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World Civilization II

HIS114-NO

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December 15, 2020

Final

Medical: How are our healthcare professionals dealing with this? How has it impacted their lives, health, and families?

In early March 2020 there was so much anxiety due to the coronavirus, which affected the entire world and created turmoil. Everyone was very confused and they thought the world was coming to an end. The United States and the world embraced for the worst, as hospitals prepared for the coronavirus pandemic. I believe this pandemic stands as one of the most frightening, overwhelming experiences anyone could ever face. This was shocking to see the power of this COVID-19 virus and the disease that came with it. The lack of ventilators for the overwhelming amount of COVID patients that was hospitalized created confusion among hospital administrators. The Governors and Mayors of each State gave daily briefings, warning the public to take precautions and social distancing. The death tolls were enormous. Health care workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, respiratory therapists and emergency management were dispatched in various locations performing the most dangerous jobs, while preparing for a disaster. This pandemic was like terrorism and hurricane in one, it was unprecedented. "Doctors and nurses on the front lines were running on empty, under increasing duress as the pandemic surges and hospitals are overrun with patients"(NY Times).

This pandemic caught everyone by surprise, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention assessed that "between March and May 2020 there were over 6,000 adults hospitalized of this amount there were 5.9% health care workers" among the count (Rivas, NY Post). Among the high percentages of health care workers were nursing assistants. Due to the close and long patient contact the health care workers were exposed to infected patients for a long extended period of time, putting them at high risk for contracting this deadly virus. "The virus can spread when our hands come into contact with the virus, and we touch our nose, mouth or eyes"(Niraj, NY Times) CDC and doctors alerted everyone if they have compromising health conditions such as Asthma, Diabetes, Cancer and other underlying conditions, that they would be

at high risk for contracting the coronavirus. Therefore, it was imperative to wear facemasks and protective eye wear during caring for patients in health care facilities to decrease the transmission rate and to save lives. Numerous front lines health care workers were unable to see their spouse and children when they got home from shift because they self isolated in order to protect their families from possible exposure. They had to be quarantined for weeks due to fear of exposure. One nurse who spoke to reporters stated that, “I would go home with tears in my eyes,” (Wu, NY Times). They were terrified of death and infecting their families. A healthcare worker stated “unrelenting stress that has become an endemic part of the health care crisis nationwide”(Wu, NY Times).

Health care workers are burnout, depressed and suicidal at this time. One doctor committed suicide at my job two weeks ago due to depression. He was frustrated of not being able to save more lives. He was hopeless and tired of faces so many deaths due to the virus. The hospital did not have enough PPE to protect workers from the virus and not enough ventilators to care for dying patients. According to doctors and nurses “No training prepared them for the wrath of the virus, and its aftermath” (Wu, NY Times)

It was announced, “Pfizer’s vaccine was cleared for emergency for adults only” (Niraj & Katie, NY Times) on December 11, 2020 (no vaccine for children as yet). With the death rate rising, the government is hoping everyone can be vaccinated expeditiously, to stop this deadly COVID-19 from terrorizing our country. It is too early to know how effective this vaccine will be. The World Economic Forum “vaccine usually takes up to 10 years to develop, test and distribute,” (Broom, World Economic Forum). This deadly virus has “highlighted the importance,” that is necessary to urgently speed up the research and to distribution of the vaccine. The world is anticipating the adverse and effects of the vaccine. This is a time men

should seek to have a closer relationship with God. It is evident that his return is very close and might not be much long after 2020.

## Work Cited

**I accessed these website on November 11 to December 13, 2020**

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