Meeting notes 2/11/2023

Contagion vs. COVID-19

Question 1: In what way do the media match and differ between contagion

Zia: 2011 post-Facebook world pre-Instagram world didn’t really see how social media effects the world and how we communicate, just had Jude Law. A whole industry popped up around that during COVID and the media was staunch.

Gregory: Agrees with this, did not like the movie. Thought some things were accurate, but some things were wrong. Because it can take about 2 years to produce, started in 2009-2010. Social media changes things. Works for Illinois state department. Dissemination of data was so fast when the pandemic started the DH was almost ignored. People getting information from Reddit rather than government channels. Sped up communication and fumbled the communication at the same time, when you have so many messages being sent out at all times, every second. It was hectic and wild, a post you might have read 2 weeks prior may have been updated extensively. Be careful who you listen to.

During the black plague there was a war going on in present day Ukraine where the plague was used as warfare.

Going through the nursery rhyme Ring Around the Rosie and its connection to the plague.

Dr. Sussman reminded Gregory reminded him of the cognition about epidemiologists called the werewolves and they actually are the first line defense before the CDC. 60-minutes did an interview with them. Possible surveillance happened in November of COVID-19 between lab workers. How did it spill over. Theory of the wet market, this is transmission through eating specific things and bat dropping. The other theory that this was created in a lab using bats and it spilled over, had some really bad safety procedures to wash up. China in general it’s like the whole blame game and the China virus. Racial bias and driven implications.

The political environment was similar and different. Gregory felt like the environment was polarizing to be a PH representative. Ton of nurses with fatigue due to what they put up with. Was doing breakthrough vaccine data in 2020, debriefing happened. Why should our kids get the vaccine? Why should we? Well it gives you power was the answer. Kids are little vectors, took the blurb and posted it everywhere. Was publicly posted and dragged in the media. Dr. Fauchi, Debra Burks. Things they went through by stepping up and the climate.

Zia, been working on a communications project that was trying to find representatives in vaccine hesitant areas. People did not want to say what they believed and while they may have been vaccinated did not want their safety compromised. Pastors had an issue, with a scripture based leap, even if they signed on to the letter. Some of them rely on donations and becoming an advocate would be difficult.

Gregory- whenever the vaccine was created and started to come out, backlash in rural areas. There was another side of leadership who were the Jude Law (a nice Joe Rogan). Joe Rogan, Rush Limbaugh? Took ivermectin and advocated for it. Phil Valentine, did not take vaccine and died from COVID. Behaviors had consequences. This reminded me of a drug addict have made bad behaviors and choices and they died. There is something out there to help and you don’t take it. The first 6 months ok, but after that and you get to the point where you’re not taking it to not take it, the behavior is more risky.

We carry around smart phones, microchips are not necessary.

Very quickly vaccination status becomes a social status and clique. If you question the vaccine, you’ve already put yourself susceptible to an anti-vaccine stance. You start to lose part of your identity based on how you view the world.

Decided to do a lottery via birthdate. This is too organized for what actually happened in COVID-19. Let the work to the states to decide. Illinois stay at home order for two months before realizing the economic costs. We are still trying to get back on track. The rug was pulled out as a society. No one expected this to happen. Just read an article regarding the emergency policy still in place in Illinois for COVID. Economical things that occurred during the pandemic, especially for unemployment. In the bulk of that in Illinois Medicaid expansion, don’t have insurance and are on a certain level you are approved for Medicaid. People were getting additional food stamp benefits, household of 4 you got a certain amount and on top of that you got an extra 200 dollars a month during pandemic. If you had Medicaid before the pandemic you did not have to apply for renewal. May 15th possible declaration that pandemic is over. What is going to happen to those who have relied on benefits from the government?

This is a concern, and with how expensive life is right now. COVID-19 vaccine and booster no longer covered under insurances.

Non-us citizens are not generally treated not well in Illinois.

Vaccine hesitancy within health care workers. The issue with working with medically fragile patients and not wanting to get the vaccine. People not believing in COVID and vaccines.

Vaccine rollout, like with Contagion across states that went well (like with the birthday lottery). We are almost to the end of that, but then mutations and changes.

Feeling a sense of community when getting vaccinated.

Decentralized and disorganized the political and communications strategy for the vaccine and COVID-19 in general.

Vietnam as a perspective for getting in front of COVID, it would have been nice in the United States.

Comorbidity issues with the vaccine, moved you up a tier but did not actually ask for proof. It was a perspective. The individual got to decide when they wanted to take action for themselves. Number 45 whenever they said to inject Lysol seeing Burks and Fauchi in the background just looking perplexed because it was just so ridiculous. Response was a mess but there was no other way to really do it except at a state and local level in order to get things done for vaccines and testing and stepping up. Wishing for more group collaboration, especially with red vs blue states (lockdowns vs no lockdowns).

It goes back to like for social work our environment vs genetics but at the same time it is hypocritical to say I want things to open up but I refuse the vaccine or to wear a mask.

UK did a one dose approach, just wanted to make sure that everyone had at least one dose in their arms. Would have failed in the US.

Laurence Fisburne with the CDC giving their wife the vaccine when they shouldn’t have. Prioritization of the vaccine and wanting to protect certain people first. Front line workers, if they die, what goes next? It was shady but also understandable given the situation.

Our objective with the state PH department we are committed to helping others.

Miscommunication that occurred was the reliance on social media and not fact-checking.

Illinois had to report positive cases every single day. On top of that, the number of breakthrough cases every day. So much data out there and can see how a message can be misconstrued based upon daily changes. When you have too many changes, you come across as the boy who cried wolf.

Recently, the WHO posted something about monkey pox and none of the information was disseminated yet. You’re going to make this claim and release something without communicating with the state and local levels.