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The Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic: The Real Danger is "Agenda ID-2020" & The COVID-19 Pandemic from a Global Environmental Health

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Abstract

Overarching all is this super hype is profit driven, the quest for instant profit, instant benefits from the suffering of the people. This panic making is a hundred-fold of what it's worth. What these kingpins of the underworld, who pretend to run the upper world, perhaps miscalculated, is that in today's globalized and vastly outsourced world the west depends massively on China's supply chain, for consumer goods, and for intermediary merchandise – and, foremost for medication and medical equipment. At least 80% of medication or ingredients for medication, as well as for medical equipment come from China. The western China dependence for antibiotics is even higher, some 90%. The potential impacts on health are devastating. During the height of the COVID-19 epidemic China's production apparatus for everything was almost shut-down. For deliveries that were still made, merchandise vessels were regularly and categorically turned back from many harbors all around the world. So, the west has tricked itself into a shortage-of-everything mode by waging a de facto "economic war" on China.

Keywords: COVID-19; Equipment; Behavior of SARS-CoV-2; Climate and weather

Introduction

Behavior of SARS-CoV-2

Ongoing efforts to understand the nature and behavior of SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 respiratory illness, include research on the role of environmental factors in COVID-19 infection and disease severity. The Research Spotlight highlights several of these articles in detail. A few preliminary studies, including one by Sajadi, et al., and another by Wu, et al. [1,2], suggest the spread of the infection is associated with temperature and humidity. In addition to informing public health responses over the next few months, these findings also suggest there may be seasonality of COVID-19 disease transmission, similar to influenza, which tends to peak at times of colder temperatures and low humidity. There are preliminary indications that wind and ultraviolet (UV) light may potentially be associated with COVID-19. Studies by Islam et al. and Gunthe et al. suggest increased wind speed and greater UV index, respectively, are associated with fewer cases. These results indicate climate variables may be useful to predict periods of lower or higher intensity of COVID-19 spread in local communities, which has significant policy, communication, and resource implications [2].

Climate and weather

Extremes not only may affect transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, but also the ability of health systems to respond effectively. As the frequency and severity of some extreme weather disasters increase, the COVID-19 pandemic illuminates the special challenges to health systems of concurrent events and cumulative hazards and stressors. With the United States entering the season of heat waves, tornadoes, and hurricanes, public health systems need to be able to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, the health consequences of heat and extreme weather, and the interactions between the two, such as impacts of heat and extreme weather on health care workers who may be working in vulnerable temporary facilities.

Guidance for public health departments

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stepped up to produce guidance for public health departments on managing concurrent threats, including recommendations for hurricane preparation and best practices for cooling centers during the pandemic. The Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) has many resources related to COVID-19 and extreme heat that highlight useful information for mitigating health risks and offer specific guidance relevant to vulnerable populations, health workers, and city planners and local governments. Programs like the NIEHS Disaster Research Response Program provide support and infrastructure for conducting timely research to better understand health outcomes and the effectiveness of interventions.

Discussion

To foster research on how past and present environmental exposures may impact COVID-19 susceptibility, disease severity, and disease progression, NIEHS has issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI). The NOSI lays out 11 possible research interests, ranging from studying the effects of environmental exposures on individual COVID-19 susceptibility to investigations of the respiratory micro biome in COVID-19 and the use of other "omics" approaches to characterizing disease risk and progression. The NOSI also identifies the roles of climate and weather-related factors and environmental health disparities in COVID-19 as important interests.

"Conversations taking place in the global health community suggest that the experience of facing this pandemic may help foster more collaboration among those working on global health security, emergency preparedness, and disaster risk reduction, as well as those working on social determinants of health and health disparities. Hopefully, this can lead to better anticipation and societal resilience, especially for those populations at greatest risk, for environmental and climate-related shocks in the future."

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Conclusion

COVID-19 is a serious threat and continues to be a major focus of concern, but the global environmental health community also recognizes the persistent environmental threats which will still remain beyond the current pandemic. As several outlets have noted, the current health crisis calls attention to the longer-term issue of whether climate and other global environmental changes may raise the risk of infectious disease emergence or re-emergence and future pandemics. NIEHS is actively working to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and, at the same time, use these circumstances to better understand how environmental threats interact with global health security and how the world can recover from the COVID-19 crisis in ways that enhance global environmental health.

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