

Committee: Special Committee



Topic: New and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

Definitions:

GDP – Gross domestic product, this is the total economic value of all the goods and services produced by a region.

MEDC- More economically developed countries.

LEDC- Less economically developed countries.

DOW- DOW JONES, this a financial index that combines the 30 largest US companies (not by market cap. but by a group that decide what to include in the index) into one product, that can be bought and sold, like any stock. It is used as a good indicator of the general movement of the US stock market.

Introduction

With population growth, a growing number of people around the world below the poverty line and great illnesses have been able to spread at devastating rates. Furthermore, the overuse and over prescription of antibiotics have the ability to become entirely useless against antibiotic resistant infectious illnesses. Infectious illnesses are expensive, not only in the price of human mortality but also to the nation in terms of GDP.

Today, we can see the wrath of the AIDS crisis, SARS, Ebola and the new Coronavirus outbreak. Within most research there is a focus on prevention as well as treatment to each illness. This burden is usually placed on MEDCs, where most epidemics occur in LEDCs. However, the implications of epidemics are universal, we can see this by the DOWs negative movement caused by the coronavirus outbreak, with reported cases in the US.

Reemerging illnesses are illnesses that were once large illnesses, that have then been in a decline, but are seeing a comeback in more modern times. The most problematic illness that we are seeing a return of is measles which, has begun due to primarily if not entirely antivaccination.

Key Points

Members of the WHO, part of the united nations, are in charge of a universal effort to report, manage and prevent infectious illnesses from growing. They outline several factors that affect the spread of communicable illnesses stating there are Socioeconomic, environmental and behavioral factors, as well as international travel and migration, foster and increase the spread of communicable diseases. Vaccine-preventable, foodborne, zoonotic, health care-related and communicable diseases pose significant threats to human health and may sometimes threaten international health security. In cooperation with governments, WHO/Europe develops norms and standards, guidance and public health tools to help countries implement effective disease prevention and control programmes and address their risk factors.

The regional distribution of UN activities in dealing with new and reemerging illnesses.

- Focused in Africa, Asia as well as WHO being involved with all current UN members.
- Work on research and standards in Europe. However, most vaccination and prevention done by the WHO is outside of Europe.
- We can see the aids crisis's effect on Africa's life expectancy
- Common methods of infection/spreading:
- Germs can spread through:
 - the air as small droplets (droplet spread) or tiny aerosol particles (airborne spread)
 - contact with faeces (poo) and then with the mouth (faeco-oral spread)
 - contact with the skin or mucus membranes (the thin moist lining of many parts of the body such as the nose, mouth, throat and genitals) (contact spread)
 - blood or other body fluids (for example, urine, saliva, breast milk, semen and vaginal secretions).
- Germs can spread:
 - directly from person to person or
 - indirectly from an infected person to the environment (for example toys, door handles, bench tops, bedding and toilets) and then to another person who encounters the contaminated environmental source.
- Germs can enter via:
 - Mouth
 - respiratory tract
 - Eyes
 - Genitals
 - broken skin.

Some illnesses spread in specific and/or unique ways. These are just a display of how most common ways of illnesses to be spread and received.

There is the issue of antivaccination which is the grave issue. It is however a hard issue to deal with due to miseducation and religious sentiments which draw belief of antivaccination being beneficial to us, with no peer reviewable proof of what they say. This most famously is shown by the MMR vaccine and autism in the US.

Another issue is due overpopulation and growing poverty rates, this affects the amount of people who are being infected as well as the amount who can be treated effectively. The economic implications of illness outbreaks can be destructive to nations and foreign relations.

However, the biggest issue created by illnesses, both reemerged and new, is the loss of life. The deaths caused by illnesses can cause huge economic, social and political divides within society.

Bibliography

<https://www.who.int/southeastasia>, accessed 1/29/2020

<http://www.aho.afro.who.int/>, accessed 1/29/2020

<https://www.who.int/who-un/about/communicable-diseases/en/>, accessed 1/30/2020

New and Reemerging Diseases: The Importance of Biomedical Research, 1998, Anthony S. Fauci