

Coronavirus, COVID-19, SARS-COV-2...Call it what you want but what you have to do is Nothing New

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Received: April 17, 2020; **Published:** May 04, 2020

The pandemic we are experiencing has disrupted our daily lives in a way that only recently would have been unimaginable. Neither doctors as a servant who are accustomed to dealing with human tragedy, the patient and his family when it comes to treating cancer, have lived through such hard days as these last weeks. The facilities in telecommunications make us witness to the events anywhere in the world in real time, so that we can see how a rapid test is done in South Korea and, at the same time, how they are burying their dead in Lombardy. Without a doubt, the way of living this situation is unprecedented; more than luck, thanks to the work of the generation of our parents and grandparents we live a world in “relative peace”, where many of the millions of neighbors who inhabit the planet today can live together.

The media, both digital and traditional press, have been responsible for informing us promptly of the measures that must be taken to control this pandemic, and practically no one living in a large city is unaware of the vast majority of recommendations: home confinement, keeping your distance, washing your hands, etc. and all that is very good, but, without a doubt and for this reason I write these letters, nothing to do represents inventing anything new, nothing that has not been useful and success in other times.

Cases of major humanitarian crises have occurred repeatedly, some of them not so long ago we can simply remember the earthquakes in Mexico of 1985 or 2017 or the Ebola epidemics in central Africa in the last decades, and the leadership of great personalities and the solidarity, commitment and understanding of the population, have made it possible to overcome them, we can remember here in Mexico how citizens took to the streets to assist thousands of people who lost everything during earthquakes, giving home, shelter, food, etc. selflessly.

On January 20, 1961, those who attended the speech after the victory of the Democratic Party in the United States general election, witnessed one of the greatest speeches ever heard by the voice of John F. Kennedy, which left for history, the driller phrase: “Compatriot: don’t ask yourself what your country can do for you, ask yourself what you can do for your country”. This phrase made the feeling of an entire nation shake, by making the public aware that not everything that happens to a people is due, for better or for worse, to their governments, but it is the governed who must modify their attitudes to create fundamental changes in society. And why do I bring up this phrase? Simply because of the current situation of the pandemic.

Politicians, whatever color they may be and in any country, try to capitalize politically on giant crisis, like the one we are experiencing, and the governed try to blame all their tragedies and miseries on governments; I certainly think this is wrong behavior both ways. Those who govern and those who are in opposition must close ranks in the face of such gigantic challenges for the good of their governed and those governed do their bit to contribute to the improvement of the situation.

Citation: José Manuel Mier Odriozola. “Coronavirus, COVID-19, SARS-COV-2...Call it what you want but what you have to do is Nothing New”. *EC Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine* 9.6 (2020): 01-02.

With this last I mean the low civic awareness that we have witnessed when the population was asked for isolation and quarantine and we saw people on the street, parties and meetings, unfortunately the pandemic has fully settled in the country and now the population you are forcibly saving it.

When the health needs are insufficient and touch our loved ones or ourselves, then we will think about how little the government has done to help us, the insufficient hospital care facilities, the few fiscal aid and subsidies, but we will not think about the Own mistakes made by not having done something for our own people, our family and, therefore, for our country, for having broken rules of civic coexistence as simple as staying at home. We must take the example of other nations where they ignored or did it late, such as the European cases from Spain to Italy.

Secondly, I also want to raise awareness and send recognition to all those who contribute daily with their work and effort so that citizens and our system of life do not collapse, I refer in particular to those who cannot keep confinement and who do so for service to others, clear and visible example of this we are health workers. I have to say that many people recognize our work and encourage us to continue with it, but we are not alone; We do not make this resistance possible and I insist once again that what we are witnessing is nothing new, in other crises of various kinds the solidarity of their peoples has arisen.

My recognition goes, for example, to truckers who transport goods and food to different parts of the country so that citizens can enjoy the necessary provisions, people who work in markets and supermarkets, cashiers, ushers, stockists, cleaners, etc. who Although their work sometimes goes unnoticed, it is essential for the proper functioning of the establishment. Public transport drivers, people from the city's cleaning service, and many more. There are many people who do not stop and who you must recognize because they make it possible for you to stay at home. Let us recall history and think of Hugh Dowding, the British officer who led the Royal Air Force (RAF) Fighter Command, early in World War II, when he was Air Chief Marshal. Thanks to this battle, the course of World War II would take a different turn and it would be Sir Winston Churchill himself who would leave one of the greatest phrases for history: "Never so many owed so much to so few". With this phrase I want to create awareness in you, so that you think again that for you to be at home, there are many people who risk their lives and perform an essential social function so that our model of society does not succumb.

So far we have talked about governments, the governed, professionals who go unnoticed. But let's not forget the essence of this message: with the support and solidarity of all, we will be able to get out of this crisis. We must understand that each of us is and must to be part of the solution to the crisis, that you have to think not only about yourself and the most loved ones, with whom I live, but also about others, about those strangers who are part of the social machinery to which we all already belong the ones that we will help doing something as simple as staying at home. Therefore, in the face of this terrible crisis, create awareness in yourself, in your children, in your loved ones and serve your society, serve your country and without realizing it, it will be the best way in which you are serving yourself.

Volume 9 Issue 6 June 2020

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