

*Special Theme of the Issue.  
Psychological Challenges  
of the COVID-19 Pandemic*

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## EDITORIAL

The papers in this special issue are unified by the subject of the perception of the pandemic situation, its impact on the psychological characteristics of the population and the identification of the psychological profile of doctors (who comprise such an important group). The papers cover surveys of samples in various regions of Russia in order to determine the psychological consequences of the pandemic (during the first wave) and the influence of personality traits on individual decision-making (whether or not to follow the specified requirements to behaviors), as well as the feeling of psychological well-being and distress.

The paper by F.M. Shankov, M.A. Chumakova, M.S. Vasilchuk and N.V. Kiselnikova presents the results of a screening study conducted in May 2020, that is, three months after the start of the epidemic in Russia. As the socio-demographic data on a large sample (1,100 respondents) was taken into account, the results of filling out a questionnaire, based on Hobfoll's Conservation of Resources Theory, were analyzed. In the context of an impending epidemic the threat of loss of resources turned out to be estimated higher than the real losses. This highlighted the impact of the epidemic on the sense of stability, security and control over one's life situation and the health scares that in general reduce the psychological well-being of people.

The opposite aspects (positive reactions of individuals to the pandemic) were considered in the paper by T.G. Bokhan, E.V. Galazhinsky, D.A. Leontiev, E.I. Ras-skazova, O.V. Terekhina, A.L. Ulyanich, M.V. Shabalovskaya, S.A. Bogomaz and T.A. Vidyakina. A set of questionnaires was used to test 474 adult residents of the Siberian region of Russia in order to assess the impact of the pandemic and self-isolation on their lives, including the indicators of well-being. Personal resources were the predictors of the perceived positive effects of the pandemic.

Compliance with the measures of social distancing, (in particular, the fulfilled requirement to wear a mask), was analyzed in the study by M.S. Zirenko and T.V. Kornilova. The personality traits of empathy, rationality, willingness to take risks and the Dark Triad influenced the decisions to adhere to physical distancing

(a sample of 308 people who filled out Google forms with cases and personality methods).

The issue also features a study of E.V. Krasnova, E.A. Kryukova and M.Yu. Koltovskiy that was carried out during the examination of doctors working during the pandemic in the “red zone” of a Moscow hospital for COVID-19 patients. The sample of 122 respondents (doctors of various specialties) showed that such properties in their psychological profiles as tolerance to uncertainty, empathy, emotional intelligence and intuition are interconnected.

In general, the proposed set of works gives a fairly complete picture of the design for psychological research in this subject.

***T.V. Kornilova***