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Similarities with COVID and Spanish Influenza

Reflection: My experiences with the Covid-19 Pandemic have been both eye-opening and heartbreaking. I could never have imagined all the new things I have had to get accustomed to. For example, remembering to bring a mask with you everywhere you go. Then there was also having jobs being canceled that would have gone to plan if there was not a deadly virus going around. I will never take advantage of a non-pandemic world again.

Past-Present Analysis: A steamboat going to Buenos Aires had passengers with influenza and the passengers were allowed to leave the boat and enter the city. Fifteen Days there were 100 reported new cases in one day, this ultimately led to over 250,000 influenza cases. This was a Physicians Report who was frustrated at public health authorities for allowing the passengers to enter the city despite them knowing they had influenza. This Physician was clearly mad at the decision that was made with the steamboat. This report tells us all that physicians knew much more information on the pandemic and knew the circumstances of what would happen. This source was a great example of a physician trying to get people to quarantining, but even health officials did not think they had to. There were more issues of cases in remote places that brought out even harder conditions.

This source comes from a registered nurse in Newberry, Michigan. She had gone out to a remote part of Michigan where the people living had no expectation for sanitation and shared one big log cabin with no other rooms. The people living at Cedar Branch had no boundaries when it came to influenza, she would find sick people living with healthy people and not quarantining away from others at all. The source mentioned a thoughtful message about influenza which said “disease did not confine itself to big cities, but spread into the even most remote areas of any given country”. This is a great example of what had been happening at the time of influenza. Many physicians and hospitals had been struggling with the flu in populated areas, which left out people who did not live near big cities. I learned that there was a struggle for resources that go beyond the big city and many hospitals struggled to help out struggling small villages and camps. The Spanish Flu also exposed even other threats that came along with the deadly disease.

In Sierra Leone, influenza had brought about even greater problems that came along with people getting sick and dying. The problem is where would they put the bodies? There was a lack of carpenters in the country and that led to a lack of coffins to properly bury the bodies. This was a source from the Sierra Leone Weekly News and this document was created to make aware of the issues that citizens were unsure of and hoped to get the word out about what they had to do with the bodies. This pandemic shows that the Spanish Flu not only brought out a deadly disease but created even greater problems.

A physician in South Dakota talks about the struggles of being in a small town with limited supplies. He had one day where he had 11 new cases in 5 hours which to him was crazy for the town he lived in. This source is similar to Cedar Branch, Michigan where the town was small but somehow the flu got around and in this case, COVID made its rounds. The physician was not happy with the governor who was not strict with masks despite all around the U.S. people had been wearing masks. Unfortunately, even in the small town in South Dakota, COVID found its way to the doctor's parents. This source means a lot to me because my great-grandmother died from COVID as well due to people around her not wearing masks. COVID also has become a political movement too. Not sure how it has, Republicans do not believe it is a thing, and Democrats wear their masks, because they know it's right. This document was written by The Washington Post and does a good job of bringing out the troubles of COVID in a small town.

A Paramedic goes through what he has gone through with this pandemic. He talks about how he can't see his family and people working in the medical field struggle with the idea of coming home because they do not want to give their family anything. He knows EMS workers who have slept in their cars to avoid going home because they are scared. He drives from call to call with people suffering from side effects from COVID whether that being difficulty breathing or cardiac arrest. This source does a great job of showing what frontline workers have to go through during this pandemic. This video was made to spotlight the importance of our frontline workers and how much more appreciative of them we should be.

My source will do an excellent job of showing what many smart teens had done during this pandemic. I say smart because there were many selfish people who would go party and spread the virus. I am not a partier in the first place and the pandemic deterred me even more. I socially distanced, listened to science, and most importantly did not spread the virus by being selfish. COVID tells us a lot about society today especially during the election year people would find reasons not to listen to science and their government. They thought if they listened to President Trump it would show off that they are a supporter, but in fact, they are just being selfish. Unfortunately, the pandemic turned political and people used it as a protest to their political beliefs.

All in all, the 1919 Spanish Influenza and COVID-19 taught us to listen to science. There were many instances in both pandemics where cases could have been prevented. The first one that comes to mind is the steamboat falling to quarantining before allowing citizens to come to Buenos Aires, this ultimately led to 250,000+ cases. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the President did not listen to science and did not require a mask mandate, this is leading to an unprecedented number of cases. The small-town South Dakotan physician was preaching wearing masks, but citizens did not listen and even small towns had major breakouts. The Spanish Flu and COVID had similarities that were spotted in many instances and we could have learned from the past.

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