

Talking Points Guide

Episode 29: Being Globally Connected Presents Healthcare Challenges

Did you know?

- A pandemic, like Covid-19, is a disease that affects the global population because of global travel and urbanization.
- A pandemic is a type of epidemic, but different when it comes to the number of people and the geographic area that they affect.
- An epidemic is a disease outbreak specific to one city, region, or country. Epidemics start and spread quickly. They occur somewhat regularly around the world, but you may not know about them unless they impact your community.
- A pandemic is a type of epidemic that has spread worldwide, affecting many countries and continents. Health experts agree when it comes to pandemics, nearly everyone in the global population is at risk of being exposed.
- Covid-19 is only one example of recent pandemics.
- In 2009 there was a swine flu pandemic that killed hundreds of thousands of people around the world.
- In 1981 the HIV/AIDS pandemic infected more than 70 million people around the world with nearly 35 million people who died. HIV continues to be a major public health issue as roughly 38 million people were still living with the virus at the end of 2018. It is still, nearly 40 years after the first cases, a leading cause of death globally.
- The 1918 Spanish flu pandemic is still considered to be one of the worst pandemics in recent history. One-third of the world's population was infected with this flu virus. The global death toll was estimated to be more than 50 million people with about 675,000 deaths in the US.
- The first laboratory vaccine was created in 1879. Louis Pasteur developed a vaccine for chicken cholera.
- The US military requires up to 19 vaccinations, depending on where someone serves in the world.
- While the novel Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus and the flu result in similar symptoms, Covid is vastly more deadly. Around 30,000 – 60,000 (mostly unvaccinated) people die each year in the US from the flu. While Covid has, to date, resulted in over 900,000 deaths.
- From the beginning of human history people have pushed fake cures. This practice still goes on today resulting in unnecessary suffering and deaths.

World Health Organization: www.WHO.int

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.CDC.gov