

Select 1 of the following epidemics near-epidemics of the 21st century: mexican S...

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Select 1 of the following epidemics / near-epidemics of the 21st century: Mexican / Swine Flu (2009) or SARS (2003). Review news clips from major news outlets 2

September 11, Critique on Media Reporting of an Epidemic The epidemic that emerged in the year 2009 was reported to have taken the global health agencies by complete surprise (Ortiz, et al.; Coker, Hunter and Rudge). The novel viruses, particularly the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) had been reported to have posed significant health threats to various parts of the world to the extent that thousands of deaths had been documented.

According to the news article in The Washington Post, there were significant delays in reporting the outbreak which contributed to a significant number of cases and deaths (Brown). Concurrently, news from MNT has reviewed the outbreak as unprecedented as it reportedly killed as much as 200,000 people (2009 Swine Flu Pandemic Infected 1 In Every 5 People).

Most of the news on SARS during the outbreak were viewed through televised news; spreadsheets (local, national or international), and even online news sites. Reports on the subject matter which were shorted, more accurately focused, and pertaining to the national events were deemed more effective in raising public awareness on the issue. The news clips were successful in confirming that, despite the severity of the outbreak, health authorities apparently assumed a slow reactive stance, corroborating the contentions by Ortiz, et al. Thus, the media did a good job in reporting the epidemic on an unbiased manner, to the extent of providing awareness to the apparent slow reaction of health authorities to address the outbreak. It therefore presented strengths in reporting, evaluating, enhancing public

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awareness, as well as calling the attention of authorities to act, as required.

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