

HEALTH : COVID AND THE VACCINE

the importance of global cooperation (WHO), the role of the states, the role of social media and the population's distrust in public services, privatisation of the NHS, Obamacare, the impact on minorities.

FACTS AND EVENTS :

- Before the pandemic, 87 million people were uninsured in the US, more than 30,000 people died every year because they couldn't get to a doctor when they needed to see one. One out of five Americans could not afford the outrageously priced prescription drugs their doctors prescribed to them.
- May 2020 : - In five weeks, more than 26 million Americans lost their jobs: for most of them, their health care was tied to their jobs.
 - Up to 35 million Americans are estimated to see their health coverage disappear in the middle of this Covid-19 nightmare.
 - \$34,000 : average coronavirus medical bills
 - In the midst of the worst healthcare crisis in modern American history, with thousands of doctors and nurses becoming infected and sometimes dying, hospitals and clinics have, for financial reasons, been forced to lay off thousands of medical workers at a time when they were needed most.
 - 4 out of 5 frontline nurses don't have enough protective equipment.
 - More than 30% of reported deaths have been African Americans, even though they only make up less than 15% of the population.
- The black, brown, rural and low-income people are most likely to be uninsured or underinsured, forgoing the costly necessary treatment or prescription drugs that could prevent the very conditions that make them most susceptible to the virus.
- The United Nation expects the pandemic to deal with a trillion-dollar blow to the global economy.

ACTORS :

- World Health Organisation, a specialized institution of the UN, its aim is to ensure the highest level of health for all the states that are UN's members. Role during the pandemic: Published several guidance documents for the management of the outbreak in order to support countries, hold conferences, launched campaigns.

Trump intended to withdraw from the WHO

- The NHS in the UK (1948): the National Health Service, gives equitable access to health care, free of charge and to everybody in the country.
- State and local government: are in charge of traditional public health, including health monitoring, sanitation, and disease control; the financing and delivery of personal health services including Medicaid, mental health, and direct delivery through public hospitals and health departments; and the regulation of the providers of medical care.
- Social media and the internet : raises the issue of fake news concerning diseases. Fake news played a huge role in spreading anti-vaxx theory.
- UK voters are seriously worried that greater use of private companies by the NHS could lead to a decline in standards and a loss of money to NHS hospitals.

- Boris Johnson was facing open revolt from within his own party, after his apology for attending a Downing Street party during lockdown failed to quell backbench anger. Pools suggested that as many as two-thirds of voters want him to resign.
- Vaccine hesitancy—a reluctance or refusal to be immunized—could represent nearly 30% of Americans and even more in Europe.
- WHO didn't support the **booster shot**: for them, the priority was to get the vaccine to poor countries first.

EXEMPLES DE PROBLEMATIQUE :

To what extent do people have to trust public/medical services ?

Should medicines and drugs be legal and freely available ?

Has the pandemic ushered in an era of social advances?

How misinformation, medical mistrust fuel the vaccine hesitancy ?

DATES :

- Beginning of the spread of the virus : early 2020
- 5.62 million deaths

VOCABULARY :

- quarantaine=quarantine
- nombre de morts=death toll
- personnel soignant=health care personnel, caregivers
- être positif au virus=to test positive **for** the virus
- faire des provisions=to panic shop
- tousser=to cough
- éternuer= to sneeze
- avoir mal à la gorge= to have a sore throat
- douleur de poitrine= chest pain
- mal de tête = headache
- lutter/ gérer/ s'occuper de = to cope/deal with, to tackle, to handle
- débordé= overwhelmed
- chômage partiel= short-time working
- dose de rappel = booster shot