calm before the storm" and warned of a possible overload of the intensive care units.

## 10,000 free intensive care beds

"In fact, less than three weeks later, there is no clinic in Germany that is at its capacity limits," says Schulte-Markwort. Spahn himself explained over Easter that 10,000 intensive care beds are currently available. And there can be no question of "Italian conditions" that even Lothar Wieler, the head of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for Germany, had not ruled out. This is also due to the fact that there are almost 40 intensive care beds per 100,000 inhabitants in Germany, in Italy there are only 8.6. "Such figures play far too little role in the public discussion," says Schulte-Markwort.

On the other hand, it should be remembered that the RKI warned that up to ten million people in Germany had been infected in the next two to three months. "We obviously have a collective, subconscious interest in keeping the fear of the virus as high as possible," Schulte-Markwort says. After all, the RKI admitted on Tuesday that, given the current trend in the number of infections in Germany, shortages in medical care are no longer to be expected. Nevertheless, it is still against the easing of the measures now in force in the fourth week.

## Total number of Corona patients is declining

Klaus Püschel, who like no other forensic physician in Germany has examined people who have died after a corona infection, does not understand this. His findings: "Corona is a comparatively harmless viral disease. We have to deal with the fact that Corona is a normal infection, and we have to learn to live with it without quarantine." The deaths he examined had all been so severe that, "even if that sounds harsh, they would all have died in the course of this year." Püschel becomes even clearer: "The time of virologists is over. We should now ask others what is right in the corona crisis, such as intensive care physicians."

Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/IIMPUPiZhAo>

After Püschel criticism: RKI recommends obduction of the dead

As an example, he cites his colleague Stefan Kluge, head of intensive care at the UKE, who a few days ago called for measures against Corona to be relaxed as early as April. "We ourselves received a message from the UKE over Easter that the situation there is calm and orderly," says Püschel, who, like Schulte-Markwort, warns of the consequences that the shutdown could have for hospitals and medical practices.

## **Appeal to Angela Merkel**

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The overall number of patients there has fallen significantly, which is a major danger, "because all the other diseases, some of which are much more dangerous, do not take a break". Schulte-Markwort: "It's weird that the emergency department in the UKE beyond Corona has much less to do at the moment than it did two or three months ago."

The appeal of the two doctors: "Angela Merkel should slowly reopen Germany. Now is the right time," says Klaus Püschel. Michael Schulte-Markwort trusts society, "that is, all of us, to deal responsibly and independently with the situation". And in the end, Püschel has only one question: "What do we actually do if we get to deal with a really dangerous virus in Germany at some point?"

## **10 theses on how to deal with the virus**

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- **1.** The onset of the pandemic has understandably quickly caused fear around the world.
- **2.** Fear basically protects us from dangerous behaviour. Self-sufficient fear, however, harms.
- **3.** The viral infection is not to be prevented. The disease Covid-19 is far less bad than most people think and politics and the media suggest.
- **4.** Slowing down the infection curve to ensure intensive capacity was useful. Capacity is far from being used.
- **5.** Nevertheless, fear-enhancing mechanisms have now been consolidated.
- **6.** We can dare to deal with this infection as a whole.
- **7.** The protection of risk groups must, of course, be provided for, but never against their will. Loneliness (by quarantine, for example ...) also makes you sick.
- **8.** The German health system is one of the best in the world. We can rely on that. Covid-19 must not unilaterally block our health care system.
- **9.** In almost all areas of daily life, the distance regulations and hygiene measures can be adhered to. This means that all sectors of the economy and public life should be reopened immediately.
- **10.** We should show solidarity with how we become fearless and self-determined.

Editorial Corona-Exit: Sense of proportion instead of fear