

Topic: Spanish Flu effects on Public Health Management (Face masks)

1. Abstract
2. Introduction

The Spanish Flu influenza pandemic was one of the most dreadful diseases that spread worldwide during 1918 to 1920. This pandemic was caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus and caused to infect more than 500 million people which is equivalent to one-third of the world's population. Back then the pandemic was called Spanish flu because it was understood one of the first infectors was from Madrid Spain however after 90 years later many virologists and epidemiologists agreed that the disease was probably not spreaded initially in Spain.

Flu viruses are passed to other people through their sneezes, coughs or talks which the droplets can be transmitted through the air or even to a person nearby who would have a high risk to be infected. As people's knowledge about the influenza virus was not widely known there were no health management applied in the initial stage making the virus spread faster. During the pandemic many public health managements were applied in order to prevent most of the influenza. These are such as maritime quarantine, social distancing, vaccines, face masks etc. Focusing on the face masks there are many opinions from the citizens of each country and how they respond to the pandemic with the amount of knowledge they have on face masks. Thus, the report will be based how the pandemic has introduced masks into usage and how it has affected the users.

3. Body

- Methodology and research
- Why do people wear masks? Jamp

Based on public health during epidemics such as SARS and H1N1, Masks have many benefits to reduce the threat of illness with the more number in mask wearing. In the past, people perceived mask wearers to be ill. The norm has changed rapidly during the pandemic involved with public health communication, media coverage, and social interaction. Now, the mask can also represent the signal information about individual's access to resources, fear of the racial profiling, or political affiliation.

In conclusion, the behavior of science represents that individuals with resources desire to follow public health recommendations inducing by injective social norm to decrease the adherence to protective behavior.

- Knowledge of people back then on the masks aom

It was in 1918 during the outbreak of the Spanish Influenza when face masks were used everywhere, not just for medical practice in the hospital. The practice of wearing masks was applied to ordinary people in public places.

During the Spanish flu pandemic in the United States, everything from the materials to the effectiveness of face masks became debatable. Though the American local government required people to wear face masks in public, some of the people complained that wearing masks was not an effective way to protect the disease, and it would create fear in the public. Some even claimed that wearing a mask violated civil liberties. At that time, the American Red Cross made and distributed many face masks which were made from gauze. The newspapers also provided the instruction on how to make face mask by themselves but that information about the face masks was not clear about the design and materials. Moreover, Detroit health commissioner, James Woffendale Inches also argued that the gauze masks were too permeable to prevent the disease among the public. Therefore, it was harder to get citizens to comply

with the government's orders. Thus, in order to make the citizens follow the order, some cities pass an ordinance to enforce people to wear masks or get punishment.

At the same time in Japan, the Japanese health authorities had learnt from the United States that wearing face masks could reduce the number of the new infected patients. As a consequence, the citizens were encouraged to wear masks. Soon after the case of Spanish Influenza in Japan was confirmed, Japanese authorities used printed media as the main way to communicate with the public, and did much of propagation on mask-wearing. In contrast with the United States, the Japanese prefecture provided the free masks and distributed them to the citizens. Therefore, Japanese citizens were well cooperated to wear masks, and the public also accepted the practice of mask-wearing without any resistance.

Beliefs, Cultural and Political views everyone

In March of 1918 the spread of Spanish Flu in the United States started to have their first infections at an army base. The spread was so fast many cities in the US imposed quarantine and masks to prevent the spread.

Globalization and Spanish Flu everyone

4. Discussion

5. Reference

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6. Appendix