
How have High School Students been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

— Ava Foulke —

And he knew, also, what the old man was thinking as his tears flowed, and he, Rieux, thought it too: that a loveless world is a dead world, and always there comes an hour when one is weary of prisons, of one's work, and of devotion to duty, and all one craves for is a loved face, the warmth and wonder of a loving heart.

--Albert Camus, *The Plague*

Thesis

The lack of social interaction, participation in school activities, and constant change in how the school operates during the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted many high school students.



Mental Health

- The rates of depression and suicidal thoughts increased when students were forced into isolation.

Mental Health

- Many students also struggled when they were used to going to a lot of different activities both at and outside of school and were forced to adjust to this all changing due to the pandemic.
- High school senior especially have had to miss out on a lot of senior activities.

Progress in Education

- High schoolers may struggle to stay on task at home as there tends to be many distractions.
- Online classes can also be hard to navigate because it is a completely new format.



Social Development

- “Adolescence is a crucial period for social development. Social distancing and school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic can worsen existing mental health problems in adolescents and increases the risk of future mental health issues” (Thakur).

Social Development

- While it can be very difficult to space students out, it shows how much these students need social interaction and how many really want to be back in school for the social aspect of it.



Social Development

- Many high school students also want to become a little more independent and do more things by themselves, but this has been difficult as they are now with their families a lot of the time.



Stress Levels

- During the pandemic, high school students have had an increase in stress levels.

Stress Levels

- Ruby was also really sick and had to miss 3 weeks of school, which was an added stressor during the pandemic.



Difficulty levels between Online and In-person learning

- Ruby discussed the differences between online and in-person classes. Many people assume it is the same kind of work, however, she explained that online can be more difficult sometimes.



How to Keep Schools Open

- At the beginning of the Fall 2020 school year, Granite School District decided to go back to school in person, for those who wanted to, with an option to do school online if students wanted to.

How to Keep Schools Open

- At the beginning of the school year, it was really difficult to have consistency at the school during the pandemic.

How to Keep School Open

- Ruby also mentioned that “all the sports teams and dance teams...are required to get tested every other week”.

Conclusion

- The mental health of high schoolers has declined even more since the beginning on the pandemic.
- Progress in education has also been delayed due to some issues brought on by the pandemic.
- Social development and interaction has also been extremely difficult for high schoolers to participate in the past year.

Conclusion

- On top of the stress of online school, many students have dealt with death, financial stress, work stress, etc.
- There has also been a lack of consistency this past year which has been hard for students to constantly adjust to.

Works Cited

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Thank you!