

Primary Source Reflection 1:
COVID-19 Pandemic Personal Experience

James Sullivan

Professor Kelly Marino

HI-102-C

September 25, 2020

The Coronavirus Pandemic is a difficult and dramatic time for a lot of people. It changed the way life as we know it; it would go on for months. I would want future generations to know what my first thoughts were, what the stores were like in the beginning and when they became normal again, and what my person experience was going through it all.

On March 16th of 2020, President Donald Trump's administration sent out a set of procedures to try and reduce the spread of coronavirus. The guidelines that the administration put in place were closing all schools, not meeting with groups of ten or more people, travel restrictions, and the closure of bars and restaurants. ⁱ

When we got the news about school closing, I was in my last block class on Thursday and everyone was excited because we were told school would open back up Tuesday, and we would get a four day weekend. When Sunday came around, we were told that the closure would be extended by another two weeks. Everyone was so over school and the people, so everyone was excited to have another two weeks off and away. After the two weeks went by, we were told that everything would be online till further notice. It was not fun doing school online, nevertheless easy. It was so complicated because my school has ever had to teach high school online.

In the beginning of the pandemic the government told everyone that a lot of places were going to shut down and that we should go to the grocery store and get enough food, toilet paper and other daily necessities for a few weeks. I remember going to Costco and seeing the isles stripped. I said to my mom and dad this is crazy, I'm shocked how fast people bought everything. Even in the local supermarket's meat and a

lot of food and just other daily things were out of stock. You could not get any disinfectant spray or disinfectant wipes either. There was even a meat shortage because the meat plant workers went on strike.

The job market went down rapidly. I am a host at a restaurant and because all restaurants closed, I lost my job. The last day restaurants were allowed to be open were Sunday, March 15th. They did not open back up for inside dining until September 9th. Imagine not being allowed to go out to eat for 6 months, or even doing or going anywhere. All stores, besides supermarkets were not allowed to be open to reduce the risk of getting sick. You were however allowed to get takeout from certain restaurants.

Future generations should be grateful for everything they are able to do. No matter how big or how small. My advice to you folks would be travel, spend time with your loved ones. As of Tuesday September 22, 2020, the death total in the United States reached 200,000 people and worldwide 965,000 deaths. ⁱⁱ That is an astonishing number that is out of control.

The COVID-19 pandemic has a few things in common with Bubonic Plague aka the black death. COVID-19 and the plague have overlapping symptoms. Which include fever and headache. However, COVID-19 and the plague are transmitted the same way, from human to human contact. The plague was spread among speaking to others. As one person talked another inhaled the infection.ⁱⁱⁱ When someone got the plague, they were immediately locked up in their home with their families with a guard outside to make sure you wouldn't leave to lessen the spread of the disease. In hindsight they should have seen that as a bad thing locking up a sick person with healthy people. In today's current pandemic, say a family of four lives in a home together. If the father gets

coronavirus, then he will be quarantined to one room in the house in effort to protect his family.

There are different ways to be infected by the plague. There are three common ways; Contact infection, contact in the form of phtisis, and distance. Contact infection is when you come into physical contact with a person you are breathing their air particles. Phtisis is when you may have touched something the sick person has touched, such as clothes, or a handle of sorts. Lastly, we have distance infection. Distance is when particles are given off of a person's body by the process of putrefaction. The particles will sink into pores areas. ^{iv}

The plague killed millions of people throughout the world. Now COVID-19 has not had nearly as many deaths as the plague but we are encroaching the one million mark. As of today September 24, 2020, there have been 984,000 deaths worldwide. There is no cure for Coronavirus yet, but the world as a whole is hopeful that one will come out soon. However, there are antibiotics that if taken within the first 24 hours of symptoms of the plague have proven to be effective.

Coronavirus and the Bubonic Plague are defiantly real and scary things that could happen to anyone. Now more than ever are we looking back at our past wishing things could be different. There are times that I have personally had during the current COVID-19 pandemic wishing it to be over. I am glad that now a days we have more technology than ever to fight this, unlike the bubonic plague in the 1300's there was not real science to figure out a cure.

Bibliography

Chappell, Bill. "‘Enormous And Tragic’: U.S. Has Lost More Than 200,000 People To COVID-19." NPR. NPR, September 22, 2020. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/09/22/911934489/enormous-and-tragic-u-s-has-lost-more-than-200-000-people-to-covid-19>.

“Coronavirus Cases:” Worldometer, September 25, 2020.
https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?utm_campaign=homeAdvegas1%3F%22

Engle, Jeremy. “How Is the Coronavirus Outbreak Affecting Your Life?” The New York Times. The New York Times, March 20, 2020.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/learning/how-is-the-coronavirus-outbreak-affecting-your-life.html>.

Notes:

ⁱ Jeremy Engle, The New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/learning/how-is-the-coronavirus-outbreak-affecting-your-life.html> , *How is the Coronavirus Outbreak Affecting Your Life?*, Accessed September 24, 2020

ⁱⁱ Bill Chappell, NPR, <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/09/22/911934489/enormous-and-tragic-u-s-has-lost-more-than-200-000-people-to-covid-19> , *Enormous And Tragic': U.S. Has Lost More Than 200,000 People Too COVID-19*

ⁱⁱⁱ Rosemary Horrox, DOCME, <https://www.docme.ru/doc/1731364/-manchester-medieval-sources--rosemary-horrox---the-black> , *The Black Death (1994 Manchester University Press*

^{iv} Dr. Barbra J. Becker, Girolamo Fracastoro, Plagues and People, <https://faculty.humanities.uci.edu/bjbecker/PlaguesandPeople/week6a.html>, *The Different Types of Infections*