



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
415 N. Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21231

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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Keeping track of time in a pandemic

Before the pandemic I had the ritual of “going to work” and weekends. The rhythm of “work” is different than the rhythm of weekends. I looked forward to weekends and holidays. Now I need a calendar like in prison movies to mark off the days to release, but, alas, I do not know when that will be.

Now my best indicator of time is what is on TV when I get up. If the screen is filled with talking heads on “news” shows it is a weekday. If the screen is filled with infomercial it is Saturday and if filled with a someone telling me what to think it is Sunday.

But my system is not foolproof. The other day, with my usual channel surfing in the morning, I discovered the stock market was closed. I could have sworn the day before was Sunday. What gives?

Later that the day I talked to my homebound Hopkins employed daughter and discovered it was a holiday. A holiday to celebrate the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. I would have known with the ritual of “going to the office”.

I miss the ritual.