Pandemic Planning: Lessons Learned from COVID-19 and 25 years of preparedness planning

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Dr. Rebecca Katz teaches courses on global health diplomacy, global health security, and emerging infectious diseases in the School of Foreign Service. Prior to joining Georgetown in 2016, she spent ten years at The George Washington University as faculty in the Milken Institute School of Public Health. Since 2007, much of her work has been on the domestic and global implementation of the International Health Regulations as well as global governance of public health emergencies. She has authored over 80 peer reviewed manuscripts, and three books in addition to numerous op eds, blogs, white papers and book chapters.

From 2004 to 2019, Dr. Katz was a consultant to the Department of State, working on issues related to the Biological Weapons Convention, pandemic influenza and disease surveillance. In early November 2020, she was selected to be an advisor for the Biden administration’s COVID-19 task force.

Dr. Katz received her undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, an MPH(’98) from Yale University, and a PhD from Princeton University.

This talk will focus on 25 years of pandemic planning that occurred prior to COVID-19, what immediate lessons can be learned from the current pandemic, the challenges of putting sufficient capabilities in place at local, national, regional and international levels and some thoughts on the role of academia for building the evidence base to support future policy decisions.

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