

Health Threats in Tourism Course
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Assignment 4

In light of the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore, China, and Thailand, discuss the following questions:

What can governments do to prevent a new wave of COVID-19?

Ans: As more COVID-19 cases appear in Asia, we find that public health strategies must continue to change. Several measures supported by science can be implemented by governments to handle or lower the risks from new waves of the pandemic.

Routinely checking signs of disease and using strong systems to monitor health allows us to stop disease from spreading quickly. Among other things, the CDC recommends keeping enough testing resources, genomic sequencing to study variants and careful watch in healthcare sites and nursing homes. It has become clear that wastewater monitoring is effective for detecting dangerous substances early.

Always be ready for illnesses by making sure hospitals aren't too crowded, have necessary medicines on hand and equipping people with the right skills. It means having enough personal protective equipment and fast plans for dealing with a sudden surge in cases.

Officials ought to recommend the latest vaccines, mostly to older adults, people living with weak immune systems and those who have other health problems. Informing the public about which vaccines are effective against presently spreading diseases maintains their use.

Focused public health strategies can be put in place instead of broad lockdowns, according to the most recent scientific data. In such cases, more ventilation should be used in crowded indoor areas, people might be advised to wear masks during surges and stronger restrictions may be put in place where the virus is spreading rapidly.

When international teams exchange epidemiological information, join efforts to protect travellers and participate in research, the world can handle emerging concerns better.

Sharing accurate and prompt information based on science is important for building trust and getting everyone to cooperate. An honest discussion about your decisions and admitting there are limits to your knowledge gives your team confidence when important steps are needed.

What matters most is keeping up ready systems alongside cautious steps that relate to disease severity, hospital availability and how the disease is spreading.

How can the tourism sector help reduce the spread of the virus while keeping international travel open?

Ans: Strong well-thought-out strategies in tourism make international travel safer for visitors and residents of popular destinations.

To make things easier for visitors, tourism companies can cooperate with testing centers for quick pre-travel and arrival testing. Plenty of airports and hotels now offer fast testing, so travelers can quickly cheque health requirements before boarding. Some destinations have created "travel bubbles" or corridors with enhanced health protocols between low-risk regions.

Cleanliness and air quality should be enhanced at hotels, airlines and travel companies, mainly at places tour groups touch. philters, increasing fresh air flow and adding air purifiers in hotels and on buses and planes can reduce the chance of spreading the

disease. There are many airlines that now use HEPA philtres and have adjusted the way passengers board to help control crowds.

Allow travellers who are sick to adjust their plans freely without worry which means there will be less risk to others from people who may spread the virus when flying. You can find travel insurance that will pay for your COVID-related costs which helps when you aren't feeling well.

Checking staff health, offering training in virus prevention and making sure tourism workers can use healthcare and sick leave supports the fight against workplace outbreaks. Workers at the facility are trained to recognise the signs of an emergency and take the right action.

For example, digital health passes, facilities you can cheque into without touching anything and mobile services, all lessen the opportunities for touching. A number of locations now offer digital health declaration options to keep guests safe and help smooth the entry process.

By collaborating with various health bodies, Tourism can use science-based approaches, observe data from tourists and update its measures in line with the latest risks.

What lessons from the earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic can help countries respond better now and in the future?

Ans: Certainly! Below is a basic 300-word review of the biggest lessons discovered during the COVID-19 pandemic:

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the world valuable ways to handle future health crises. An important lesson is that speed counts during a crisis. Those countries, South Korea and New Zealand, that enacted public health strategies early did a better job in controlling the virus. Therefore, it's better to quickly do something, no matter how much information you have.

A strong system for public health is necessary as well. Places where health facilities, testing labs and disease tracking were reliable did better in facing the pandemic. You should put such systems in place before a crisis happens.

People were able to follow health advice because trusted leaders explained things openly and simply. If both leaders kept switching their plans, the people became confused and decided not to cooperate as much.

Countries that thrived under lockdowns didn't follow rigid either/or regulations. They chose ways to react to any updates by acting on health issues and also considering effects to society and the economy. Caring for nursing home residents called for extra care and resources.

Problems in supply chains were discovered during the pandemic. Not sourcing supplies from different places created a lack of what was essential. Countries with alternative sources or who produced their own products far fared better.

People in such moments need financial help. Countries that provided financial support to people and firms kept public backing for their health efforts over a longer period.

Because international cooperation was poor, the actions taken were not as effective. Better global cooperation and sharing of fair resources should be considered in future.

As a result of the pandemic, we saw that unequal social and economic circumstances can have major effects on health. It is clear that poor communities were worse affected which suggests we should address these matters in future planning.

Choose one country (Germany, India, Nepal, Hong Kong, or Thailand) and explain how its tourism industry reacted to earlier waves of COVID-19.

Ans Because Nepal depends heavily on tourism and is located in-between China and India, the COVID-19 pandemic hugely affected its tourism industry. At the same time Nepal introduced its first lockdown in March 2020, Mount Everest climbers were preparing for the spring peak, causing climbing permits to be stopped, the borders to close and the tourist industry to cease. There were big losses for hotels, trekking agencies and airlines and many small businesses had a hard time keeping afloat.

When the pandemic began, hotels were shut for a time and their staff were placed on temporary leave. NATTA and other industry groups urged the government to provide financial aid and offer careful plans for reopening the tourism sector. Because of economic and travel limitations, tourist operators were unable to focus on domestic tourism as much as they hoped. The process of opening was tough in Nepal because there were few good roads and health rules changed often, especially for complex treks.

Mountaineers began testing for COVID-19 and kept their distance at base camps in 2021, but outbreaks on Everest revealed how challenging it can be to prevent coronavirus there. Some climbing company operators and authorities made the decision to relax health rules ahead of time so activities could continue as usual while the virus was spreading.

Experiences in the countryside were hard, since many guides and porters lost their jobs and moved to cities by going into farming. The Nepalese Government could not offer big support because of economic issues, so the beekeeping sector relied heavily on campaigns instead. While digital tourism was tested by some, the rough infrastructure and essential adventure nature held them back.

Global travel resuming in 2022 helped Nepal's tourism industry start recovery, while also learning to be more diverse financially and ready for future crises. Businesses now focus more on sustainable practises, groups of 10 or fewer and experiences tailored to each visitor.

What actions worked well?

Ans: There were many effective ways shared among nations during the COVID-19 pandemic that can guide future crisis responses. Rapid testing and contact tracing worked well in South Korea, with many infected people quickly found and sent to quarantine by using drive-through centres and digital methods. Because of this approach, cities could control the virus without shutting down their economies. Likewise, Germany's quick growth in testing capacity made it easier to control the outbreak and choose the right policies.

Looking after elderly people living in care homes was an essential consideration for officials. Places that adopted specific healthcare pathways, regular testing for staff and unique treatments had substantially fewer deaths than those that didn't.

Strategies that were designed by science and used in balance seemed to achieve positive results. Denmark's approach to opening up worked because it was based on the latest data, letting them make flexible decisions to support people's health and safety.

It became important to focus on expanding healthcare surge capacity. The effective way to handle patient surges and avoid a full collapse of the healthcare system was for countries to promptly increase ICU beds, get the necessary supplies and train more healthcare workers.

Governments needed reliable messages to people to earn and keep support. Honest and clear updates from New Zealand are a great example for others to follow.

Helping people cover health-related costs encouraged them to stick with the government guidelines. Those governments that provided help to both individuals and businesses using restrictions made health measures more popular.

Because the policies were flexible and adaptable, governments were able to change their course as needed. How policies were made and guidelines for adjustments mattered a lot.

In total, those who handled pandemics well made decisions guided by evidence, kept changes measured, maintained their effort over time, kept things clear and changed as needed, demonstrating that being adaptable is more effective than making only one unchangeable, perfect plan.

- **What actions did not work well?**

Ans: Several methods tried during the COVID-19 pandemic failed or caused harm which will shape the way we face future emergencies. If rules regarding masks change from strict to lax or vice versa, without effort to explain, people lose faith and are confused. Mainly counting on border controls beyond the start of community transmissions meant Australia paid high costs in money and health, with limited health improvements.

Prolonged school closures for young children with a small chance of catching the disease led to difficulties in learning and mental health that were more serious than their effect on the pandemic's transmission. Rigid policies worked the same for everyone, ignoring factors in each area and costing more which reduced public approval. Causing delays and making economic support programmes harder to understand hurt both the public's willingness to obey and the ease of their life.

Refraining from caring for mental health and society, for example, by stopping certain outdoor activities, resulted in issues including more domestic violence and people becoming separated from others. When people began seeing masks and vaccines as Democratic or Republican, their effectiveness decreased. When countries announced that the pandemic was over, it led to major new problems and less confidence in government policies.

If the main causes of inequality had not been solved, people living in dense and poorly served areas kept spreading the disease. When reality turned out differently, offering more help and promising prompt results hurt people's trust. More governments did not sufficiently deal with problems like delays in supply lines and workers getting tired which led to similar troubles in the long run.

Authoritarian rules thought to be strict hurt the rights of people and reduced cooperation among individuals. Most of the time, these failures occurred as a result of adaptive capacity gaps, trouble in sharing important information, neglect of the impact caused by social and economic conditions and seeing public health only as a technical issue instead of a social and political one.

In short, the demands of the pandemic underlined the need for flexible, clear, fair and socially conscious solutions to handle any future health crisis.