

Sumon Alam
Professor J. Penner
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Is President Donald Trump and people like Dr. Anthony Fauci doing a good job controlling this pandemic, and coming up with a solution to this virus?

Introduction

The novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has been devastating in the United States since its outbreak was first reported almost 7 months ago. Undoubtedly, the authorities have been struggling to fight the spread of the virus with the nation averaging around 40, 0000 new infections per day and ever surging number of deaths. This trend has left many Americans questioning the effectiveness of the government in responding to this pandemic especially after the sluggish initial response that is the major cause of the virus getting out of hand. With many countries across the world having either successfully flattened the curve or about to flatten the curve, Americans are left wondering whether their government is doing an effective job in containing the pandemic.

My question is whether the people who are in charge like President Donald Trump and Dr. Anthony Fauci are doing a good job in controlling the pandemic and coming up with a solution for this virus. This question intrigues me because I think the pandemic is coming to a close in most parts of the world while the American situation is not reflective of the same as the number of new infections keeps rising that even health facilities in certain areas are overwhelmed. In fact, much of the nation is struggling with the virus with many economic sectors as well as schools remaining shut. Over two hundred million Americans have already

died and the death toll keeps rising each day which does not point to the effectiveness of the authorities with regards to containing the virus.

Particularly, there has been disagreement between President Donald Trump and the Federal COVID-19 response task force led by Dr Anthony Fauci. While Fauci has been suggesting a science-backed approach to controlling the virus, Trump has been using his guts to discredit Fauci's method while also refusing to take responsibility but rather downplaying the mess that the virus is causing across the nation. In summary, this question intrigues me because significant evidence suggests that the United States has not handled the pandemic effectively. I expect, therefore, to find out whether President Trump and people like Dr. Anthony Fauci are doing a good job in containing the virus. Besides, I expect to find out the factors influencing the success or failure of their efforts towards controlling the pandemic and the steps that can be taken to get to the right track as regards fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Acosta, Jim, and Velazquez, Maegan. "Fauci and Trump spoke during the president's COVID-19 recovery." Politics, CNN, October 21, 2020,

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/21/politics/trump-fauci-covid-19-recovery/index.html>

In their article about Trump and Dr. Fauci's efforts to find a solution to the COVID-19 pandemic, Acosta and Velazquez paint a vivid picture of the challenges that the United States is facing with regards to controlling this epidemic. Their article succinctly explains the lack of coordination that has characterised the United States' response to the spread of this virus. They clearly show how Trump has been disregarding science-backed measures advocated for by Dr. Fauci and rather resorting to his own unproven methods.

I think this is the main reason the pandemic has had devastating effects across the nation. In emergency situations like this one, cooperation among the authorities is indispensable. Without proper coordination, the efforts are bound to be futile. The number one necessity for coordination is good blood between the stakeholders. When there is bad blood among the people who are supposed to work in harmony then failure is certain. Trump has continued to openly show his displeasure with Fauci's directives during press briefs as well as well as campaign rallies. The authors of this article report that, "...the president has resorted to more personal insults against Fauci" calling him a "disaster" and an idiot. This is a clear indicator of Trump's desperate efforts to shift blame instead of taking responsibility for his awful response to the virus.

Besides, times of disaster call for a cautious approach as one misstep can lead to the disaster getting out of hand. Due to that fact, it is advisable to employ high levels of expertise as you have to do things right the first time. Experts are the people who can help to ensure everything is done as it is supposed to be hence reducing or eliminating the probability of devastating mistakes occurring. It is obvious that Dr. Fauci, who is an expert in the domain of infectious diseases and has an extensive experience having worked at such a high level for about 50 years, understands the right measures that can be taken to contain the virus better than President Trump. Donald Trump, therefore, should seek to implement the measures advocated for by Dr Fauci to stop the spread of the virus instead of dismissing his advice to massage his ego and avoid taking any responsibility for the damages the virus has caused and continues to cause. This is not the time to resort to blame games and trying to counter science with gut feelings and self-importance. Donald Trump is, therefore, wrong for calling out an expert as the authors report, "People are tired

of hearing Fauci and these idiots, all these idiots who got it wrong.” Instead, he should listen to what the expert is saying and implement them to ensure the virus is contained as soon as possible.

The authors use an expository writing style to present the facts about the COVID-19 response efforts and the face-off between Dr Fauci and President Trump. As experienced journalists working for a reputable global news outlet, they employed a formal tone to present the facts in their article often backing them up with quotes from the two leaders. Acosta and Velazquez’s article is truly informative.

@realDonaldTrump. “Governor Cuomo has shown tremendously poor leadership skills in running N.Y. Bad time for him to be writing and promoting a book, especially since he has done such a poor job with Covid and Crime. So many unnecessary deaths. The City & State have sunk to historic lows. Washington wants nothing to do with him, and that’s so bad for New York, which has become a ghost town. Andrew spends most of his time listening to his brother, Fredo. Forget about the books and your apology tour. The Federal Government would love to help New York regain its luster!” Twitter, 19 October, 2020, 10:08p.m., <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1318267921227943936>

In his tweet about the leadership of New York under Governor Andrew Cuomo, President Donald Trump openly expresses his displeasure with Andrew Cuomo’s leadership skills. He accuses him of having failed to protect the lives of New York residents who have succumbed to COVID-19 as well as eliminate crime. He claims New York has become a ghost town and threatens to intervene to help New York reclaim its lost

glory. He says, "...the Federal Government would love to help New York regain its lustre!" His tweet clearly shows that he thinks Governor Andrew Cuomo does not have his priorities right as he is writing and promoting a book instead of fighting the pandemic. In addition, the tweet shows that he thinks Mr Cuomo is clueless and incapable of leading New York. As a result, he thinks it is right for the Federal government to fix Cuomo's 'mess.'

I think this is just a classic name-calling and scapegoating tactics adopted by President Donald Trump to distract people from his failures. As a person who never wants to take responsibility for anything, he prefers dragging other people's names in the mud and trying to make himself feel good about his failures. According to him, everybody's response to the pandemic is poor except his own. It is, however, ironic how he is trashing leaders who are actually doing a tremendous job in containing the pandemic but purposely not criticizing himself despite his massive failure to contain the spread of the virus. He is basically ridiculing someone who is doing better than him in terms of governance and leadership. As a result, this tweet cannot be taken seriously because it is made by a malicious man who can say or do anything just to shift the blame. Although he is the President of the United States and a successful tycoon, his shady character cannot allow people to make people believe what he has to say. His hate-filled tweet would make someone believe that Andrew Cuomo is the worst governor when he is among the top performers especially with regards to managing this pandemic. Though unjustified, President Trump is outraged and it can be seen clearly in his vindictive tone.

Le, Tung Thanh, et al. "Evolution of the COVID-19 vaccine development landscape." *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 19.10 (2020): 667-8.

Evolution of the COVID-19 vaccine development landscape is a peer-reviewed journal about the progress that has been attained in developing the vaccine for treating the novel coronavirus disease. Le Tung and colleagues detail the steps that have been taken so far in developing a COVID-19 vaccine since the process was initiated six months ago. The authors use these details to demonstrate how the vaccine development has proceeded at an unprecedented speed as many multinational companies are getting involved with the leading candidates already making mass productions for clinical trials and preparing to produce about two billion vaccines for global supply before 2022. As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) has given guidelines for the final stages of the vaccine development including the trial design, implementation, evaluation as well as follow up. These guidelines are meant to enhance speed and effectiveness in the research and development (R&D) process of producing a safe vaccine for the novel coronavirus disease.

The fact that the R&D of the vaccine has progressed to the final stages in such a short period is really impressive. It is a significant progress towards eliminating the effects of COVID-19 not only at the moment but also in the future. When a vaccine is successfully developed, the novel coronavirus disease will cease to be a threat and the world will operate normally. Since COVID-19 is a new disease, vaccine development will be a bit of a challenge due to lack of sufficient clinical data. This implies that though the initial stages have been completed speedily, the final stages might take longer due to uncertainties. The authors say that, "although the leading COVID-19 vaccine candidates have progressed to advanced stages of clinical development at exceptional speed, many

uncertainties remain given the lack of robust clinical data so far” The authors used an expository writing style with a formal tone to compile their research. Using this style and tone helped them to achieve their objective; to inform. The article is well researched, well organized and truly informative.

Conclusion

This has really been an interesting topic that has made me learn a lot of things that have changed my mind in different ways. To begin with, I have learnt that responding to a pandemic requires a higher level of concerted efforts coupled with expertise. The US has been struggling to contain this pandemic due to lack of coordination among those working to contain the virus as well as ignoring expert advice hence the lack of team spirit. If President Donald Trump would have listened to and implemented Dr Anthony Fauci’s expert advice about COVID-19 response, the pandemic would have been under control. This has made me appreciate the power of humility more. Donald Trump’s arrogance is what has made him continue ignoring Dr Fauci’s advice because he feels he knows better than the infectious disease expert. I, therefore, found that while Fauci is doing a good job trying to find a solution to this pandemic, President Donald Trump is only name-calling and scapegoating. This finding is very important as it perfectly answers my question of interest. It gives me a clear picture of what is not happening right thus pointing towards the changes that need to be implemented to make COVID-19 response more effective. This information would benefit medical experts as well as federal and state authorities by giving them the right direction to follow in order to contain the pandemic.

Works Cited

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