

PFARRKIRCHEN, GERMANY

DIGIHEALTHDAY-2021

GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH – TODAY, TOMORROW, AND BEYOND

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Impulse Talk

Health Informatics Contributions to COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Control

November 12, Friday, 2021, 14:50-15:20 (CET)

ABSTRACT

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic significantly impacted health systems across the globe. Identification of infected persons, management of scarce health care resources (including human health workers), and distribution of vaccines were serious challenges faced in every nation. Health informatics played a critical role in solving these challenges by supporting the identification of disease cases, management of hospitalized patients, and administration of vaccinations. Electronic health records as well as telehealth were central components of health system responses to triage and manage care for infected persons. Electronic laboratory reporting, syndromic surveillance, and immunization registries were critical population health tools used by governmental public health agencies to identify, monitor, and mitigate infection in cities, states, and nations. Dashboards also emerged as a crucial tool for health systems and public health. This article describes the roles these information systems played in response to the pandemic and provides comments on future directions for health informatics post-COVID.

