A second wave

By Zachary N. Dunaiski

Even before people gathered to peacefully protest the death of George Floyd, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that this is only the beginning, calling it the first wave. Now that riots have erupted in many major cities around the country, it will only certainly increase the spread of COVID-19.

Dangerous times lie ahead, especially as the public views the reopening of the economy as a false signal of the end. It is not. COVID-19's spread, which has claimed over 100,000 American lives, is far from over with some models showing the second wave this fall as worse and longer than the current one we are experiencing.

States have begun to reopen, the stock market has been surging, and even pro sports leagues are working out possible returns, but individuals who ignore the safety guidelines put everyone at risk. The most publicized came a few weeks back during a pool party at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, which showed many people crammed into a pool. People from that pool party were told to self-isolate, and just a few days ago, an attendee of that party tested positive for the virus. A scary sign of what may lie ahead after so many gathering nationwide to protest racial injustice.

This all comes as the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a few weeks ago that they will be suspending their trials of Hydroxychloroquine in the fight against COVID-19. A month ago, the drug's name started to be talked about again as the president announced that he’s taking it in an effort to prevent COVID-19, which the FDA says is neither safe nor effective in treating the coronavirus. It has also not shown signs in preventing it.

The WHO stopped trials on the experimental treatment method in the solidarity trial due in part to a study published by The Lancet, which found a lower survival rate among hospitalized patients using the drug once they had COVID-19. The Solidarity trial is the WHO's global investigation into four experimental treatments for COVID-19. It includes remdesivir, lopinavir, interferon beta-1a and hydroxychloroquine.

On Friday, May 29, just a few weeks after the trials ended on Hydroxychloroquine, President Trump announced that the United States will be terminating their relationship with the WHO. His feud with the WHO has been widely publicized over the last several weeks, blaming them for the spread of COVID-19 across the country despite warnings he was briefed on back in January.

The WHO, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our local medical professionals here at Fond du Lac, are doing all they can to keep everyone safe. They are experts on viruses and how they spread, we need to listen to them to keep us, loved ones, and others safe.