

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Pandemic - Isaias & Vietnam

August 2, 2020. For the past week all eyes on the East Coast of Florida have been on the path of the hurricane, and the community was bracing for a possible double-whammy of a hurricane in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Would it hit us or would we get lucky and the storm would skirt by off the coast? Luck was on our side. We experienced rain and winds up to 70 miles per hour in some areas but flooding and damage was minimal. In a perverse way the hurricane provided a welcomed diversion. The same can be said of the Black-Lives-Matter protests that have changed the daily conversation and caused TV news channels to focus on a topic that is not COVID-related.

The medical impact of COVID can be measured in the number of cases, number of deaths, etc., but the psychological impact is equally devastating but not easily quantified. Time seems to keep marching on with no end in sight. In some ways the mode reminds me of the 1960s when the Vietnam daily death counts were broadcasted daily and anti-war demonstrations were being held across the country and dominating the political discussions. And like today when everyone is looking forward to the day when COVID is eradicated, the country anxiously awaited the termination of the war in Southeast Asia. It is going to feel so nice when we can return to the old normal without COVID weighing on us..