

COVID-19 Pandemic

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July 19, 2021

Throughout history there have been many plagues that have swept through the nations, leaving countless dead in its wake. Some people view plagues as a divine punishment and others seek answers in scientific reasoning. In 2019 a virus known as Coronavirus caused a global shutdown, countries closing their borders, rise in unemployment, and is currently still taking lives. What is this never-before-seen virus? Is there any way to protect ourselves from the unseen?

Coronavirus, typically called COVID-19 and identified as SARS-CoV-2 is a respiratory illness. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, n.d.). An individual exposed to COVID-19 may experience a number of these symptoms or even be asymptomatic (having no symptoms but can still transmit the disease) but the only way to know if someone is positive is to get tested.

During the beginning stages of COVID-19, countries were forced to close their borders to outsiders due to the rapid spread of the disease. For months, people were only able to leave their homes for necessary supplies, and absolutely no social gatherings. Businesses were shut down that were deemed non-essential by governments, and many were left unemployed. “As of now, researchers know that the coronavirus is spread through droplets and virus particles released into the air when an infected person breathes, talks, laughs, sings, coughs or sneezes” (Auwaerter, M.B.A., M.D. & Casadevall, M.D., M.S., Ph.D., 2020). The necessary accessory to enter any place was to maintain a social distance of six feet and to wear a mask at all times. Another method of protection from COVID-19 is getting vaccinated to prevent infection and there are

multiple vaccines to choose from. Although getting vaccinated does not mean you will not get COVID-19 again, but your symptoms will take less of a toll on your body.

Throughout the pandemic, many Americans felt that their freedom was being stripped away under the association of COVID-19. Some feared surveillance and being monitored by the local government. In NYC when someone tests positive for COVID-19, there is a team of trackers set in place to call and ensure the wellbeing of the individual. For some, it was seen as a nuisance to receive a daily call, but for others, it was a saving grace. The trackers would assist in any way possible, sending food or cleaning supplies to help positive cases staying indoors and following quarantine regulations. If one failed to answer the calls of the trackers, a tracker would be sent to the home to ask the necessary questions from the positive individual.

The government handled the situation as best as possible, granted the severity of the situation never seen before. The quick response of the federal government aided the local government in a time of need by providing necessary PPE equipment to hospitals, delivering beds, and ventilators. The government stepped forward to aid those that had lost their jobs and made collecting unemployment accessible to its citizens. As I am a child of immigrant parents, I do have to disagree with the manner in which undocumented people were ignored during the pandemic. Unable to collect unemployment because of their illegal status in this country, yet paying taxes all the same. I believe no one could've been prepared for the magnitude that COVID-19 has had over the nation and the world. Each country could have prepared by having more supplies, but there is no way anyone could have predicted what would be deemed necessary.

Works Cited

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