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Командный конкурс эссе

“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World. Time for Equal Opportunities”

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

«Меры, принимаемые правительствами России и Великобритании в целях сохранения здоровья и жизни людей в период пандемии COVID-19»

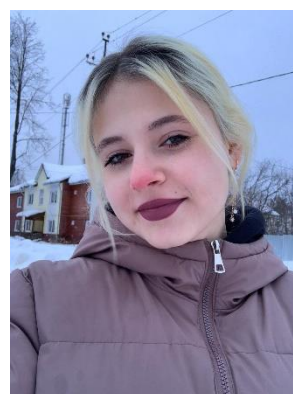
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Серетюк Полина



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2022

Group essay contest

“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World.

Time for Equal Opportunities”

Research work (essay)

“Measures taken by the Russian and the UK government to safeguard people’s health and life during the COVID-19 pandemic”

Contestants:



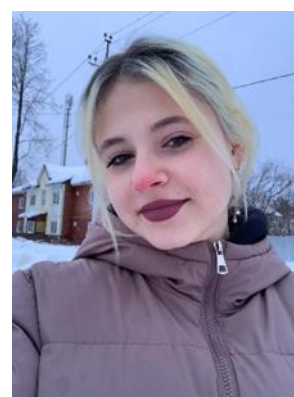
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Лапшина Алёна

Supervisor: Mayorova O.S.

Theses

1. Reasons for choosing this topic.
2. The most widespread measures taken by the UK.
3. Measures taken by the Government of Russia.
4. Similarities and differences in the actions of Russia and the UK in the fight against the pandemic.
5. We also can help.

On December,31,2019 the government of China informed World Health Organization about the outbreak of unknown disease. It was revealed that the cause of viral pneumonia became a new species of coronavirus. This new species spread all over the world within a few months. So WHO declared this outbreak as the international emergency and named it - COVID-19. There is no country in the world that hasn't been affected by the pandemic. COVID-19 came to Russia on February, 31. At the same time it was registered in Great Britain. And we decided to analyze measures taken by the Russian and the UK government to safeguard people's health and life during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From March 20, 2020, the first series of quarantine measures was introduced in the UK. Educational institutions, entertainment establishments, non-food stores, gyms and clubs were closed. Further, it was announced the cancellation of all social events, including weddings and christening, the closing of libraries and religious institutions. The British have been banned from gathering in groups of more than 2 people unless they are members of the same family. Public transport worked as usual, although travel by car, train, bus was allowed only on business matters. More than one million citizens were required to observe the regime of self-isolation until 06/08/2020. Going outside was only allowed to buy food or for exercises (once a day). In grocery stores and pharmacies, citizens were ordered to keep a distance of at least two meters. There was a fine for non-compliance with the ban.

In violation of the ban on staying at home, citizens of the UK had picnics and walked during the weekend of 04/04/2020-04/05/2020. On April 5, 2020, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain appealed to her subjects to observe the self-isolation regime and stay at home. This was the fourth extraordinary address of the Queen to her subjects in the 68-year history of her reign. In addition, all families living in Britain received letters signed by B. Johnson dated 04/06/2020 urging them to stay at home.

“In order to distribute the burden on the national health system and gradually develop “herd immunity”, the Government’s Emergency Plan was adopted, which provided for four stages in the fight against COVID-19: Stage 1 – “containment”: early detection of the disease, contact tracing, isolation, prevention of the spread of coronavirus; Stage 2 - "delay": slowing down the spread; Stage 3 - "research": studying the virus, taking measures that will reduce its impact on the UK population, applying innovative methods of diagnosis, treatment, developing a vaccine; Stage 4 - "mitigation": ensuring the best care for the patients, supporting hospitals to provide essential services and ongoing care in order to minimize the overall impact of the disease on society, public services and the economy. In general, the strategy for combating coronavirus is designed to build population immunity to a new infection as soon as possible: the sooner young and healthy citizens get sick en masse with the coronavirus, the less risk there will be for the weak and the elderly, so it makes no sense to spend large resources on slowing down the spread of the infection. The UK is working to find a vaccine and cure for the coronavirus.”¹ To implement the plan, recently retired nurses and doctors have been asked to return to work to help colleagues fight the coronavirus epidemic.

On May 10, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the level of coronavirus danger had decreased in the country, so it was decided to ease quarantine measures. But since September 2020, new restrictive measures have been taken, including: the closure of pubs and restaurants no later than ten in the evening, a ban on gatherings of more than six people, etc. Educational institutions continued their work, but in compliance with quarantine measures.

The third lockdown came to the UK on January 5, 2021 with the emergence of a new strain of coronavirus. It was just as tough as it was in March 2020. After the measures were taken, the increase in the incidence again began to decline, but

1. Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation. Country overview: UK experience in the fight against COVID-19 2020, p.8

in June a slow increase began again, and restrictions were only relaxed on July 19. By this time, more than 60% of the population in the UK had completed the full course of vaccination. With the advent of a new strain of the virus (omicron), the number of cases increased sharply again by the end of 2021. But omicron, unlike previous strains, although more contagious (which means isolation and distancing is unlikely to lead to a decrease in cases), does not cause such terrible consequences, which shows a decrease in the number of hospitalized. In this regard, and also, as it seems to us, guided by economic reasons, from January 26, the regime of strict anti-COVID restrictions was canceled in the UK. In particular, the mandatory presentation of COVID-certificates and the recommendation to work remotely will be canceled in the country. In addition, the mandatory mask regime is canceled.

In Russia, the fight against a new infection began with a restriction on the entry of foreign citizens of China, then the ban extended to South Korea, Iran, Italy, and other European countries. On March 27, Russia stopped regular and charter flights with other countries. In early March, the mayor of Moscow introduced mandatory self-isolation for 14 days for citizens arriving from the United States, Great Britain, European Union states, Ukraine, Belarus and all non-EU states of Europe, as well as persons living together with them. Since mid-March 2020, this measure has been extended to all of Russia. Also, from mid-March 2020, the Ministry of Education recommended transferring the education of schoolchildren to a remote format, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection recommended, if possible, transfer employees to remote work. Also, since mid-March, all museums and organizations carrying out exhibition activities, theaters, philharmonic societies, circuses, cinemas have been closed. In many religious institutions, services were held without the presence of parishioners. On March 25, Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the nation because of the situation with the coronavirus in the country. The

President declared a non-working week from March 28 to April 5. Only continuously operating organizations; medical and pharmacy organizations; organizations providing the population with food and essential goods; organizations performing urgent work under emergency conditions, in other cases that endanger the life or normal living conditions of the population; organizations carrying out urgent repair and loading and unloading operations continued their work. Further, non-working days with the preservation of wages were extended until April 30, 2020, and then even until May 11. Schoolchildren and students were taught remotely. Also, on March 30, a high alert regime was introduced in most regions of Russia. Under the new rules, it was possible to leave the house to the nearest pharmacy or store, or to receive emergency medical care. It is allowed to take out the garbage and walk the dogs. People of all ages are required to comply with the self-isolation regime. Especially those who are over 65 years old, and adults with chronic diseases. It was believed that these categories of people are at risk. Special volunteer detachments were formed that bought and delivered food, medicines and other necessary goods to self-isolated citizens.

By decree of the President of the Russian Federation, the heads of the constituent entities of Russia were endowed with additional powers to determine a list of specific preventive measures to combat the coronavirus. This made it possible to introduce in each region, municipality precisely those security measures that are really necessary and proportionate to the situation. Non-working days ended on May 12, 2020, quarantine measures were relaxed, but educational institutions ended the academic year remotely. Note that in the subsequent period, distance learning was introduced only in certain regions. For example, in our region, only students in grades 5-8,10 and students of colleges and universities went to distance learning in November-December 2021.

To combat the coronavirus in the healthcare sector, a list of organizations has been created that are being repurposed to help patients infected with the

coronavirus. In May, the production of the necessary medical equipment (ventilators, tests, special preparations) was increased. On April 8, the President of the Russian Federation established federal payments to doctors working with patients with coronavirus. Unfortunately, unlike the UK, even this measure did not help increase the number of doctors, but students of medical schools provided all possible assistance.

Thus, we see that the measures taken by the governments of both the UK and Russia are very similar: isolation, keeping a distance, restricting movement, closing places where a large number of people gather, vaccination. But there are also some differences.

On the one hand, Russia began its anti-COVID campaign by closing borders with states that pose a threat to the spread of the disease. The UK, on the other hand, requires arriving flights (both air and sea) to have a so-called "Declaration of Health". During the second and third waves of the pandemic, educational institutions, theaters, cinemas, restaurants, etc. did not close in Russia. The only restriction was keeping the distance, the availability of personal protective equipment (masks, gloves) and the availability of a vaccination certificate or a certificate of the presence of antibodies.

On the other hand, British citizens were more disciplined, as 84% of Britons have now completed a full course of vaccination. In Russia today this figure is only 60%. In addition, doctors in the UK immediately responded to a request to return from retirement, while in Russia, despite material support, many doctors quit, what creates a shortage of medical staff.

We believe that this problem can be solved by attracting student volunteer teams to help doctors. Such teams can help with testing, care for patients with mild illness, paperwork, delivery of food and necessary medicines.

Only our unity and solidarity in the fight against the pandemic will help us to win!

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