‘Tis the Season

In the past few weeks, all across the country we’ve seen the number of COVID infections spike. Not only does this mean more people are becoming ill and may die because of this virus, but it also means the crisis in the hospitals are back. During the relative ‘lull’ over this past summer, hospitals and clinics weren’t outfitted to become ready for more transmission spikes. Little resources have been given to new grad programs designed to train new nurses on hospital floors and relieve some of the chronic understaffing, and provisions to maintain a certain level of PPE won’t go into effect until 2023 in California.

The holiday season is always difficult, in and out of hospitals, but without the preparations necessary to weather the storm of rising COVID-19 cases, we’ll be right where we were at the beginning of this pandemic.

Healthcare professionals learned the first go around exactly what is necessary: abundant stock of PPE, full coverage on floors, frequent testing of people in and out of hospitals, and a concerted effort of everyone to keep us all as safe as we possibly can before a functional vaccine has been developed.

Sick and Tired

A new study in the Journal of Applied Psychology found that workers who are experiencing job and financial insecurity are less likely to follow CDC guidelines for COVID-19. But is it any wonder that people are less likely to devote energy on taking additional safety measures when they’re already exhausted from simply trying to survive?

If no one had to worry about paying for food, rent, or healthcare, imagine what our collective response could have been to COVID. In fact, imagine what kind of asocial behaviors we could get rid of if no one had to worry about how they would take care of themselves.

What Does Effective Mean?

A lot of talk and cheer is taking place regarding the Pfizer and Moderna coronavirus vaccines. The companies are saying that their respective vaccines are over 90% effective at this stage in their trials. These announcements came as a much-needed relief for the economy as the stock market rallied on Monday excited by the news of vaccines nearing the point of being distributed to the population at large. What most businesses are hoping is for a return to normal, which can only be provided by a vaccine.

But what neither Moderna nor Pfizer have shared is exactly what does being 90% effective or more mean. Does this mean that once we receive the vaccine, we are immune for life, for a month, for a few days? What about how many booster vaccines will we have to get to be considered immune? Are there any side effects that may stem from receiving these vaccines? And finally, these vaccines are being developed using mRNA, which is a highly unstable molecule. So far, not one mRNA vaccine has made it out to market due to their inefficacy. So how are these companies ensuring that these vaccines are safe and effective?

The responsible thing to do, when the whole world is watching and waiting for a safe and effective vaccine, would be to not release sound bites that may mislead people and the economy into believing that we are nearing the point of normalcy. These companies need to be upfront and detailed about where exactly they are in the process. We need facts, not vague data.

The COVID Crisis: The Response in France

In France, as in many countries, the pandemic has surged again. Hospitals are becoming quickly overrun and death tolls keep climbing. Lockdowns have returned, but at the same time workplaces and schools are being kept open. Some workers, parents, teachers and even elementary students have refused to risk their lives for profit and have begun to take action.

Join us for a presentation from France about the situation there and what we can learn from the experiences of those organizing.

Sat. Dec. 5, 10:30am

Click here for link