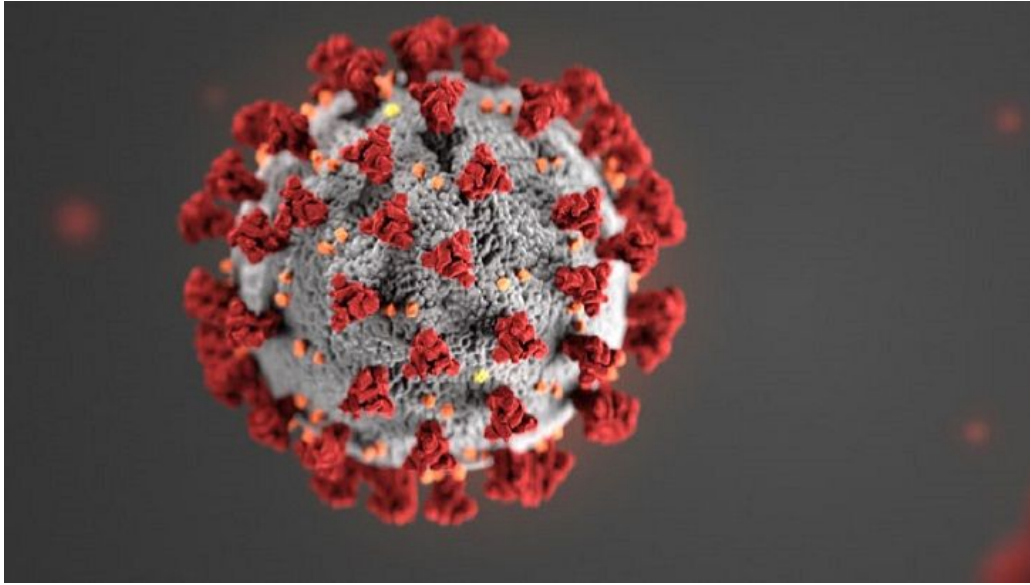


THE COVID TIMES

A view of the coronavirus through the English 108 seniors

By: English 108 students from Fort Ann, Fort Edward and Hartford





SOURCE: Center for Disease Control

Day One

By Matthew Cusson of Fort Ann

This was not foreseen,
Of all the things to halt the machine,
Coronavirus, a 21st- century pandemic
To avoid the ongoing epidemic,
The government demands, That all of the nation remand.

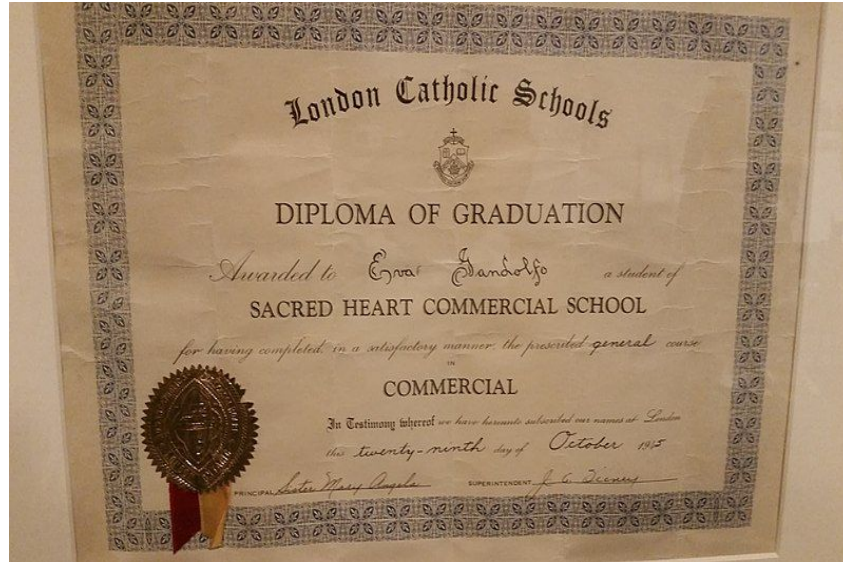


SOURCE: Daniel Case, Wikimedia Commons

Social Distance

By Matthew Cusson of Fort Ann

The grand sickness spreads,
Faster than bunnies breed,
Needless to say, this is turning heads.
In order to stop and rip COVID to shreds,
Humankind finds a need,
To isolate all in homesteads.
Some are saying that we're at loggerheads,
Frankly, I agree,
But it's better than dying in our beds.



SOURCE: Patrick Kingham, Wikimedia Commons

So Much for Senior Year

By Matthew Cusson of Fort Ann

The last year of school is supposed the greatest,

Your first step towards what comes next.

But now I must lament,

My plans are now perplexed.

With all the fun on hiatus, because of a contagious hex.

Even graduation may be on a latelist,

Which has me just a tad vexed.



“The Digital Artist” on Needpix.com

When?

By Matthew Cusson of Fort Ann

A Week. After Spring Break. May 15th. Until June.

Next they’ll say the pandemic will end after a blue moon.

At times I cannot begin to fathom,

At how much the world is out of tune.

What has happened to Athletics?

The Impact of Covid-19 on Sports

by Gavon Darfler

HARTFORD -- Many people are trying new things during these tough times. From playing in their backyard to working more around the house, new ideas and opportunities are popping into peoples heads. One thing that has been on hold along with the normalcy of our lives is professional sports at all levels. From the farm systems in the MLB to the superstars in the NBA all players are forced to stay home and let this pandemic play out. At the highest level of each sport players that are supposed to be in season right now are taking pay cuts but are still getting paid. But not only does the players get affected by not playing everyday and getting out of shape but the spectators are not having fun with it.

In school, teachers and other students would talk all day about a game winning three pointer by Steph Curry or a walk-off homerun in the bottom of the 12th inning by Aaron Judge. While not being able to talk about sports this makes the sports world very boring and no new news is coming about these days so conversations aren't being the same. I have asked multiple people that have different points of views on sports.



Q: "What has the hiatus on sports meant to you?"

A: "Sports have always been my get away and now it is harder to ease my mind"

Q:

A: "The Sport cancelations have not affected me personally but have affected my kids in a big way. They were hoping for a high school baseball season and even summer baseball season but with that being canceled they don't know what to do."

Q:

A: "As a writer about sports I have been impacted a lot. I love sports every second I get I make sure that I am watching some type of sporting event. Nowadays it is a lot harder to find a good story in the sports world that does not have to deal with CoronaVirus."

Q: "Do you think professional Sports will take a big hit or not?"

A: "NO, I believe by taking a pause it is better for the games...with that being said

some money will be lost but every sport will be able to recover."

Q:

A: "Yes, because when sports return fans aren't going to be allowed back right away. Revenue will be lost because less fans are going to be showing."

Q: "What do you miss about Major League Sports?"

A: "I miss watching my favorite baseball player Javier Baez make the spectacular tags or the incredible slides."

Q:

A: "I miss the NBA season because right about this time it is playoff time.....what playoff time means is more competitive basketball."

A: "I missed the Cinderella stories coming through during Stanley Cup Playoffs and all of the crazy good matchups that could've happened."

The Battle between Medical Personnel & COVID-19

By Paige Duket

FORT EDWARD -- Imagine you're at work trying to provide for your family. All of the sudden, you come into contact with someone who is carrying a deadly virus. There is now a possibility you have the virus, and you can spread it to your loved ones. This is the life of many healthcare workers. The world is currently battling a pandemic, and medical personnel across the globe are trying to fight this battle. People around the world are dying, and falling ill to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The virus comes with a list of many terrible symptoms including: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, and loss of taste and smell. There currently is no cure for COVID-19, which is a problem. The virus is easily spread, and a person will not show symptoms until two weeks after they have been exposed to the virus, however, they can still spread COVID-19 during the two week period to other people. It can live inside a person and spread to others while that person has no knowledge, which is partially what makes COVID-19 so dangerous. Although COVID-19 may be a threat to the lives of many people, healthcare workers still put their lives on the line to help and protect the rest of the world from this virus.

Nurses, doctors, and other types of healthcare workers put their lives on the line everyday to help sick patients, even those with the coronavirus. Healthcare professionals take an oath to do no harm and to help others. That oath does not exclude patients with COVID-19. They have to put their lives on the line, or lose their job. Numerous medical professionals go to work everyday and risk that exposure because

they still have to put food on the table for their families. Some still do it because they took an oath and they stand by that oath. These professionals are still at risk. "Nearly 9,300 U.S. health care workers contracted COVID-19, and 27 have died. A majority of those who tested positive (55%) think they were exposed while at work"(Farmer). Healthcare workers are dying from this virus, and there is almost nothing anyone can do to prevent it. While they may seem like it, medical personnel are not superheroes that are immune to viruses. They are human like everyone else, and deserve to be appreciated for the sacrifices they are making to help heal the world.

I had the privilege to interview several medical professionals, while maintaining important social distancing protocols, with the use of technology. Below are their answers to my pandemic-related questions regarding what it has been like to be the people tending to those who are potentially infected.

DO Suzanne Bergin, a doctor for Hudson Headwaters Health Network

Q: Has the virus affected your normal work life? If so, how?

A: Absolutely. I am a primary care doctor and typically see about 20-22 patients each day in person. This allows me to read their body language, put my hands and stethoscope on them to examine their body and understand best what is going on. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our visits are done through video visits. Without the in person interaction, there is a piece of the therapeutic relationship missing.

Q: Do you feel as though you do not have enough equipment (PPE) to protect you from the virus if you came into contact with someone with it?

A: Yes. Thankfully Hudson Headwaters is

prepared with PPE at this point in time. We have also made some adjustments in how we interact with patients that might be at risk for having COVID-19. Those visits are being done actually in the person's car! And we have limited the number of nurses and providers that interact with those patients which helps preserve PPE.

Q: Do you feel like medical personnel are getting enough praise/recognition during this pandemic?

A: The community has been amazing both with supporting those in need and recognizing everyone on the front line as well as other essential employees that put themselves at risk every day such as cashiers in the grocery store.

Q: How do you foresee the future trend in the virus?

A: I think if everyone behaves and continues social distancing as much as possible we will minimize spread. Unfortunately I think this is something that will change our life until we have a good vaccine.

Q: What are your thoughts on those who are refusing to wear masks, and protesting against them and for the world to reopen?

A: I think the current restrictions of quarantine, self isolation and wearing a mask in public are very difficult for some people to accept because they like to have autonomy over their life and their decisions. The protests and refusing to wear a mask are a way for them to feel like they have some control during what is a very stressful time that none of us can actually control. So I guess I can understand the psychological process that might make someone behave that way, however it puts people that are at higher risk in danger of death and will only extend the duration that we have to “deal” with this pandemic.

RN for Glens Falls Hospital, Kate McLemore

Q: How has your normal work routine been affected? What has changed?

A: Actually, as an Emergency Room nurse, my work routine has not changed that much. I wear

a mask and goggles at work every shift now. We have been seeing fewer patients than usual because more people are staying home, but the patients we do see tend to be very sick. We also have a lot more meetings than we used to, in order to stay abreast of the latest news and policy changes related to the pandemic. Other than that, not much has changed. Nurses who work in areas such as the operating room have seen many more changes, due to elective procedures being cancelled.

Q: Have you come into contact with someone who potentially had the coronavirus while at work?

A: Yes, many. I first came into contact with a patient who tested positive in March, and I have had many others since then. In the Emergency Department, we usually do not know what is wrong with our patients when they come in. Figuring out what is wrong with patients and how to treat them is a big part of the job of Emergency Medicine doctors and nurses. Because of this, we treat every patient as a "Person Under Investigation" (PUI) for COVID-19 until proven otherwise. We ask every patient questions about whether they have COVID-like symptoms and whether they have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19. If someone has symptoms that are suspicious for COVID-19, we test them. Sometimes they are positive and sometimes they are negative, but until we know for certain we treat them as a potential COVID patient.

Q: Do you feel like your community is appreciating medical personnel at this time? More so now than before the pandemic?

A: I think that the pandemic has done a lot to highlight the importance of healthcare and other essential workers to the community at large. Nurses have been voted the "Most Trusted Profession" in America for many years now, but I definitely think our work has been brought to the forefront of public attention by COVID-19. In my ED, we have been receiving donations of food, coffee, hand lotions, masks, and other items, as well as many handwritten cards and

posters from people and businesses in the community. It is wonderful to feel appreciated (and we love the food, because we often don't have time for a lunch break!), but I hope that people also remember to appreciate the other essential workers such as grocery store clerks, food delivery drivers, utility workers, and all the other folks who keep our infrastructure up and running!

Q: Do you feel you have all the needed supplies (PPE) in case you did come into contact with someone with the virus while you are at work?

A: This is actually a rather complicated question. GFH does have enough PPE that anyone working with a known COVID-19 patient can have full protective gear. So in that sense, yes. However, we are being asked to reuse items. The hospital has been cleaning N95

masks with UV radiation and asking staff to reuse masks for up to 10 shifts. Surgical masks are to be used for an entire shift or until dirty. Both of these were previously single-use items, and there is not great research yet into how well the UV cleaning process works. When we reuse protective gear for multiple patients, we worry that we may be transmitting the virus (or other pathogens) between patients, but it is still probably better than not having masks at all.

McLemore also said “The other struggle in the Emergency Department is that we usually do not know whether a patient has COVID-19 when they come in. We wear surgical masks and goggles with every patient, just in case, but we are not able to don full PPE every time we come in and out of a patient room, as we do not have time for that in a busy ED.

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COVID-19 Effects on Colleges

by Olivia Fisher

FORT EDWARD -- “College campuses never looked so vacant,” said Maddy Boucher, who is a freshman at SUNY Adirondack. The year 2020 will forever be remembered. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone and everything. The economy along with many other things has taken a drastic hit. Many big events including concerts, graduations, parades, and parties have been cancelled because of the awful virus. Many people have already died or have gotten really sick from the coronavirus. No one was prepared for this, so when it happened it took a huge toll on America. Businesses and schools shut down. Anything that was not essential was no longer open. The unemployment rate is at an all time high. People are not allowed to gather together anymore unless they live in the same house. No one knows when all this will end, all anyone can hope for is that there is a vaccine or medicine found very soon. Colleges were extremely affected by the virus. Even before most schools were closed colleges were shut down for the rest of the year. There's even talk about not starting the fall semester on time. Most

colleges have switched over to online classes for the rest of the semester. Some students may have a hard time learning online, so this may affect students grades and the dropout rates.

Colleges moving to online classes have affected students' GPAs, graduations, and attendance. “Even before the COVID-19 outbreak, many college students struggled to balance school with work and the need to keep a roof over their heads and food on their plates. Now they find themselves in an impossible situation”(PBS). Students are having a hard time trying to teach themselves the work. The workload is still the same as what it would be if students were attending in person classes. It’s important to remember that this isn’t a vacation from school or a way to get out of classes. “This is a sudden change, and a loss—of community, graduation ceremonies, living environments, sporting events, etc”(Retta). This is not a vacation for students, it is just college from home, which most college students did not sign up for. Many students have a hard time learning online, so this could affect their grades.

Even though colleges are offering online video classes it is still not the same as being in a classroom and having someone teach you the lesson. “I find it much harder to want to attend my classes when they are on the computer and not at school”, Maddy Boucher said. It becomes very hard to remember what you have due when everything is online. Maddy Boucher also works at Rookies about forty hours a week, so it is even more difficult to balance online classes. When students were able to be on campus it was much easier to sit down and do their work since they had places to go like the library. At home it can be hard to find a quiet place to do work, especially having everyone's family home also. “While the majority of students seem to be vouching for a universal pass-fail policy, there is also a significant number of students who would prefer to be graded as usual. Some students who are interested in graduate school, for example, might be hoping to boost their GPA this semester, especially as programs like Harvard Medical School have announced that although they will accept pass-fail grading for spring 2020 coursework, they would prefer letter grades if students were given that option at their

particular school”(*McLean Hospital*). Even Though some colleges are using the pass or fail method, certain students find that they wish they could get a letter grade because they may be more likely to get a job if the employer can see a letter grade.

COVID-19 will forever be remembered in history now. The impact that this pandemic has had on everyone is unbelievable. No one knows how long this will last, but everyone is hoping for it to be over with sooner than later. College students have been extremely impacted by this awful virus.



SUNY Oneonta during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Environmental Impacts of Covid 19

By Isabelle Gulick

FORT EDWARD -- With the world on lockdown people across the globe are feeling the effects. Although all the weight and loneliness of what feels like a never-ending quarantine can often feel unbearing and suffocating, the world is feeling it altogether. But people aren't the only ones experiencing the dramatic effects of the lethal coronavirus. As humans are left to isolate and stray from everyday practice, the Earth has also seen some new changes. With business closed, lockdowns in place, and once populated cities now acting as ghost towns, the environment has been given time to breathe and heal, and the effects are being seen around the world. With nearly the whole world on lockdown, people are noticing some hopeful and uplifting effects the Earth has been experiencing.



Source: Before DOMINIQUE FAGET/AFP via Getty

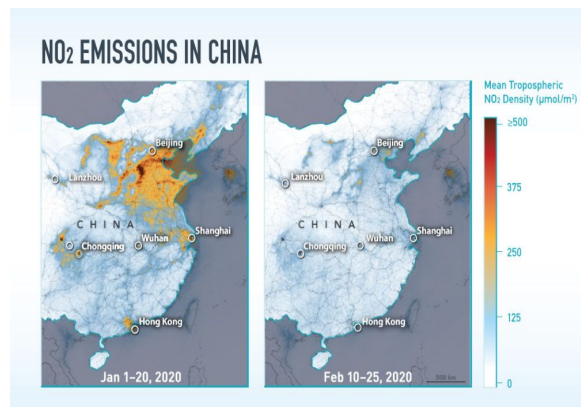
Images After Yawar Nazir/Getty Images

Some of these effects have been explained by BBC News, “Compared to this time Compared with this time last year, levels of pollution in New York have reduced by nearly 50% because of measures to contain the virus” (BBC *Future*, BBC).

China, the world's leading polluter has also seen some positive effects with emissions dropping 25%, and coal use falling by 40% at one of China's largest power plants. Lockdowns, the halt of jobs across the globe, and travel restrictions may be to thank. Transport takes up about 23% of global carbon emissions with driving and aviation “contributing 72% and 11% of the transport sector's greenhouse gas emissions respectively” (BBC *Future*, BBC).

These numbers seem hopeful, and the viral pictures of the Venice canals flowing with schools of fish make it seem as though our climate crisis is looking up; however, will the temporary effects of this pandemic be enough to open the

eyes of people across the globe and make humans realize what needs to be done before it is too late?



Source: NASA Earth Observatory

In 2020 isn't the first time that our planet has experienced the effects of an epidemic. Like the Coronavirus, diseases in history have also directly correlated to lower emissions. "Julia Pongratz, professor for physical geography and land use systems at the Department of Geography at the University of Munich, Germany, found that epidemics such as the Black Death in Europe in the 14th Century, and the epidemics of diseases such as smallpox brought to South America with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th Century, both left subtle marks on

atmospheric CO₂ levels, as Pongratz found by measuring tiny bubbles trapped in ancient ice cores" (BBC *Future*, BBC).

Unfortunately this was the result of an extreme amount of deaths due to disease and genocide, neither of which are permanent nor realistic, humane solutions. This is also a major reason as to why we cannot rely on this current crisis to solve the threat of climate change.

Although there have been plenty of statistically positive numbers representing positive effects COVID-19 has had on the environment, alternatively there are many negatives. With the cease of jobs to prevent the spread of the virus recycling programs have also halted. In addition "Italy has banned infected residents from sorting their waste at all. Additionally, many corporations have overturned disposable bag bans and begun relying once again on single-use plastics, and many restaurants are

no longer accepting reusable containers”(Yvonne, et al). Furthermore, the increasing demand for hospital supplies and material has greatly increased the amount of medical waste and fear of spreading germs has once again led to the solution of single-use, disposable materials in place of reusable, sustainable items. Not only is waste and pollution now a major concern, but we must consider what will become of the planet once the economy opens back up and quarantine is lifted. Will countries work

to make their economies stronger than ever, further increasing CO2 emissions with industry and putting the world in a place even more threatening before? Will cabin fever set in giving people every excuse to travel more and further the effects of travel emissions previously mentioned? These are all questions climate activists, researchers, and world leaders must be asking themselves. COVID-19 will either act as an eye-opener to humankind or lead us 10 steps backwards in fighting the climate crisis.

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Minor League Sports & Covid-19:

The Unseen Impact of Covid-19

by Alexander Holcomb

HARTFORD -- Imagine living off of \$290 a week and then all of the sudden, that income is gone. Multiple Minor League sports athletes are having to deal with this situation. They went from being paid very little, to less or even not paid at all because of this worldwide pandemic, the Coronavirus. Many sports seasons have been cancelled, and the flow of the offseasons for many sports have been altered. Most people see this Covid-19 pandemic on the national level of sports, but this goes beyond the Major Leagues, Minor League sports have taken a major hit from this unprecedented pandemic.

The first sport in this discussion is Minor League baseball. Jared Diamond from the *Wall Street Journal* discusses the

financial ramifications that this national pandemic has brought upon the stadiums and Minor League Baseball teams. The opening statement to his article, *Minor Leagues Take a Hit-Baseball's lower levels rely on ticket sales, the in-stadium experience*, promptly states, "The 160 Minor League Baseball teams scattered across the country aren't financial juggernauts" (Diamond).

Diamond is setting a foundation by providing the fact that Minor League Baseball teams don't have the budget like their Major League "parent teams" have. Diamond in his next sentence provides statistics on the average income of a team and the average number of full-time employees and their salaries. Diamond states, "Though they're part of the nearly \$11 billion baseball industry, the average club has gross annual income of about \$5.4

million and 21 full-time employees, who on average are compensated about \$62,000 a

year, including benefits”

(Diamond). These statistics provide a clear image; Minor

League Baseball teams are

nothing more than a small

business in a town. Like many

small businesses, Minor

League Baseball teams are

struggling to stay afloat. They’re

experiencing a crisis. In terms of the

estimated \$5.4 million gross annual income,

approximately \$70,000 comes from one

home game. One month of games being

cancelled is equivalent to 15.6% of the

revenue lost (Diamond). 89% of the total

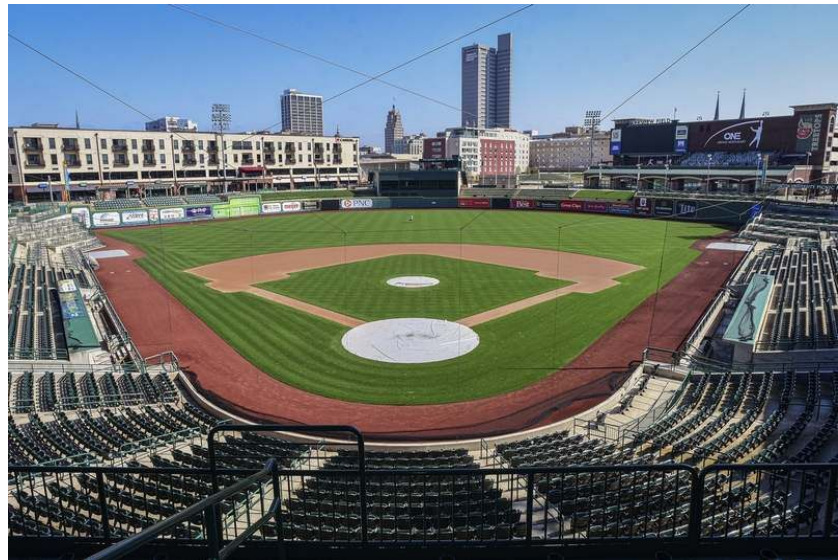
revenue created by the Minor League

Baseball franchise is used towards stadium

employee wages and the over \$65 million

combined rent for the stadiums lease deal. In

short, Minor League Baseball is in financial trouble.

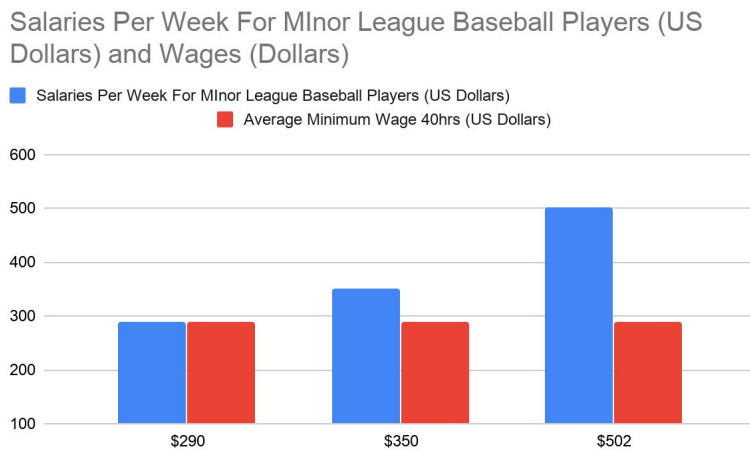


Another aspect of Minor League Baseball that is affected is the player’s wages. Chisholm Gregor from the *Toronto Star* provides insight on the salary of a Minor League Baseball player. He provides statistics from *The Associated Press* by stating, “...the minimum salary for players in class-A is \$290 per week. Guys in double-A earn at least \$350, and the ones in triple-A earn at least \$502” (Gregor, Associated Press). This is not a ton of money. Minor Leaguers aren’t swimming in piles of money not knowing what to do with it. Rather,

these players are living paycheck to paycheck, hoping for their shot to take the big jump to the Major Leagues. The situation is so desperate, some player's like Oakland Athletics prospect Pete Bayer have turned to alternative jobs such as a DoorDash driver for a source of income. The Minor League Baseball system is in serious trouble.

paychecks stopped. Now they are unemployed and have no idea when their season will resume. The same can be said for the top level, the American Hockey League (AHL), where prospects are on the brink of obtaining a roster spot on a National Hockey League team. Now that the season is over, they have no way to improve their game and get ready for the next level

In terms of Minor League Hockey, the system is also in trouble.



(McGran). Both Minor League Baseball and Minor League Hockey players are affected by this

The second highest level, the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) has had its season stopped. Prospects at this level are only a few years away from making it into the National Hockey League. Unfortunately, players at this level have had their

Covid-19 pandemic. These players are struggling to make ends meet. This pandemic also has an impact on future prospects. The MLB is discussing cutting down on Minor League Baseball teams, this means that there will be less opportunities

for prospects to play against players at their competition level. The revenue lost because of the Coronavirus may be the final push for the Commissioner to finally go through with the plan (Diamond). In regards to the offseason for sports, the drafts for all sports have changed. One way is that the actual drafts are now virtual. The baseball draft has been cut down from 40 rounds to a mere 5 rounds. This decision makes draft eligible prospects like local athlete Tyler Mattison, a pitcher from Bryant University, have to consider going back to school for his senior year instead of going to the draft. In an

interview with the local newspaper, *The Post Star*, Mattison expressed his interest in being drafted stating, “I was hoping to have a chance of being drafted.... I still do, but a lot of questions remain; Will it be five rounds? 10 rounds? 20 rounds? Nobody knows, it’s uncharted waters” (Springstead, Mattison). This decision isn’t one to make light-heartedly. Both options have their risks, it is up to prospects like Mattison to decide what one is best for them. The big picture is that this Covid-19 pandemic has a larger impact than meets the eye.



Pandemic Problems

What About our Parents?

By: Caitlin Mahoney

FORT EDWARD -- The graduating class of 2020 was born into an eventful time, and will go out during an eventful time. On September 11th 2001, a terrorist attack devastated New York City, taking out the twin towers, and leaving the city in shambles. Although we live in Fort Edward, it was still far too close to home. Some of us were born already, but most not. This left our mothers trying to cope with the fact that they are bringing a new life into the world during such a scary time. My own mother, Aimee Mahoney stated that, "It was a horrible time, you were arriving in just three short months, it was scary".



SOURCE: Eteden.com

Now, the outbreak of Covid-19 is among us. New York is the most infected state in the country. This is a national pandemic. Stores are out of many necessary supplies, crime rates are rising, and schools have completely shut down. For the seniors in Fort Edward, we are supposed to return back to school in the middle of April. Andrew Cuomo has expressed that the rates of spreading are increasing still, and the return for schools in New York is undetermined. My life, as well as many of the other seniors, has changed immensely. Online schooling is not always the easiest because some students learn (differently) than others, it gets frustrating. We cannot see our friends during the last stretch of the year when we are supposed to be having the most fun. Stores are closed, social distancing has been put in place, everyone is under quarantine. To some this may seem like a waste of time, to others it is more serious than ever. I understand to stop the spread we must confine ourselves from each other in order to get back to normal life, but it is upsetting. The seniors in Fort Edward have been fundraising non-stop for our senior trip. We have planned a weekend out in June to go to Hampton Beach for the weekend. The details were all set, the transportation, the hotel, the activities were all done. We are most likely going to have to cancel, especially if school is cancelled for the rest

of the year. If school is cancelled for the rest of the year, we may even have to do our graduation ceremony virtually. First this started out as a disease far away and out of reach, then a couple people in New York got it. Then they have to cancel the rest of our basketball season which was one of the worst things our team has ever gone through, it might have been worse than actually losing. Now our graduation is up in the air. Will we have an actual traditional ceremony? That is the question that millions of highschool students are asking themselves all across the country.



Source: modernteenmag

Parents of seniors feel helpless. There is nothing that they can do to make their senior who has been waiting for this moment, feel better. As a matter of fact, the parents of juniors must feel this way as well because of the delaying of their proms. A parents duty is to protect their child, and make sure they are happy and safe. Those are their main concerns, so for them to see us going through stages of hurt, anger, and finally coming to the realization that their year isn't going to end the way they want it to , ruins them just as much as it ruins us in a sense. Our parents have watched us grow new friendships, they have watched out plays, sporting games, award ceremonies, etc. They have watched us fail and get right back up again. They have watched us grow into the young adults that we are today.

The Covid Times

How Coronavirus has affected the Economy

By Aaron Mitchell, writer for The COVID TIMES

HARTFORD --

Due to the federal government of the United States putting the nation on hold, the economy and small businesses alike have been deteriorating. COVID-19, or Coronavirus has swept over America like a storm. It's a deadly virus and has left thousands of people deceased around the globe and has forced countries to implement major restrictions dealing with trade, flights, and business. The United States has been on hold for a month and a half and only essential business have been allowed to remain open. Small businesses have begun to struggle and though the government is attempting to aid the small businesses, hopes aren't high. Even the economy has begun to take devastating blows and these blows don't seem to be slowing down anytime soon.

The Impact on Small Businesses

Small businesses are beginning to feel the wrath of the Coronavirus. Due to the restrictions, many small businesses have been forced to close or severely restrict their business. One such business that has been severely restricted is the Johnson's Cabin Grill in Hartford, New York. The Cabin Grill is a restaurant which means that the business can still sell takeout orders, but no one can eat inside the restaurant. When Jason Johnson, the owner of the Cabin Grill, was asked about how the virus has impacted his business he responded, "Killed us about 80 percent. 80 to 90 percent." Due to taking such a hit in business, many small businesses like the Cabin Grill are relying on the loan provided by the government which is providing money to small businesses in this troubling time so the business avoids a shut-down. However, when Jason Johnson was asked whether the government assistance was helping he responded, "We've had to apply for it, it's a waiting game because there's so many other companies that have taken up the money already." With the small business loan seeming to be ineffective, many small businesses have to resort to making their own sales and money in a time that seems impossible to do anything. Small businesses are truly seeing hard times and many may not even make it out of the Coronavirus shut-down because of how many sales were lost. Without the help they deserve, many small businesses may have made their last sale weeks ago.



Pictured above is Johnson's Cabin Grill, owned by Jason Johnson.



Above, President Trump explains the small business loan.

The Toll the Coronavirus is taking on the Economy

The economy has also been stumbling through the shut-down. A major factor in that is how many people have become unemployed due to the closure of non-essential businesses. CBS states, "30 million Americans filed for unemployment in the last six weeks, as the pandemic ground the U.S. economy to a halt (CBS)." With 30 million out of the workforce, it's clear to see why the economy is taking devastating blows. Even the DOW, which is responsible for monitoring the stock market, reported one of the worst drops in history when the virus started. CNN states, "US stocks ended sharply lower on Monday, with the Dow posting its worst point drop in history and falling to its lowest level in nearly three years (He)." With the stock market beginning to tumble, the economy has been enduring devastating blows. The blows are estimated to continue and may even get worse, which means America's economy will get worse.

Moving Forward

The Coronavirus has disabled an enormous amount of businesses and may even end up permanently closing some. Not only that, but the economy could hit an even worse point if things don't start changing for the better. Small businesses need to be effectively helped financially and the government needs to start searching for ways to keep the economy running so America avoids a financial crisis. Without a developed plan, this nation could be heading towards it's hardest times to date.

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Quarantine's Effects on Seniors' Mental Health

By: Rebecca Moore

FORT EDWARD -- For the current generation of students, this pandemic is an entirely new thing. The students can't go to school, can't see their friends, some can't even see some of their family, and the seniors might not get a graduation. Most students have at least one if not both of their parents home, or even younger or older siblings. However, others are stuck home alone for most of the day. One of the concerns that come to many minds when thinking about the students staying home all of the time is how this quarantine is affecting their mental health.

Social distancing has been done multiple times throughout history. However, the social distancing due to COVID-19 is new to a majority of the population today. There have been several studies on how isolation can have negative effects on an individual's mental health. Everyone has a different reaction to everything, which is why "for some people, a lack of social connectedness feels as impactful as not eating"(Gupta). There are some people, typically called social butterflies, who love to talk to new people, physically be with another person, and be outdoors trying new things. Because of quarantine, the isolation "frequently leaves people feeling that they have no control over the situation. They also feel cut off from the rest of the world and unable to perform their usual duties"(Cherry). This can cause some people to fall into a depression that is similar to postpartum depression. Postpartum depression is typically a feeling of helplessness, but can vary from person to person. One of the easiest ways to help cope or treat the feeling of helplessness with the quarantine is to stay informed. Staying informed and "understanding the risk to yourself and people you care about can make an outbreak less stressful"(CDC). If the individual is informed about all of the changes and possible effects of COVID-19, then they will be more

likely to feel in control of the situation and less stressed.

For most seniors, they have a parent or sibling at home with them while the world is in quarantine. These seniors might complain that they don't get to see their friends and that they would rather be home alone than with the other people in the house, but for the seniors that are home alone during quarantine feel disconnected from the world and left out. The seniors who are in quarantine alone went from being surrounded by friends at school, to nobody for most of the day. This type of isolation can make a person feel like they are alone in the world, and that they have nobody to talk to. After talking to a few seniors it has become apparent that most students do not have the ability to work from home. They become too distracted and lose all motivation to do their school work. The seniors have also mentioned that their sleep schedule has become so messed up that it has messed up their personal, daily life schedules.

The COVID-19 social distancing has had many effects on the senior class. It not only has made the students lose all motivation to do school work from home, but it has also had some serious effects on their mental health. While most are doing okay while in quarantine, others feel like they are completely helpless and alone. The best way to help cope with the current predicament is to stay informed of everything going on with schools, and COVID-19. Another way to help is to stay in touch with your friends and family, and check in on the other students.

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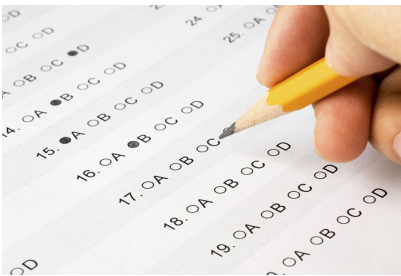
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The impact of COVID on the College-Application Process

by Patrick Ward

FORT ANN -- If you've ever experienced the process of applying to colleges, you may acknowledge its similarities to the classic party game "Pin the Tail On The Donkey". Many young and naive kids go into this activity blindfolded, with the goal of putting the "tail" in the correct position, except the magnitude of the decisions that are made is much larger than winning a dollar-store party trinket. In America, there is a phenomenon known as the "million dollar degree", which owes its moniker to a 2015 study released by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce found that college graduates earn an average of one million dollars more than high school graduates who never attended college. Given the extreme circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the complexity of these million-dollar decisions has become even larger. With the newfound reliance on online learning and the lack of "resume boosters", obtaining college admissions criteria due to the coronavirus pandemic has made the process of "pinning the tail on the donkey" nearly impossible.

Many college applicants have deemed themselves "helpless" to the experience that lays before



The cancellation of standardized test administrations have made resume boosting a tall task for college applicants. (Image licensed for reuse)

them, and it is easy to see why. Some of the most important factors to the college admission process have been rendered unviable by the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, the College Board and the ACT began

postponing the administration of SAT and ACT testing, in

correspondence with the pandemic. Approximately 4.9 million students combine to take the SAT and ACT each year, as their

importance in the college decision process is a large one. In fact, a

study conducted by usnews.com, reported that 95% of universities require a score from either one of these two predominant testing formats. If a high school junior is unable to take the tests

due to the pandemic situation, their future in regards to their college applications may be up in the air, as there are also limited opportunities to improve their resume through other facets such as extracurricular and volunteer activities. As students are beginning to tailor their applications to the unique circumstances, institutions are adjusting their criteria for admission in countless ways.

As primary and secondary schools have closed their doors in rapid succession, education has adapted in ways that were previously deemed extremely unlikely. “Remote learning” has become the new normal for students in both high school and college, but that is not the only aspect of education that has taken a modern turn. Upon the first instance of school cancellations, California state universities made the decision to abolish the standardized testing requirement for applications to their universities, using them as “brownie points” rather than the deciding terms for admission. Current students that have been impacted by the pandemic have had their grading experience

made a lot easier, as many high schools and colleges have adapted to a “Pass/Fail” system rather than their standard letter or number grading system. With the idea of GPAs off the table, many institutions are focusing their decisions on holistic achievements like community service or their demographic. However, one issue has united college students across nations and eras: financial aid. It may appear difficult to distribute loans and scholarships to students who seem similar on the surface, and that is true, but universities have been quite gratuitous to those that have been directly impacted. Families who have been rendered unemployed by the pandemic have begun to receive bonus aid from colleges and universities in order to soften the treacherous blow that is



College campuses like Dartmouth College (pictured) have been shut down indefinitely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo licensed for reuse)

student loans. These institutions have matched the adjustments made by students to make the challenging experience of college applications easier for students across the world.

For the juniors that are anxious about the idea of entering the great unknown, rest assured; you are not alone. Across the nation, millions of people like you are experiencing the same uncertainty and helplessness as you. In an ever-changing world landscape, you are not the only one who has had their life adjusted to standards that are less than ideal. Colleges and universities are not exempt from this change as well, and much like the rest of the world, they are working to end this dystopian scenario. Rest assured; adjusting to the blindfold will make “pinning the tail on the donkey” much easier.