

GENERIC ELECTIVES (BIOMED-GE): PANDEMIC: CHALLENGES AND PREPAREDNESS

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Pandemic: Challenges and Preparedness	4	3	-	1	XII Passed	Basic knowledge of Biology-

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- Current scenario of covid outbreak all over the world made everyone curious about pandemic, its challenges and how to prepare for dealing with it.
- In this context we designed this paper to make students aware about pandemics caused by various pathogens.
- Course describes different pandemic outbreaks and strategies adapted to combat the transmission of pathogen and their neutralization.
- The course also explains the different therapeutic approaches for the elimination and cure of patients suffering from pandemic infections.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- This unit helps students to understand the difference between endemic, epidemic and pandemic.
- It makes students familiar with various pandemics that have spread in last century and are caused by different types of pathogens such as virus, bacteria and fungi.
- Students will learn extent of spread of pandemic worldwide, its timeline, death rate and other statistical data.
- This unit will explain about the infectious diseases and process of invasion by microbes.

- It will also helpful to understand preventive measures of infection transmission and about mutant strains which are associated with recurrent outbreaks.
- Students will learn about different treatment strategies for the patients suffering from any infection, along with specific precautions for handling patients with co-morbidities/ elderly persons. The content of this unit will be helpful to explain about plasma therapy and booster doses. Some basic concept of psychological counselling will help to reduce the depression and anxiety faced by individuals during pandemic outbreak.
- This unit describes different methods and equipments used during an out breaks to minimize the contamination and cross transmission of infection and its spread.
- This will help students to learn the usage of PPE kits, mask, sanitization, quarantine and significance of social distancing.
- Current unit, emphasizes about the history of vaccine, process of active and passive immunization, different types of vaccines and their effectiveness to control any pandemic, vaccines developed in India against covid-19.
- Students will learn hands-on training for important techniques used in the detection and diagnosis of various types of pathogens and associated protocols.
- Last unit of the course will focus on awareness and sensitization programs (eg. SOPs), health and hygiene and many issues related to public health. Also possible global approach to strengthening the health infrastructure and disease surveillance shall be elaborated.

SYLLABUS

Unit I: Introduction to Pandemics: (07 Hrs)

General concepts of endemic, epidemic and pandemic; Historical background of pandemics: Rabies, plague, small pox, cholera, Spanish Influenza, AIDS, Avian bird flu, Swine flu, MERS, SARS and covid-19 pandemic. Timeline of Covid- 19. Extent of spread, worldwide statistics and death rate. Statistics of affected nations worldwide and in India; symptoms, extent of spread and containment

Unit II: Infectious Disease: (05 Hrs)

Structure of causative agent, invasion into human body, etiology and strategies currently used to block infection process, common mutant strains responsible further outbreaks of the pandemics

Unit III: Emerging Therapies, Natural Protection and strengthening immune system: (06 Hrs)

Drugs used to cure Avian bird flu, Swine flu and covid-19. First line of treatment at home additional care of person with co-morbidities / elderly person. Convalescent plasma therapy, Placebo effect, alternative therapies and immunity boosters used during pandemic and psychological counseling and countering depression.

Unit IV: Precautions and Prevention:

(06 Hrs)

Quarantine protocol at home, for frequent fliers, hospital exposure, and workplace exposure. Precautionary measures such as PPE clothing, gloves, masks, social distancing, frequent washing of hands with soap, use of sanitizers, disinfection strategies.

Unit V: Vaccines: An effective tool for prevention of pandemics:

(09 Hrs)

Historical perspective of vaccination, active and passive immunization; Vaccination drive, types of vaccines: Live attenuated vaccines, inactivated vaccines, subunit vaccines, multivalent vaccine, recombinant vector vaccines and DNA vaccines. Types of vaccines developed against Covid-19 worldwide, Their effectiveness and side effects. Vaccines developed in India for adults (Covaxin and Covishield) and vaccines for children. Limitations in effective development of covid-19 vaccine.

Unit VI: Techniques for diagnosis and detection of disease:

(06 Hrs)

Antigen-antibody based detection techniques: Lateral flow technique, RAPID and RT-PCR test with complete protocol. Probes for virus detection.

Unit VII: Challenges and Preparedness:

(06 Hrs)

Awareness and sensitization programs (SOPs) about general health and hygiene. Funding in research on issues related to public health and protection of environment. Global health approach with multidisciplinary collaborations. Pandemic preparedness and disease surveillance with strong health infrastructure.

Practical component

(30 Hrs)

(Wherever wet lab experiments are not possible, the principles and concepts can be demonstrated through any other material or medium including videos/virtual labs etc.)

1. A case study of any one pandemic of past.
2. A case study of any one emerging pandemic.

3. Detection and diagnosis using antigen and antibody in the sample.
4. Demonstration of the PCR machine
5. Video demonstration of Covid-19 lateral flow technique
6. Demographic analysis of extent of spread both national and international.
7. Project work

Essential readings:

- Park, K. (2021), 26th Edition, *Park's Textbook of Preventive and Social Medicine*, Banarsidas Bhanot Publisher, ISBN-13 : . 978-9382219163
- Madigan M. T, Bender K.S, Buckley D.H, Sattley W.M, Stahl D.A (2021) 16th edition, Brock Biology of Microorganisms, Pearson Publisher, ISBN-139780135861717.
- Punt, J. Stranford, S. Jones, P. and Owen, J. (2019). 8th Edition. Kuby Immunology. New York, USA: W.H. Freeman and Company. ISBN- 13: 978-1464189784.
- Willey, J., Sherwood, L., and Woolverton, C.J. (2016). 10th Edition. Prescott's microbiology. New York, USA: McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN-13: 978-1259281594.

Suggestive readings:

- Bonita, Ruth, Beaglehole, Robert, Kjellström, Tord & World Health Organization. (2 (2006nd edition. *Basic Epidemiology*, World Health Organization, ISBN 978 92 4 154707 9.