



Voice in the Times of the COVID- 19 Pandemic

The pandemic of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) affected the modern world in a way never seen before. After an initial phase of disbelief, we all have been affected, some personally with irreparable losses, others collectively, with difficulties maintaining professional activities and ensuring a dignified survival. There are almost 4.5 million dead, more than 200 million infected as of August 2021 (1); and the pandemic is still not over. Global markets have been shaken, and the impact on commerce, industry, employment, and income has been profound. The global economy will suffer years before it recovers.

The human voice also was affected profoundly. Artistic voice professionals had their events cancelled, and thousands of support professionals in the productions were left unemployed. Visits to teachers of singing and voice health providers were reduced to voice emergencies. Clinical voice evaluation through laryngoscopy, as well as the acoustic and aerodynamic measurements, are tasks that potentially disseminate viruses by aerosols or droplets and were restricted to severe cases or modified to reduce the risk of infection.

Our medical, rehabilitation and vocal pedagogy community reacted immediately. We sought to understand the frightening reality based on facts and scientific data. We produced knowledge very quickly; and we generated recommendation and guideline articles published in a remarkably brief period. For example, some submissions have gone through careful analysis, review, correction, editing, and dissemination to the community of readers in less than a month. Journal of Voice international reviewers, with more than 100 collaborators, worked tirelessly. The Voice Foundation's office team expedited all communication processes, favoring a rapid exchange of information between authors, reviewers, and the editor. An essential component of this remarkably efficient dissemination of knowledge was Stefanie Jewell-Thomas and Elsevier, our publisher. Elsevier ensured that the content reached the greatest number of people, including publishing an article in English, Spanish and Portuguese, without transferring costs to the authors, to reach the large communities of physicians and speech-language pathologists who continued to provide care in clinics and hospitals.

At this moment, we face the reentry (hopefully) after COVID. At different speeds and conditions, we are returning to clinical and artistic activities while watching the spread of a new variant, Delta, without knowing what awaits us. More than ever, spreading science and rejecting fake scientific news is one of our most important social responsibilities. World Voice Day (WVD) has been celebrated on April 16th for more than 20 years. Before the pandemic, WVD inspired hundreds of events, lectures, health screenings, and other events live in more than 50 countries. In 2020, COVID-19 caused a substantial decrease in the number of WVD celebrations. Thanks to the dedication, creativity, and resilience for which the voice community is known, 2021 saw almost as many WVD activities as had occurred in the pre-COVID years, although essentially almost all virtual. In 2022 we anticipate that WVD activities will reach or surpass the pre-COVID

levels. While live celebrations would be wonderful, the voice will be honored throughout the world, whether celebrations are live, virtual or hybrid in 2022.

The voice campaign motto for the year 2021 - "One world, many voices", proposed by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) seemed to us deeply appropriate. A rapid analysis of the actions registered on the site www.world-voice-day.org proved the vitality, strength, and creativity of voice advocates from all over the world. Activities such as lectures, interviews, concerts (including virtual choirs), classes, voice screenings, most already traditional in previous years, were accompanied by competitions of poetry, short stories, games about voice, and a minute's silence for the voiceless. Forty-nine countries showed their reverence for the importance of the voice as a symbol of humanity by featuring WVD events.

In response to our request, once again Elsevier showed its strong commitment to the voice care and science community by offering a special supplement, "Voice in the Times of Pandemic," free of charge until September 15, 2022. At the first release, in October 2021, the collection was composed of 40 articles published in the Journal of Voice on topics related to COVID-19, that had been published from the beginning of the Pandemic through August 2021. Moreover, this special supplement will be updated periodically with new articles. Our goal is for knowledge to be applied in our stakeholders' daily lives, whether they are returning full time to their professional commitments or still have restrictions. The world has changed, and it is up to us to transform suffering into competence, with safe recovery. Providing scientific information of high quality is one of the primary purposes of The Voice Foundation and of the World Voice Day.

Enjoy the reading!

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(1) [COVID-19 Map - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center \(jhu.edu\)](https://www.jhu.edu/COVID-19-map) /accessed on August 28, 2021/