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“The Novel Coronavirus”

BUS 434: Ethical Leadership

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According to the World Health Organization, “Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. SARS, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, is a rapidly spreading, potentially fatal infectious viral disease”. Coronavirus for the rest of the world was a “panic button”, a wake-up call for the new norm of our lives. As many witnessed loved ones, friends, and colleagues get hit quickly and hard, we also saw emergency rooms flooded, and our doctors and nurses work tirelessly to save lives and make hard decisions, as lives were deteriorating around them. As we watched we feared for our own lives, without any answers.

Most people infected with the virus would experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some became seriously ill and required medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer were more likely to develop serious illnesses. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age.

Some of the Coronavirus Variants that developed, from the virus, were the Delta, Omicron, Alpha, and Beta. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), “the variants could cause more severe disease in those who were not vaccinated and could lead to more hospitalizations and deaths”. Some ways to protect ourselves and others from Coronavirus and its variants are practicing basic hygiene, like washing our hands, covering our mouths when we need to cough or sneeze, wearing a mask and respirator, and social distancing. Other ways to stay proactive are to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, get tested for COVID-19, if needed, and remain home if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Improving ventilation

can help prevent virus particles from accumulating in indoor air. Open the windows at home, and change the filters in your heating, ventilation, and air conditioner (HVAC) system, frequently.

There were several ethical implications associated with Coronavirus and its variants throughout this pandemic. In the video, **Coronavirus Outbreak: The Ethical Dilemma over Ventilators**, Heather Yourex-West, explains the ethical dilemma confronted by our medical workers, during the brink of the Coronavirus outbreak, as who should be removed from ventilators to save the lives of others, due to the scarcity of them. As our nurses and doctors cared for our loved ones and friends their own lives were at risk. The responsibility to show up for their patients, often called, “the duty to treat”- is an ethical obligation in the world of medicine. Then there were and still are the theories and ethical differences surrounding the vaccine.

What can I say about the United States government and its handling of the Coronavirus outbreak? With all the information, intelligence, and technology, and as the wealthiest nation in the world, I believe our government took a gamble and we the people suffered the loss. This government’s ethical leadership was down the toilet, they knew this pandemic was coming, and the administration in office wasted the pandemic fund that was left by the previous administration. What is more disturbing than how this hardship was grappled with is this government will never accept responsibility, never apologize, and will never have to answer for its unethical and inhumane decisions.