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Subject Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic

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COVID-19 insights: lessons learned

IHME Director Dr. Chris Murray and Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, discuss lessons learned from the COVID pandemic in a recent *Global Health Insights* podcast.

- **One important lesson** was the difficulty for public health authorities like WHO to make decisions early on in the pandemic, when there was very little data to use. Reluctance to take quick action also prevented us from getting ahead of the pandemic.
- **They emphasized that we should not treat this pandemic as a one-off event.** It is quite likely that another pandemic will occur within the decade, and we should prepare for that eventuality.
- **Unprecedented levels of global scientific collaboration** were brought on by the COVID pandemic. We should continue that energy through widespread data sharing and encouraging a diversity of data collection efforts.

Watch the video

Top stories

Forecasting the future of COVID-19

In a preprint, IHME researchers model five future COVID-19 variant scenarios and explore how the impact can be mitigated through six intervention scenarios. [Read the research](#) →

Presence of some neuropathological burden very common among those who die 80 years or older

In their assessment of 12 neuropathologies known to be associated with dementia, IHME researchers and colleagues found that most of the deceased people had Alzheimer's disease and vascular pathologies in their brains. [Read the research →](#)

IHME in the news

[‘Massive efforts’ are needed to reduce salt intake and protect lives, World Health Organization says](#) (CNN) »

Sodium is an essential nutrient, but consuming too much increases a person's risk of heart disease, stroke and premature death, accounting for nearly 2 million deaths around the world each year, according to the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation**.

[One nation, under gun violence: America tops 100 mass shootings in 2023](#) (CNN)

» The rate in the US is eight times greater than in Canada, which has the seventh highest rate of gun ownership in the world; 22 times higher than in the European Union and 23 times greater than in Australia, according to **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation** data from 2019.

LinkedIn post of the week

“My hope is that every girl and woman around the world has access to all the information they need to make the best choices about their health and well-being.” For #InternationalWomensDay,

#Exemplars spoke with Dr. Emmanuela Gakidou, professor of Health Metrics Sciences at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, about how better data and information can help women lead healthier and happier lives. #IWD2023

— [Exemplars in Global Health](#)

What we're reading

Where there's gender equality, people tend to live longer

» Both women and men are likely to live longer when a country makes strides towards gender equality, according to a new global study that authors believe to be the first of its kind. ([NPR](#))

To Create COVID-19 Memorials, Communities Lead the Way

» With publicly funded pandemic memorials in scant supply, communities across the world have built spaces to remember and mourn the lives lost. ([Bloomberg](#))

New datasets published

- [Healthcare Access and Quality Index by Age 1990-2016](#)
- [Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 \(GBD 2019\) Smoking Tobacco Use Prevalence 1990-2019](#)

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