UNOOSA - Webinar Nov 24, 2020
Session 2: Space technology contribution during the pandemics situation

What Have Former Pandemics and Covid-19 Taught US about Social Disruption in a Time Lacking in Antivirals and Vaccines

James C. Hagen, Ph.D., MBA, MPH, NHA
Professor Emeritus
Chicago, Illinois, US
hagen@sxu.edu
Social Disruption

- Economic
- Jobs
- Education
- Mental Health
- Political
- Religious
- Travel

- Gatherings
- Sporting Events\Olympics
- Elderly Care
- Vulnerable Populations
- Inequality
- Quarantine/Isolation

www.un.org/development/desa/dspd
“To different degrees, most of the great epidemics have been incubators of social unrest”
Why Pandemics Disrupt

- Throughout history, **epidemics** and **pandemics** have resulted in massive social and political **impacts and consequences**. Clashes break out between states/governments and citizens, eroding state capacity and trust. Socioeconomic crisis and inequity drive population displacement, and heighten both social tension and discrimination.
The Vulnerable are Always With Us

- Those in poverty
- Older (chronically ill, fragile, medicated)
- Disabled
- Mental Health Issues
- Youth
- Indigenous
- The “long haulers”
POLITICS AND PANDEMICS

• The United States has never been more divided politically than it is now. Controversy and violence continue concerning our election. How did we allow a deadly pandemic to become politicized?

• Masks, mass gatherings, and social distancing were reduced to political positions.
Differences Between Now and Response to the 1918 Pandemic – Not Much!

• Comparison on non-pharmaceutical societal approaches
  – Masks
  – Social distancing
  – Hand washing

• Refugees, migrants, and the displaced always suffer disproportionately
Non-Pharmaceutical Differences Past Pandemics vs Covid-19

- Hospital care
- Trained professionals
- Supportive care such as ventilators
- Isolation units
- Care of bodies and cremation
- Possibility of other medications that are not antivirals or vaccines
Anti-Mask Society

Masks Wearing Sparked Political and Cultural Wars!

Residents Faced Arrest
PLAYBOOK FOR
EARLY RESPONSE TO HIGH-CONSEQUENCE
EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE THREATS AND
BIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Why Didn’t the US Pandemic Plan Work?

• Slow response
• Public health money had been cut
• States were forced to compete with one another for scarce medical supplies
• Despite warnings about coronavirus threat, no vaccines were tested
• Government denial
• Political polarization
• Pandemic Playbook NOT followed
Space4Health and SARS-CoV-2 Models to Track, Predict, and Respond

• Measure location of infected individuals
• Tracking of empty parking lots, roads, and other modes of travel.
• Effect of lockdowns and public health measure on society (view from space) – traffic movement and pollution studies
• Tracking phone data on population movements
• Where are the cases/deaths?
• Antigen/antibody testing patterns?
• Medical Resource patterns?
• Population movement?
• Recovery patterns?
Lessons Learned – Maybe??

- Human health and health of the planet are linked.
- Prevention better than the cure – science as a guide to informed decision-making.
- Covid-19 can sicken and kill anyone.
- Many people are infectious without being sick.
- Critical role of the private sector.
- Masks work
- Misinformation kills

Lessons Learned - Maybe?

- Always be prepared for outbreaks of infectious disease – they WILL happen.
- Denial doesn’t work. Immediate massive response required.
- Social disruption WILL occur.
- Formalize current process for rapid Vaccine production for immediate activation.
- More global communication/cooperation.
- Structured assistance for all populations.
PLEASE!

Continue Public Health Measures until a vaccine is available
WE ARE SO CLOSE!

Thank You