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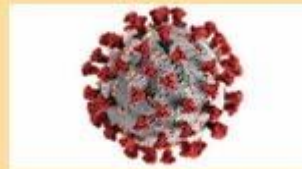
Tale of Two Pandemics

Cholera and COVID-19

Chole vs. COVID ra -19



Bacterial Disease



Viral Infection



Fatality Rate 50%



Fatality Rate 0.05%



Spread through Sewage
contamination



Spread through close contact and
Respiratory system

Stony Brook, NY: Paul Kelton, History Professor at Stony Brook tell a similarities and differences of Cholera outbreak that occurred in early 19th century and the ongoing pandemic that we are facing – COVID-19.

Paul Kelton said “There are historians such as myself that focus on these pandemics, but in the general narrative of American history, when they do figure prominently, they’re usually in a progressive narrative”.

Similarities and differences: There are similarities and differences between Cholera and COVID-19. Unlike COVID-19, Cholera is a Bacterial disease that spread through sewage contamination of water led voluminous diarrhea to patients and killed people by dehydration. COVID-19 is a Viral disease that spreads by close contact between people and malfunctions the patients’ lung and respiratory system. The fatality rate of Cholera is significantly higher than the COVID-19 although the propagation rate is much higher for COVID-19.

What we can learn: The Cholera led to the modernization of water and sewage systems as the aftermath of Cholera. Since COVID-19 has not ended but we can learn from the previous incident. Paul Kelton noted, “We, especially in the United States, forgot the central lesson that health is a public concern and that we should all have access to healthcare as a human right just as we have a right to clean water.”

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Work Cited

Historian Paul Kelton Tells a Tale of Two Pandemics

<https://news.stonybrook.edu/facultystaff/historian-paul-kelton-tells-a-tale-of-two-pandemics/>