

# The Epidemic from a Student's Perspective

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Over the past three months, the coronavirus pandemic has caused swift and dramatic disruptions to life in Macau. As a high-school student, I also find my life much affected.

When I first heard of school suspension, I was quite excited about a new way of academic life. But I soon realized that it could be a two-sided situation. Online teaching is flexible and how much is acquired depends much on students' academic motivation. The bright side of it is that it can help develop students' personal skills and self-learning ability. Conversely, students' learning efficiency may be hampered if students are left to struggle entirely on their own. From my experience, I have learned the importance of a good sense of responsibility and self-discipline.

Besides, my plan to go to the Arctic and France for research and for participation in a competition respectively has also been affected. Likewise, I have also put off an SAT Exam. However, I managed to overcome my disappointment when I discovered the joy of reading. In fact, I have read books on different subjects to strengthen my overall knowledge. In addition, I have more time for sports activities. On weekdays I do a 30-minute gym workout and go jogging around the reservoir with my mask on.

In addition, there has also been a change in my relationship with my family. I used to head back home late because of the stringent work in the school Fablab. I spent hardly more than an hour per day with my family. Fortunately, since the epidemic outbreak, I have had more time to spend with my family. Every evening after dinner, we play cards and chatter about our joy and struggles. Except for some minor arguments occasionally, there has been greater harmony at home, which I see as a great blessing.

During this epidemic, I have perceived that human attitudes can vary widely. Some are capable of compassion. One of my friends was stuck in the UK. Lots of friends mailed him boxes of masks. One of the most remarkable news stories is about China offering tons of masks to Japan, thus helping them to solve an urgent problem. On the other hand, I have also observed some acts of injustice. Asians are said to have been discriminated against by some citizens in Europe and America. Some are even beaten up just because they wear masks to protect themselves.

The epidemic has been an important life experience for me. I have matured a lot and have learned to view life's problems with a more positive attitude. I believe that if we show concern for the environment and for one another, this Covid-19 epidemic will be brought to an end before long.