

**Biology 483- Infection, Immunity and Evolution of Disease
Spring 2022
Homework 17**

Directions: Read the paper by Fortuna et al. 2020, which you can find under Files and Unit 3.

Write a 1,500 character (~250-300 words) summary of anything that caught your attention. Please include a discussion of the following:

Also, please submit 2-3 questions for the authors at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jiwEKUM3ktAjR0dWotTn46UaOy3gicZliMG08KpC5w4/edit?usp=sharing>

Yes, it is important to check for spelling, grammar, and sentence structure. Remember that there is a UNR writing center that is freely available to students.

Upload your file to Web Campus by 1:30 pm on April 26th

Inequalities of COVID-19 in our communities

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, many mental health and socioeconomic problems have been uncovered in the United States. To start, a disproportionate amount of the casualties from the pandemic were from the Black, Latino, Native American, and poor communities. Diving into the root cause of these issues, the occurrences that happened were not coincidental as these communities were the ones that were left unattended for generations. Unlike our European counterparts, the United States does not have a universal health care system. The precedent outbreak added strain to the health care system that no one could have foreshadowed. The strain put on the healthcare system was ever-increasing as the number of individuals needing access to health care kept growing. As a result, many of the Black, Latino, and Native American communities, who already had limited access to health care, were the ones to suffer the most. In addition, these communities preexisting social determinants of health did not help as it increased the likelihood of infection with many of the minority population crowding in urban areas. Furthermore, low wage employment that did not provide leeway to work from home or physical social distancing resulted in many hardships that could have been prevented.

Looking at these predetermining factors, it is clear that some communities faced more hardships than others. On top of the social injustice placed on these individuals, the traumatic events placed on the children adds another issue. The United States needs to address and solve these disparities within the community. Justice needs to be placed to take down the social barrier and help everyone in need (and not just a select few). Promoting cross-sector collaborations and building communities that have access to the essential necessities should be the next steps taken in creating a better America and overall, a better world.