



It Takes a Village to Stop a Virus

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After the treacherous impacts of the Spanish Flu in the early 20th century, many nations were confident in their ability to prepare for a future pandemic. Due to the speedy technological and societal advancements within the last century, countries' lack of preparation for the inevitable exposure to another deadly pandemic came as a shock. It feels as though history is repeating itself with society's struggle to respond to this pandemic, Coronavirus. Even worse, it already took the lives of 549,000 people in the US alone, only 18% lower than the number of deaths the Spanish Flu was responsible for in the US. Had everyone understood the significance of the Spanish Flu, modern nations would better understand that we cannot depend solely on technology to defend ourselves from great affliction— everyone must make an effort to combat the pandemic. The lack of unity and selflessness amongst the human race has proven fatal to our ability to handle these threatening situations. As people continue to overlook the pandemic as something trivial, they fail to understand their ignorance only perpetuates this new unbearable reality. Their actions not only elongate the duration of the pandemic, but they also increase the number of families that lose their loved ones, they limit the social interaction essential to human health, they worsen the overall mental stability of everyone struggling to cope with the presence of a global catastrophe. By putting at least minimal effort into preventing the spread of the pandemic, like wearing a mask in public, we can make a drastic difference in the pandemic's damages. Unfortunately, some individuals use their strong immune systems as an excuse to disregard how their actions will affect those especially vulnerable to the virus. They believe they do not have to make an effort to prevent the spread; however, if everyone on Earth made an effort, the Coronavirus's impacts would be minimal. To value your comfort over the lives of other people shows great weakness in humans. This weakness demonstrates why there is an overbearing apathy to work together to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. Everyone needs to care. If there is one thing the next generation can learn from the Coronavirus, it's that the only thing more dangerous than a pandemic is human ignorance.