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Unit 2 Article Review

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Covid-19 and the Warnings Before

In this article, “Responding to Covid-19: How to Navigate a Public Health Emergency Legally and Ethically” written by Lawrence O. Gostin, Eric A, Friedman, and Sarah A. Wetter, goes on to talk about what should have been happening when the US shut down in March. This article was published March 26, 2020 which was around a week after St. Ambrose went online for 2 weeks at that point. The US was hit with so much confusion at that time and was not completely sure what was needed to do. In the article it goes through different steps of what needed to happen in the next coming weeks from our government and healthcare officials. The article predicted that we would run low on a lot of supplies (including N95 masks) in the following weeks which they suggested that everyone needed to follow the guidelines that were being put in place by the government so that we did not start to overflow the hospitals. One of the ethical problems they discussed and actually followed was postponing any elective surgeries. This was something that happened very quickly since the hospitals were seeing a dramatic increase after everything across the US started to shut down.

One of the key points ethically that the article was trying to discuss was protecting the most vulnerable people. They were completely right for saying this since the places that saw increases throughout March, April and May were the most vulnerable. This included; prison facilities, nursing homes, homeless shelters, food pantries, etc. which had many people come at once and stay in close areas together. These places were a hotbed for spreading the disease which we later saw from how many people died in the nursing homes and how many people got it in any area that many people traveled to. This article informed the reader that there were going to be problems in each of the places listed above and that everyone, including the government, needed to pay attention to those spots. There were also many different examples of how to prevent the spread so that people who were in those high-risk areas could either be moved to a safer location or minimize the spread.

Now after reading this article and knowing what has happened since March, I wish the US paid more attention to the healthcare articles that were published and other countries around the world that were a few weeks ahead of us in numbers. By taking our healthcare officials advice we could have helped our healthcare and essential workers by not spreading Covid-19 around as easily as we did. By seeing that in the beginning the reason that most people did not wear a mask was because all the masks were being sent to the groups of people that needed them the most. As time went by and we saw how it was spreading people needed to stop listening to those that do not have a medical degree talk about how to go about being in public. This article may be old, but it shows that healthcare officials released statement on what was probably going to happen and who needed to be taken care of right away. By delaying every important decision by months, the US people so many unnecessary people at risk and caused hundreds of thousands of deaths because of it. Ethically the citizens of the US were not taking other high-risk people into consideration before being in public while showing symptoms. Remember to listen to those that have studied infectious diseases before this one and have seen the aftermath that those diseases could cause before thinking that our politicians are telling you the correct way to be in public.

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