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## **LEARNING MODULE 5: CULTURAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19**

**Answer the following critical thinking questions and post your answers in the given drop-box**

**Find your own research material to answer these questions and cite the source material in the answer sheet**

**Total Points -200**

**Word Limit: Min 175 each. You can write more.**

**Q:1 How have cultural behaviors influenced the spread of infectious diseases in human populations? Are there a couple of specific examples that you could share?**

Culture is in a way what gave birth to many infectious diseases. Take China for example, their continued use of wet/live markets have helped give birth to several infectious diseases, such as Covid-19 and SARS. However, food safety laws are little less strict than the U.S, in the United States we have the FDA that presides over such matters. Culture plays an incredibly large role in the spread of infectious diseases, according to Futurity.com “cultural reactions vary depending on how our families are structured, our way of life, our cosmologies, and our economic systems. The impact of the disease can be greater or lesser depending on the particular actions and behaviors of different groups.”

**Q:2 How culture influences the current spread of COVID-19 worldwide?**

An example of American distrust of Government has increased exponentially since the election of Donald Trump in office. Every-other day the President is making another Twitter post that includes and sells fallacies and lies, this has led to an increase of distrust of the Presidency and American government. This distrust has birthed a new sub- group of American culture for those who are “Anti- Vaxers” (people who don’t trust vaccines) and non-mask wearers (people who believe Coronavirus is fake), and in a sense, this distrust in American government has encouraged people and made them feel as if though masks are not needed because they believe that the government is being untruthful and the Covid-19 pandemic is a sham/fake. This distrust and conspiracy theories has helped spread the virus

further. Globally the use of Aero travel has helped spread the virus the most, as their were people and loved ones who may have been living in ground zero (Wuhan, China), students studying abroad and several other situations.

**Q:3 Are there particular behaviors that are more prevalent than others throughout history?**

In a Harvard Gazette Article named ““The lesson is to never forget”” examines the similarities between the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic and the 1918 Flu. The author claims that, “A lesson we should remember is that governments have the responsibility to prepare for a pandemic; they have the obligation to invest in public-health systems to protect their citizens from both the threat and the reality of the next pandemic.”. In part of government failures millions of people have died as a result of infectious disease, whether that be the result of cover-ups or other tactics. For example in the 1918 flu, states in the U.S had the power to control the usage of masks and social area shutdowns, as a result it was not taken as seriously by citizens and spread like “wildfire”. This is almost a mirror reflection of the Covid-19 we as a global population are dealing with now. Another example of similarity may be where “Germ panic has been identified in the social responses from the bubonic plague in the middle ages to the way that immigrants and the poor were blamed for tuberculosis in the Victorian era. We are seeing it right now with anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

**Q4: Why are cultural behaviors important to study when looking at how infectious diseases spread in human populations? What lessons can we draw from history to the current COVID-19 outbreak?**

Cultural behaviors are important to study when looking at how infectious disease spread in human populations because as someone who may be analyzing the history of Pandemics, you may be able to prevent or slow the spread of such diseases for the future or currently. Lessons we ca learn from history and now, dealing with the new Covid-19 virus include, government transparency, increased funding for medical offices such as the CDC, increased preparation for Disease control, and more unified action from the Federal government.