Research on Government Emergency Management Strategy Based on Public Health Incidents

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Abstract: It is the government's basic responsibility to ensure public health safety. However, due to the influence of the environment and human beings, some public health incidents are still inevitable, endangering public health and undermining social stability. However, any public health incident is traceable, and there will be a process from latent period to outbreak. Therefore, the government needs to grasp the key points of health incidents, strengthen emergency management, and ensure social stability and public safety.

1 Introduction

In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread rapidly throughout the world. Although China has quickly controlled the domestic spread, the epidemic trend of the virus is still not to be underestimated. This sudden public health incident has given people all over the world a lesson in public health and raised the government's attention on public health incidents. However, judging from the current management of public health incidents in China, it still has not achieved adequate results and it is necessary to continue to sum up the experience and learn from the excellent public health emergency management systems of some countries to achieve effective emergency response and management for public health incidents.

2 The Current State of Government Emergency Management of Public Health Incidents

2.1 Inadequate Early Warning System for Public Health Incidents

Judging from the structure of the emergency management system for public health incidents in China, the response speed of relevant departments is relatively slow, disease prevention is not adequate, and the defense capabilities against public health incidents are insufficient. From the perspective of the prevention of the novel coronavirus in Wuhan, it took more than a month from the appearance of the first patient to the lockdown of Wuhan. There was insufficient crisis awareness and no timely response[1]. As a result, the golden period of prevention and control for the pandemic was missed, and a large-scale outbreak occurred. Moreover, the lack of timely information release has led to a weak sense of participation among the people. This shows that the efficiency of emergency management in China still needs to be improved.

2.2 Shortage of Emergency Response Personnel for Public Health Incidents

Judging from the prevention and control of public health incidents in recent years, talents with a solid theoretical foundation and practical ability play an important role in the health system. Chinese government departments have begun to strengthen the building of public health talents, but from the current state of public health talents building, there is still a phenomenon of "false saturation". The reason for this is that China's public health investment is relatively small and the incidence of public health issues has

increased under the historical background of the population aging, and the handling of health incidents has become more difficult. Meanwhile, the theoretical knowledge of many talents is not solid, the practical experience is not extensive, and the emergency response capability is insufficient, which makes it impossible to deal with the emergency public health safety incident scientifically.

2.3 The Early Warning System for Public Health Incidents is not Adequate

The reporting format of public health incidents in China is hierarchical reporting. However, due to the scattered information and the phenomenon of departmental monopolies, it is difficult to quickly summarize and manage a crisis as it unfolds. Therefore, problems such as information misreporting and underreporting often occur during information collection, resulting in insufficient information control and utilization. Meanwhile, from the perspective of command and decision-making, there is no effective nation-wide interconnected monitoring and early warning mechanism, which has led to a reduction in the early warning capability of the public health system[2]. In addition, the health management department has not established an adequate cooperation mechanism with the media, resulting in imperfect information release, and the public cannot keep abreast of the real-time development of public health incidents.

3 Government Emergency Management Strategy for Public Health Incidents

3.1 Build an Effective Emergency Response Plan for Public Health Incidents

Many public health incidents have a latent period. Therefore, it is particularly important to build an adequate prevention mechanism and pre-planning mechanism. Only by making preparations can the risks be effectively eliminated. In formulating the early warning system for public emergencies, it is necessary to start with the entire process and all elements of public health emergency management to ensure the comprehensiveness and consistency of the system. First of all, in the building of the emergency management system, it is necessary to adopt the one-case three-system structure and improve it on the original basis to enable all organizations in the

management of public health incidents from central to local level to comprehensively implement and carry out emergency plans in all directions. All government departments need to do their own work in line with the functions of the emergency plan management mechanism, and strengthen the legal norms of the public health emergency response plan to ensure that there are theoretical and legal basis for the specific implementation process. Meanwhile, the government needs to organize relevant departments to do a good job in the integration of routine work and emergency preparedness, and do a good job in the whole process of drilling, including emergency rescue material supply, emergency rescue team building, and emergency industry response. Through continuous publicity and drills, improve the safety awareness of all units, departments and individuals. In addition, it is also necessary to do a good job in cultivating the public's common sense and skills in public health incidents, and promote the improvement of the emergency management system for public safety incidents in China.

3.2 Refine the Early Warning Mechanism during the Evolving Period of Public Health Incidents

After public health incidents started to gradually become threatening, government departments need to take immediate response and measures to determine the incident indicators according to the evolving characteristics of the incidents. In the building of a public health emergency management system, it is first necessary to build an adequate crisis early warning system. Through long-term professional research, China's public health departments have gradually developed certain risk and crisis response capabilities and measures. It is necessary to take routine response as the basis to get hold of the nodes of incident progress and select effective solutions[3]. Meanwhile, do a good job in popularizing emergency response early warning to the outside world, and communicate the public health early warning mechanism to all groups of the society in a way that is acceptable and comprehensible by the public, so that the public can choose a reasonable emergency response plan. In addition, guide grassroots organizations to make emergency preparations, select special personnel to perform risk assessment on the situation of their departments and units, discover and report risks and problems in a timely manner;

and publicly release emergency warning information to the public. The government grants the authority to the corresponding authority to release the most acceptable and comprehensible information content to the public, to mobilize the entire society, to jointly deal with public health incidents, and to cut off the source of proliferation.

3.3 Do a Good Job in Emergency Handling and Mobilization of Public Health Incidents

Once a public health incident has entered the full-scale outbreak period, it indicates that the preliminary work has not achieved good results and the situation has expanded. The main strategy of the government at this stage is to mobilize all the people and units to carry out emergency response and reduce the harm and impact of the public health incident. First of all, organize various departments to carry out response work in accordance with the emergency plan drill for public health incidents. The key issue in handling the situation is the need to adopt a corresponding response system based on the level of the public health incident, and regulate the command authority and the level of resource mobilization etc. on the scene. Secondly, do a good job in the reasonable allocation of emergency response resources. After a public health safety incident enters the outbreak period, there is often a shortage of emergency response resources, such as medical protective clothing, masks, and medical personnel in the COVID-19 pandemic. The effective allocation of emergency response resources can effectively alleviate various problems in public health incidents. Therefore, local governments need to configure emergency supplies in accordance with the response level of the emergency. Once the emergency response is initiated, the government department must actively gather supplies, and do a good job in accurately distributing supplies. In addition, the government needs to do a good job in risk communication with the outside world, and release true and objective information to the stakeholders of public health incidents and the public to prevent rumors from causing greater social problems. Once a public health incident breaks out, many people will behave abnormally out considerations for their own health. In response to these problems, government departments need to communicate with each other so that relevant personnel can adopt correct rules and do a good job of self-protection while not causing the expansion of infection zone. In addition, while publicizing accurate information, it is also necessary to control rumors to play the correct role in guiding public opinion.

3.4 Emphasize the Social Security during the Receding Period of Public Health Incidents

After a public health incident got controlled, it gradually enters a period of receding. The most intense emergency response work has ended at this stage, but it does not mean that the entire process is over. The process of the receding period is relatively long and the social impact still exists, therefore professional work is needed to reset the trauma of the society and communities. First of all, the government needs to provide corresponding compensation and continue treatment for victims of direct casualties or family members in the public health incident; Secondly, for people who suffered psychological harm in public health incidents, such as on-site medical staff, patient family members, police personnel involved in rescue and treatment, and some of the people, these people faced a large number of concerted deaths during the rescue and treatment process, and close contact with the virus at all times can easily cause psychological harm. Therefore, psychological interventions can be carried out on this part of the population; in addition, corresponding subsidies should be provided for companies and individuals that have suffered major losses due to public health incidents and low-income groups or homeless people. In short, the post-incident reconstruction work cannot be taken lightly, and the emergency response mechanism should be strengthened based on current situation.

4 Conclusion

In conclusion, public health incidents are relatively harmful to the society and pose certain threats to the safety of the people and social stability. Therefore, the government must be able to respond in a timely manner to prevent and control public health incidents in advance, exert control during the incident, and carry out aftercare and reflection after the incident to ensure the continuous improvement of public health emergency management.

References

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