Community and Responsibility During the Coronavirus

Rosemary Mende

Recommended Citation

Community and Responsibility During the Coronavirus

By Rosemary Mende

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word "responsibility" as, "the quality or state of being responsible: such as, moral, legal, or mental accountability, and reliability and trustworthiness." Responsibility is a key component of a successful community. It acts as the oil in a machine, always keeping the happenings in the community running properly and helping every part to do its job smoothly. A community without responsibility would be dysfunctional and overall, a mess in both a literal and emotional sense. Take the world's current situation for example, eradicating the coronavirus would be much easier and effective if everyone did their part and practiced responsibility by obeying laws and guidelines put in place to keep them safe. Of course, we are only human and perfection, though desirable, is hardly realistic. That is why every community in the world that strives to be successful should be responsible and put in their equal share of effort to solve global issues like the coronavirus.

The coronavirus is a very hot topic right now. Appearing in Wuhan, China in the later days of 2019, the coronavirus has become a global pandemic spreading to countries all over the

50

world (Li, Meng-Yuan, et al.). Many countries, if not all, have sets of guidelines and laws in place that are meant to slow the spread of the virus. In America, such laws usually require the individuals of that community to shelter-in-place or stay six feet apart from other people in public places while also wearing masks ("How to Protect Yourself and Others"). Though restrictive and far from the norm, these laws and guidelines are meant to protect the people, but in turn they also require that the people practice responsibility and submit to the laws no matter how uncomfortable they are. Most people do respect these laws by staying home and practicing the proper safety measures, but some may feel that these laws are too restrictive and intrude on their rights and as a result, arrange protests against the local and state governments.

Coronavirus protests are a perfect example of irresponsible actions in a community. Many counties in the United States have experienced protests and ignorance to the laws and restrictions laid down by the government in an effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Protesters have gathered in large crowds without masks in an effort to regain their rights and a sense of normalcy. The protestors gathered at beaches and other public places without regarding the social-distancing guidelines. According to the New York City Governor, Andrew Cuomo, not wearing a mask in public is "disrespectful" to others, this is understandable because people who don't wear a mask are being both disrespectful and irresponsible and are endangering everyone else in their community even if other people are wearing masks (qtd. in

Holcombe). It is understandable that people are acting this way because they are scared of permanently losing their "normal" lives and as a result are lashing out at the government and harming their communities instead of being rational.

The perfect solution to eradicating this global issue would involve people being responsible and working together to keep their community alive and thriving. They could donate to their local businesses, make masks for their local hospital workers and homeless population, check in on their neighbors and elderly, and above all, stay home ("Helping and Getting Help"). These actions could help relieve tension in the community by giving people a purpose, brighten someone's day, and save lives. People shouldn't give up their sanity and rationality just because they are afraid. Being at home all day is mentally distressing, so people should instead channel their worries and fears into responsibility for their community. Whether it is something simple and sweet like writing a hope-filled quote on your fence, or something brave and inspirational like going out into your community and donating masks, we can all make responsible choices at a safe distance that help our community.

Overall, we are in a time filled with tension and negativity and instead of focusing on those negative, hopeless thoughts we should be taking responsibility for helping our communities survive and thrive. If everyone does their part and makes responsible choices then the result may be something that saves the world from a lot of heartache and death. We can all make a difference right now, even though we are stuck inside. Our communities need our help in order to survive the

coronavirus and we have the resources to save them. As long as we make responsible and safe choices we can expect a hopeful and good result in our communities and in turn we will have a happier world. Any major changes will only happen if people all around the world take responsibility for their communities and work together to overcome the coronavirus as well as other global issues.

Works Cited

"A Guide to Helping and Getting Help during the Coronavirus Crisis." *CNN*, Cable News Network, www.cnn.com/interactive/2020/health/coronavirus-how-to-help/.

Holcombe, Madeline. "Coronavirus Restrictions Continue to Loosen after a Weekend of Recreation and Protest across US." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 4 May 2020, www.cnn.com/2020/05/04/health/us-coronavirus-monday/index.html.

"How to Protect Yourself & Others." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 24 Apr. 2020, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html.

Li, Meng-Yuan, et al. "Expression of the SARS-CoV-2 Cell
        Receptor Gene ACE2 in a Wide Variety of Human
        Tissues." *BMC*, 28 Apr. 2020,
        www.biomedcentral.com/collections/Coronavirus.