



Corona virus pandemic
Processing and reflecting about what has



From approx.



Approx. 215

Preliminary remark: At the moment we do not know how schooling will continue. But it is sure that the students will bring new experiences with them: from their personal surroundings and in a social context. While some will worry about having to catch up on missed lessons, others will not worry at all. In the last weeks many students will have been „lost“ on the way, including the poor ones and the refugees, who do not always have the conditions suitable for carrying out school at home.

We have a starter package, which

- offers chances to harmonize knowledge (to prevent the increase of conspiracy theories),
- gives signals to the educationalists and the learning group, about whether things are happening in the homes in Corona virus times, which could have effects on the personalities of the students,
- offers an introduction of how to contribute in the design for the future after the Corona virus time with topics, questions and ideas for projects.

This package must be continually updated with current material, should be scalable, i.e. should offer impulses for both a **2-4 hour workshop and also a project over several days**. It does not distinguish between the personal and social level. It should allow reflection of experiences made, but also look to the future, get people to think and act solidarily. The material in the BLOG can be used (www.bridgethedistance.net) and find global partners, because everybody is affected and the consequences, opinions and solutions are very different from one another. The workshop can also be carried out by students who have prepared themselves accordingly (Peer Moderators).

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- ✓ Chairs to make a circle
 - ✓ Sufficient space
 - ✓ Moderation cards
 - ✓ Marker pens/Felt tip pens
 - ✓ Pins or adhesive tape
 - ✓ Cards with pictures or texts as impulses
 - ✓ Material from the appendix
 - ✓ Beamer/laptop/tablet/ mobile phone and headphones or partition wall where appropriate



Procedure

| Procedure | Contents | Social form | Minutes |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 0. | Welcoming | Plenum | 10 |
| 1. | Basic facts | Plenum | 10-30 |
| 2. | My experiences: What has happened? | Group work | 50 |
| 3. | My topic, my questions | Group work | 65 |
| 4. | My conclusions for a good future | Individual work | 45 |
| 5. | Reflection | Plenum | 15 |



STEPS:

0. Welcoming

10

Moderators of the workshop introduce themselves – if they are not known to the participants already – and give brief information about the procedure. In this way everybody knows what to expect. The procedure can be written on the board or on a sheet of paper and placed so everybody can see it. To start with, the participants can be asked about their feelings. This discussion can be performed in the chair circle, using small pictures or texts as impulses as an aid to express feelings.

1. Basis facts

10-30

The moderators lead further into the topic of the Corona virus and using the materials (Appendix I) discuss possible positive and negative effects of the lockdown and ask about the existing knowledge of the participants, in order to form a good foundation for further discussions.

(Keep brief information ready, see list of materials),

- BASICS:

What is the Corona virus? How does the virus spread? Have there been or are there other epidemics??

- TIMESCALE:

Why will it probably be dangerous for the next 2 years? For whom? Where?

- PROTECTION:

What can you do?

Only when they have this knowledge can you begin to ask about experiences and enter the topic more deeply. OPTIONAL, but recommended is to pick up on it briefly, where appropriate and necessary in Part 3



Moderators do not have to know everything! You prepare yourself on the topic and give the questions to the group, if they do not arise from the group itself. In the appendix there are materials, which can be shown to the participants using a projector or be given to them in the form of worksheets and which can be used to encourage questions and discussions.

2. My experiences: What has happened?

50

Here there is the opportunity to tell about their certainly different experiences, observations. In order to create more pleasant surroundings, small groups should be formed. Notes should be taken about the private stories in the group but anonymity must be respected (so that private statements can be treated anonymously on paper). Persons, who have little knowledge of German as a second language /the official language should be supported, if necessary. In smaller groups (5-15 persons at the most) a survey using cards can be suitable. The Wordcloud (Appendix II) can be included to encourage possible topics. All the statements will be collected at the end and presented to the whole group. The following layout can be used to cluster the results on the board (Appendix III):



Group work: 20 minutes

Presentation in plenary and visualization: 30 minutes

| | That should NEVER happen again | Good that this will soon stop | Pity, that was good |
|--|--|---|---|
| ME ... personally | Example: „I was so rested and could never fall asleep!“ | Example: „Oh, that was boring!“ | Example: „I have learned to play chess!“ |
| WE ... in the family, relatives and friends | Example: „My mother permanently lost her temper!“ | Example: „Grandma is not so well. I couldn't visit her!“ | Example: „We had great evenings playing games with Dad, he was at home!“ |
| THE ONES ... far away, who I have read about, heard of or seen | Example: „That is terrible in Italy, sorting out the people in front of the hospital!“ | Example: „My uncle works at the shipyard. They want to fire him!“ | Example: „..., it's cool – dolphins are swimming in the water in Venice!“ |

3. My topic, my questions

65

The participants should form new groups for this part. They should reflect about the following two questions:

- **What is puzzling for you in this crisis?**
- **What would you like to understand better?**

The topic data and the results in step 2 can be used for this.

In the next step the topics and questions will be looked at and IF NECESSARY impulses can be added.

- **Why is there suddenly so much money there? (Finances)**
- **Why must 70% of the people experience the virus, when there is no vaccine? (Virology)**
- **Why was more green electricity used during this time? (Ecology)**
- **How can older people be protected better? (Social)**



Note:

- Please have a special reference book with you for questions that have to be clarified quickly. It would be good if at least one computer was available.
- Prepare references to experts for more information, but before that, it is advisable to ask colleagues.

4. My conclusions for a good future

45

In this step you must first see if you have a small group or a large group and whether you are working with younger or older students.

younger:

Brainstorming is suitable or the creation of a word cloud:

„This is how I want my world to be after the Corona virus!“

older:

Lay out 10-15 quotations with provisional statements/ demands about the Corona virus pandemic in the room (Appendix IV). The participants should assign themselves to a quotation and do a brainstorming.

Afterwards the groups report their thoughts to the plenum and explain why they chose this quotation.



Key question:

„If the pandemic was over tomorrow, what would you do IMMEDIATELY? What would be DIFFERENT to before the Corona virus?“

Examples, see appendix (could also be extended with ideas of the students):

- „You should not make money with ill people!“
- „We have to produce things ourselves in the future – maybe more expensive – but safer!“
- „It wasn't really bad – less hectic, more time, more family. Let's have that in the future, too!“
- „School should teach us to be more independent so we can learn without a classroom“
- „Others in poor countries are suffering more again – that shouldn't happen!“
- „It would be good if there was financial help for everybody who is in need!“
- „....“

Further topics:

e.g. Medical care, work, economy, education, borders, ecology, culture, internet

5. Reflection

15

We have experienced and learned a lot in this workshop together! Now it is time to reflect about the results and the impressions!

Throw these questions to the group, now sitting in the chair circle:

„What is YOUR / OUR next step HERE and NOW (in school)?“



If no or few reactions come, the following questions can be asked as a provocation:

- **What will you do, if one of the team coughs/ has the Corona virus/his parents have the Corona virus?**
- **What should this school do or not do in the next weeks?**
(Keywords: No lessons, private tuition, hygiene, etc/ delivery services, visiting services, national relief campaigns further projects ...)

Are there any questions to the topic? Gaps in knowledge?

If there are open questions, you can make an agreement on, for example, homework for all participants or the teachers explain this in another lesson or (...)

FINALLY: How was the workshop? Were you helped in your views or directed into another direction? How can we improve the workshop?

Appendix

Appendix I (for 1.): Basic material to COVID-19 virus and topics about it

Appendix II (for 2.): WorldCloud

Appendix III (for 2.): Table for clustering with and without examples

Appendix IV (for 4.): Quotes

Appendix V (extra): Kahoot quiz and instructions

supported by:

The logo for the Niedersächsische LOTTO-SPORT-STIFTUNG features a red swoosh above the text. The text "Niedersächsische" is in a small, grey, sans-serif font, followed by "LOTTO-SPORT-STIFTUNG" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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01. Facts about the Coronavirus

What is the Corona virus and/ how and where is it supposed to have its origin?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the pulmonary disease from China, which first occurred in Asia and Europe in January 2020 and is caused by a Corona virus, is called Covid-19 (an English abbreviation: Corona Virus Disease 2019).

The giver of the name to this pathogen refers with its name to the relation to the Sars virus (Sars-Cov), which caused hundreds of deaths in 2002/2003. According to the experts the viruses are versions of the same type of virus.

It is not known where the virus originally comes from. Bats are considered a probable source. The first cases were reported from a market in the Chinese town of Wuhan, where wild animals were sold. Possible carriers of the new Corona virus are amongst others bats and flying foxes, which are eaten by people in certain regions of Asia. As the virus seems to be well adjusted to human beings, it could have already got closer to them before. Trevor Bedford, researcher at the „Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center“ in Seattle, is working on the decryption of the genome of the virus. He assumes that the virus occurred first in bats and then mutated and then was transferred to humans about the middle of November 2019 for the first time by yet unknown carriers.

Previous data indicate that the new pulmonary disease Covid-19 runs in a similar way to a serious wave of influenza. Although China undertook drastic measures in December 2019, in order to prevent the virus spreading, it has become a pandemic in the meantime. That is why different measures to protect from infection have to be made.

How can you protect yourself against the Corona virus?

- Keep your distance to others (1.5 metres)
- Avoid contact
- Wash your hands correctly and over a longer period of time
- Wear gloves when shopping
- Sneeze into the crook of your arm
- All [protective measures](#)

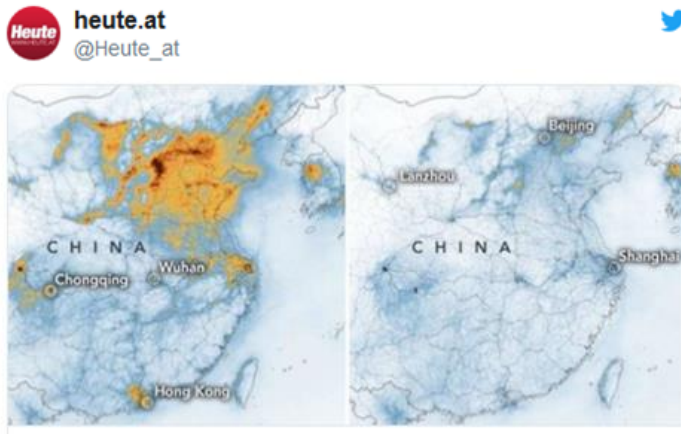
[What is Covid 19?](#)

[Interactive map](#)

02. Corona Good News

Positive effects of the Corona crisis:

- Working from home: some people realize that many employees can work well from home. It saves time and travel expenses to work. Depending on the family circumstances it can be quieter at home than in an open office.
- For many there are no traffic jams on the way to work, traffic has decreased up to 50%, it is good for the environment, cyclists have more space.
- Video conferences have been „discovered“ as an alternative to long journeys to business or private meetings.
- Fuel consumption has been significantly reduced, prices have fallen, green electricity now forms up to 70% of the power consumption, the climate has been given a short breather.



Heute.at Corona seems to solve China`s environmental problem. China is one of the greatest polluters on the planet. But the Corona virus is improving the situation

- General hygiene, such as washing your hands, is taken more seriously.
- There is an increase in the number of people helping their neighbours.
- Deceleration of everyday life, everything happens more calmly.
- It is time for things that have been postponed; tidying up a room, cellar or attic, learning an instrument, gardening, playing.
- Some discover new interests/hobbies/talents.
- There are tax reliefs through working at home.
- Friendships, social contacts are more appreciated.
- Families have more time together.
- There is new food for thought in society (education, health system, financial support).
- Carers, cashiers, hospital staff are appreciated more, there are bonuses and the prospect of a better salary.

03. Corona and the world

We live on one planet but suddenly 8 billion people have the same problem: a virus, which is new and there seems no real way of overcoming it, death rate maybe 1% of the infected persons. That affects 7.75 billion people, so worst case 77 million deaths from Norway to South Africa, from China to the Netherlands. The virus has spread from China through Iran and Italy to affect the whole world and will continue to do so, even if all the borders are closed, nobody is allowed to travel, no more trade. This virus is a global problem and everywhere people are trying to slow it down until a medicine or a vaccine has been found. This can only succeed if people do not work and live too near to each other. That is why there is a lockdown in many countries, which as a side effect can lead to a collapse of the economy: people do not work, do not go shopping, do not celebrate. People have less income, spend less and cause some economic sectors to fall because they have less turnover or cannot get parts from other countries. People protest against the measures of the governments, some governments do not help others any more.

This pandemic has taken on a GLOBAL dimension for HEALTH and ECONOMY and POLITICS and SOCIAL LIFE and CULTURE and even for ECOLOGY, which seems to be recovering from the stress of the last decades in some parts.

But let us have a closer look: It affects us ALL! But HOW does it affect who? The differences are already very clear: Towns are affected harder, people who live in confined spaces, ill people are more in danger, the poorest are affected harder. Let us imagine conditions which are prevalent in most of the countries on Earth:

- [60% of the people live close to each other in huge megacities: 5 million, 15 million, 30 million.](#)
- [48% of the people worldwide earn less than 5€/day, 800 million less than 1.80€](#)
- [44% of the world's population has only 1 doctor per 1000 people, in](#) Germany there are 4.4 doctors per 1000 people. You can imagine how different the chances are in the world to get good hospital treatment when you have the Corona virus. And: only very few people in the world have health insurance, cannot pay, sometimes the state takes over the costs.
- [There are daily statistics about the number of people infected with the Corona virus and deaths worldwide.](#) These numbers are not exact here in Germany, so how exact will they be in Malawi, Haiti, or Afghanistan, where hardly anybody records the infections or can determine them through testing?

That probably means: because of poverty, the lack of doctors and of chances to protect themselves, the Corona virus will demand millions of victims in the global south.

In addition to this, there is the direct effect of the economic crisis on the poorer countries. If you lose half of the „little“ you earn, then you have „very, very little“: unemployment, hunger, refugees! Help has been promised: billions from the EU. As a comparison: In order to save the economy in Germany 1 billion € has been made available, for a continent like Africa maybe 10% of this sum as a financial aid. And when there is a vaccine, who will pay for it for 8 billion people?

And another thing: since 1949, i.e. for 71 years, the countries of the world have been trying to solve their problems TOGETHER. The parliament is the United Nations. How will we be able to retain this good thing which was formed as a consequence to the disaster of the Second World War, if countries close their borders again because of a bad government or because they are afraid. What if the Corona virus can be defeated in wealthier countries but not in poorer ones? What will happen to the people? How will the wealthier countries react, when millions of refugees are knocking on their doors again?

Background:

- Game of the World: [HDI \(Human Development Index\)](#)
- [BLOG lesen: Wie sehen weltweit die Menschen die Pandemie \(read the BLOG: how do the people worldwide see the pandemic\)](#)

04. Corona: Conspiracy theories

Conspiracy theories – Rumours, conspiracies and theories and how they distort our image of the Corona virus.

There are many rumours being spread around the world about who „invented“ the virus or purposely set it going and is against the abolition of restrictions. You can say it is just fun but it causes agitation against others and prevents us fighting the virus well because our view is blurred. So let us be objective:

What is a conspiracy theory?

In the broadest sense a conspiracy theory is an attempt to explain a condition, an event or a development as a conspiracy, that is through the targeted influence of a mostly small group of persons for a mostly illegal or illegitimate purpose. Usually there is no real proof for conspiracy theories.

Why do people believe in such theories?

Some people do not believe in coincidence, mistrust scientists or do not understand them and search hard for an explanation, because the human brain keeps on searching for something known, for patterns, for reasons. [It cannot cope with coincidences](#). It has a problem to accept trivial causes for enormous consequences.

What are the most well-known conspiracy theories concerning the Corona virus?

[Well-known conspiracy theories](#) are:

- Corona was purposely set going by greedy pharmaceutical companies, Bill Gates wants to make money with a vaccine.
- The British Pirbright Institute, a leading research institution on viruses, has patented the Corona virus.
- A spiritual formula to save you from the Corona virus, the esoteric digit code “537354”, is spreading on the net at the moment. It is said, „ We have received this „magic code“ from beings in the invisible world“.
- Sometimes in the posts you can read, e.g.in Facebook that it is the banks which have released the virus so that they can sell more credits that are more expensive. Sometimes it is the Chinese who want to rule the global market.

How can you protect yourself against fake news about the Corona virus?

In order to be sure that you are not stuck on false information about the Corona virus, you should be aware that not every piece of information -even when it comes from friends or relatives – is correct. You should check each piece of information yourself and use several professional official sources of information to do this. Only in this way can you

protect yourself from the „insanity“ on the net and can inform yourself fundamentally and objectively. You can look [here](#) to find out what else you can do to avoid false information. It is not easy, but since the „Enlightenment“ 300 years ago, we should know that it is not „evil, inexplicable powers“ that define our fate, but we ourselves through research, understanding, taking action. In democracies we are creators and not victims. There is still a lot that we cannot explain, but we have science and reason.

05. Corona and the role of the state

The State defines the fundamental rules about how to behave in the Corona virus crisis. It determines contact restrictions, curfews, closes shops and public places and defines hygiene regulations. How intense these measures should be is discussed by representatives of subsidiary bodies and they make a joint decision. Some however interpret these rules a little differently, because there are different occurrences of the virus in different regions. Moreover, states like Germany, the USA or Brazil give financial aid to stabilize the economy. Examples of other measures introduced by the state are the travel restrictions, the obligation to wear a mask, the contact restrictions and the temporary closure of schools and public institutions. In a dictatorship (e.g. China) some governments introduce even harder measures. Some „right-wing populists“ do not take any measures, or they take the wrong ones or are late to react. (e.g. the USA, Brazil).

Criticism about the measures of the State:

Mostly the measures taken by the State are criticized by right-wing extremists and right-wing populists, because they do not believe that the Corona virus exists and refer to different conspiracy theories. For example, some say the virus does not exist and was invented by the Chinese in order to weaken our economy. Or the Americans believe the virus was developed in a laboratory and there is already a cure.

But there are also critics who believe that the measures taken by the state are too „lax“. Many [doctors warn not to be too reckless](#) and would like even harder rules, in order to lower the risk of new infections as much as possible. Moreover the scientific correctness of the actions of the State, for example, when the rules are to be loosened or when preventive measures have not been taken, is questioned. Doctors and scientists are quoted, who are very sure that the crisis will not end in May or June and who think more restrictions are necessary.

[Numbers of deaths and infections in other countries, which states are the most successful in their fight against the Corona virus.](#)

06. Pandemic and the health system

During the pandemic the health system is on the alert: what will happen if thousands of people with serious illnesses are taken to the few hospitals available? What about the other ill persons?

That was indeed a stress test: is there enough staff, enough ventilators, enough protective clothing? In some rich countries the pandemic has been mild up to now, in other countries (Italy, Spain, France, the USA) there have been greater disasters.

Why is it better in some countries and not in others? Well, some countries have a good health system, in which a lot of money has been invested by health insurances (they are not present in every country) and the State. That alone was not enough. Although there were [Pandemic Plans](#), they do not seem to be the best. Some governments have taken over the coordination, increased the numbers of beds, implemented new rules, e.g. the registration of intensive care beds or a postponement of operations that were not so urgent. Sometimes the army was ready to help in an emergency.

Some things were not foreseeable, because Covid-19 is NEW: what triggers off the virus? Who/Which age group is especially in danger? Who transfers the virus and how does that happen? A medicine, a vaccine? Not till 2021 – it has to be developed.

There is a discussion about whether it is „worth“ all this effort for people, „who will soon die anyway“ - a mean statement. Protecting health can become very expensive and what if you have no money?

The World Health Organization (WHO) tries to organize the protection of health worldwide, because there are many more [epidemics](#). Many big private charities, foundations and associations, including huge foundations like the one of Bill Gates help. Also wealthier countries support poorer countries with aid funds or doctors, because a virus is not stopped by a border. Help is in the form of screenings and joint purchase of medicines and through research.

Even now there are indications that above all poor people are affected by the pandemic. Of course, poor states suffer especially under the economic consequences and can invest little in a health system. But there are also indications that people with existing illnesses are more prone: heart problems, diabetes, asthma etc. Many of these existing illnesses are already a result of [poverty](#) and bad education. People who know little, often eat badly, the poor often have to work hard in bad conditions. Life expectancy is very different,

even [worldwide](#).

The virus will hit more poor people than rich ones! This is already [obvious](#) in a wealthy country like the USA!

07. Pandemic and Education

During the pandemic in March / April 1.5 billion (!) students were at home in order to keep down the number of infections. Some schools left their students in peace, others sent letters or mails with exercises to do. Some could keep close contact with their teachers over the school server and thus were able to continue working. That was all very different. In the meantime it has been found out that many students were not reached – partly because they just did not answer and partly because they do not have access to Internet or a computer at home or because they do not understand German yet, partly because there was not enough space to work at home or their [parents could not help them](#).

[Also](#) after opening up the schools again there will be contact restrictions. In Europe students will be taught in small classes with fewer lessons in school. During their free hours in the mornings and afternoons they will have to organize themselves or receive exercises. Many parents were very stressed because of this, because they had to help a lot and sometimes just did not have the time or the knowledge.

There is a broad discussion about whether schools are allowed to close for such a long time or reduce their work, because this results in different progress in learning at this time, an increase of injustice, because only some students can get support from home.

For the students of the so-called „alternative/open schools“ this changeover was not so difficult. In school they learn much more independently alone or in groups and find topics or deal with materials without the help of the teachers. The motto is „Help me, to do it myself!“. This is very difficult in countries, where there are 50 – 100 students in each class.

Finally, many questions remain. Should you concentrate on the main subjects and what about subjects such as Sport, Art, Music, Technology, Biology etc. There are schools, which have ideas about how to organize all this e.g. in projects with small groups using web seminars, video conferences or „smart“ platforms. Unfortunately this means you must have digital access. Some schools have had a tutor system for a long time – that means older students help younger students. Now the time has come to think about [new ways](#).

08. When will we be free again?

This question is much more difficult to answer than assumed, because we still know very little and the weapons against the Corona virus are still blunt: no medicine, no vaccine, no immunity. As long as this is not guaranteed for everybody, there will be restrictions to our freedom (and also to economic life), because the main aim must be to stop the virus spreading further. That can only be done by protective clothing, hygiene, distance and identifying infected people (also using tests and [Tracing Apps](#)). Attempts to let the virus make its own way, so that 60-70% are infected and later cured and immune („herd immunity“), were stopped everywhere because of the large number of deaths.

The problem is much deeper: How much incidental damage do these special precautions cause to the economy, to trade, to the social sector. There is no absolute protection, but how many victims – especially amongst the poor and the elderly- do we accept? In some countries there are Ethics boards, which are discussing these issues.

It is a question of values for us all. What is important to us? And here we will have to weigh up the possibilities: who and how many victims are we prepared to sacrifice for the least number of restrictions to our freedom, wealth, profit? In the worst phase in Italy, doctors had to decide: the triage: Who will be saved and who will not be saved?

09. Coronavirus: social effects

Life on the planet has more or less come to a standstill for several weeks. All the countries of the world except for a few exceptions are fighting the virus. If it is not imperative to leave your house, you stay at home in your own four walls as much as possible. Students whose school is closed, vulnerable people or workers, whose working life has changed a lot in the last weeks. Everybody who can, should stay at home to protect themselves and others, in order to reduce the danger of infection and to protect vulnerable persons. For many people this felt like a holiday at the beginning of the crisis, but now it has become forced isolation.

What does this isolation or limitation to our lives and everyday routine over weeks release in human beings? What happens to us, if we cannot have any social contacts and are only connected to each other on the internet?

Advantages and disadvantages of the crisis for our social life:

| |
|--|
| Disadvantages |
| <u>Egoism/ Irritability</u> People start panic buying. They hoard food and toilet paper and snatch disinfectant away from under the noses of the doctors. At the supermarket checkouts, people are often irritated. |
| <u>Increase of alcohol consumption</u> In Germany an increase of 20%, in South Africa a significant decrease, because it was not allowed to sell alcohol during the lockdown. |
| No visiting |
| <u>Mental health suffers</u> There could be a significant increase in depressions, anxiety, abuse of substances, loneliness and domestic violence. |
| No trips and holidays |

Advantages

Readiness to help/ Solidarity

People develop solidarity by e.g. the readiness to help neighbours and being considerate towards each other.

There is more family life

Families, in which one or both parents are working full time, spend more time together with their dearest ones at home, i.e. if they cannot work or are working from home.

Social contacts and friendships will be appreciated more

In such situations you realize again how important your family and friends are for you and that, in the future, you should take more time for the important things in life. Many hope that this thought will continue for a long time.

New ideas in society

It is striking to realize that schools were not prepared for teaching students online. In general, people maintain that our system is very rigid and is not flexible in its reaction to changes. For example, what is striking is how dependent we are on automobile products from China or antibiotics from India and how much responsibility we pass on to other countries.

New discoveries and creativity

Many start to discover themselves anew and recognize hidden talents or learn new things: Some take up a new instrument or learn a new language.

10. Income in the Corona crisis

The Coronavirus has been turning our lives upside down for some weeks.

Numerous firms and our whole economy are affected. Some businesses more, some less. Our health system and school system, too, were faced with huge challenges. Politics, too, is fighting the crisis, for which there seems to be no answer to, with all available means.

At the moment some are worried about their livelihoods – be it the small hairstylist's salon round the corner, or the cinema in the town centre, or the fast food chain – in general the employers, the contractors and above all, the employees, of course. But how can the problem be solved, no turnover at the moment but still having to cover fixed costs and personnel costs? Some firms have been creative and have developed new business models. It could be a party service, which has now become a takeaway for lunches, an online shop which arose in a few hours or processes which have been quickly digitized. However, what do companies do when their work or a part of it simply cannot or may not be carried out anymore? What about the businesses in the tourist industry, what happens to the automobile industry or to the airports? What can you do when, from one minute to the next, you find yourself out on the street?

There are three measures to keep an existing firm on the go:

- **State subsidies**

Each contractor first thinks about lowering personnel costs. But who wants to dismiss their staff, when, maybe, in a few weeks, you will need them again?

In some countries state subsidies can be applied for to get the first financial support needed.

- **Credits**

- **Sometimes only new credits**

In some countries you can get a credit quickly, but of course you have to pay it back. Interest rates are normal. But who knows, if or when he can really pay back the instalments. The borrower has however to state that NOW.

- **Short-time allowance**

A further possibility for firms in some countries is to apply for short-time allowances (also for a reduction of 50% or 80% of the working time). The money, which the employee gets, corresponds to e.g. in Germany to 60% of the last net salary. If the employee works 50% short-time, he gets 60% for the lost 50% of his salary. This money is paid by the employer. The employer gets a refund for it from the unemployment insurance.

That is the situation of the employer. But how does the current situation affect the employees? Some families are worried, like the firms, about their livelihoods. There is great fear of losing their jobs or having to stay home for a while. Such measures cause financial bottlenecks. Expenses for basics: rent or mortgage instalments for the house, electricity, gas, food have to be tightly calculated.

The truth is: there are not many who find life easy in this situation. There are exceptions, of course. Firms like Amazon, some pharmaceutical firms or some IT companies are doing well at the moment. Probably about 95% of the world's employees have to tighten their belts at the moment. Everybody thought the year 2020 would not be like this. Maybe trips, holidays, a birthday party or a new couch.

There does not seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel: When will firms be able to work normally again? When will all firms be able to supply again? Will there be enough buyers? Will markets collapse? Will buyers in other countries have enough money to buy after the crisis? Will goods become more expensive or cheaper (e.g. petrol)?

11. Corona Ecology: A short-term recovery

The virus Covid-19 and ecology are linked closely, especially with ecological disasters. Because of extreme weather conditions, heat, droughts and floods, as a result of an unconditional destruction of nature, many „zoonoses“ could develop. „Zoonoses“ are viruses which are transferred from animals to humans.

The lockdown of public life enabled the planet to recover. Parts of exhaust fumes from cars and factories, greenhouse gases from long and short distance flights and the mountains of rubbish from tourists could be saved. The concentration of nitrogen dioxides sank significantly (nitrogen dioxides cause many people to become ill every year!) According to the information of the Chinese statistical office the measures in the fight against Covid-19 could have reduced, as a side effect, the worldwide emissions by 200 megatons CO₂. A temporary reduction of carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide by up to 40% has also been recorded not only in China but also in Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany and dozens of other countries. One of the measures, for example, is the massive reduction of [commercial air traffic](#).

In addition to this information based on facts, there are also viral fakes (false reports which spread very quickly - „like wildfire“), which want to raise hopes.

In the middle of March the news spread that the water in Venice has improved and because of that dolphins and swans are supposed to have returned. That revealed itself as false information! The water in Venice has become clearer, because there are less boats and no cruise ships and the sediments, that is filth and dirt, remain on the ground. It must be clarified later whether the quality of the water has really improved.

The photos of the swans were taken in a different place and the videos of the dolphins originate from a harbour in Sardinia (an Italian island, hundreds of kilometres away from Venice).



Ein viraler Tweet behauptete, dass Schwäne in die Kanäle von Venedig zurückgekehrt wären. Die Bilder stammen allerdings von der Insel Burano, wo Schwäne schon lange keine Seltenheit mehr sind.

Already now we can predict that, as soon as this outbreak has passed, and the

quarantine and social isolation have been lifted, we will fall back into old routines and treat ourselves to things which we did without so long. Such changes can only have a significant effect if they lead to a long term change in behaviour. In Europe, for example, aid funds for firms should be linked to environmental requirements.

[Fake animal news abounds on social media as coronavirus upends life](#)

[How coronavirus stalled climate change momentum](#)

[Climate crisis: in coronavirus lockdown, nature bounces back – but for how long?](#)

12. Corona Economy: Forecasts

When you listen to the news, one thing becomes clearer: the world economy will undergo a significant change through Covid-19!

According to the reports of the industrial states organization OECD there are two possible scenarios: the growth expected for 2020 will be halved, if the virus continues to spread, especially in the Asian- Pacific region, Europe and North America. Then the rate of growth would only be one and a half percent. If the situation continues to become more stable, the rate of growth could be about 2.4 percent. As a comparison: the rate of growth of the world's economy was 2.9 percent in 2019.

We can use the price of oil as a practical example. The demand for oil fell because of the worldwide curfews. Because of the virus and the previous arguments between the Opec (group of oil producers) and Russia, the price fell further.

But what does that actually mean in practice? As so very often there are winners and losers in crises. Especially hotels, pubs, operas, theatres, museums and also the tourist and automobile industries are at a disadvantage. On the other hand especially the medical and pharmaceutical industries and the shops, which work in the food sector can benefit from the situation.

Forecasts for the economy – that is how the economy will develop – are difficult to make. A German economist says: „Because of the crisis there are massive distortions on the job market“ Also a consequence of these measures is a massive strain on the budget. To what extent all this will happen will be seen in the near future.

Further information:

[Coronavirus: A visual guide to the economic impact](#)

[How the Economy Will Look After the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

[OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report March 2020](#)

13. World Cloud



14. Table with examples

| | That should NEVER happen again! | Good that this will soon stop! | Pity, that was good! |
|---|--|---|---|
| ME ... personally | Example: „I was so rested and could never fall asleep!“ | Example: „Oh, that was boring!“ | Example: „I have learned to play chess!“ |
| WE ... in the family, relatives and friends | Example: „My mother permanently lost her temper!“ | Example: „Grandma is not so well. I couldn't visit her!“ | Example: „We had great evenings playing games with Dad, he was at home!“ |
| THE ONES ... far away, who I have read about, heard of or seen! | Example: „That is terrible in Italy, sorting out the people in front of the hospital!“ | Example: „My uncle works at the shipyard. They want to fire him!“ | Example: „..., it's cool – dolphins are swimming again in the water in Venice!“ |

15. Table without examples

| | That should NEVER happen again! | Good that this will soon stop! | Pity, that was good! |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| ME ... personally | | | |
| WE ... in the family, relatives and friends | | | |
| THE ONES ... far away, who I have read about, heard of or seen! | | | |

16. Quotes

„You shouldn't earn money with ill people“

„We should produce more ourselves in the future – and not just sell them to wealthy countries or buy them only from them!“

„It wasn't that bad – less hectic, more time, more family life. Let's have these things in the future, too!“

„We, as students, must become more independent, so we can learn without classrooms!“

„Others in the poor countries are suffering more again – that's not right!“

„There must be more help from the wealthy countries in the crisis!“

„We must listen to scientists more to protect ourselves against fake news!“

„The lives of people should always be put before profit!“

„Sometimes elected governments should set rules for the good of all!“

„All that was exaggerated!“

„Working with Apps, Web seminars and homeschooling tools must really get better!“

„International cooperation must be intensified more!“

Own statements:

Own statements:

17. Kahoot Instructions

- Go to kahoot.com
- Create a free account, with email and password (If you prefer, you can also create profile for Peer-Leader, where all the countries could access. Feedback is great)
- After creating your account, you can create a new quiz clicking in “create”, in the right-top of the page;
- To create a quiz is very easy.
- First, follow the steps described above; then, you can click in “add question” to add a new question;
- you will also see some other options, like “answer options”, “points”, “time limit”, etc. Those options are self-understandable; you’ll have no problems with it.
- You can also add background pictures do your quiz, as many pictures as you want.
- For writing a question, you just have 120 characters; For writing an answer, you just have 75 characters.

Remember, this is just a free trial of the app, so you’re just able to host 10 persons to play at the same time.

During the quiz:

It is advisable to do a fact check during or after the quiz, so why is this answer correct now? There are two ways to do this, depending on the learning group and media resources:

- First the whole quiz is played through without comment, then there is a fact check on the links under the questions.
- After each question, the fact check can be carried out in a new tab in order to answer open questions directly.

Questions and answers

1. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-similarities-and-differences-covid-19-and-influenza?gclid=CjwKCAjwL2BRAEiwAacX32cQH7GsgHV1no6o-aaLPawSwB1AltVyPu7W7MsLa84evQ3GvltDhoCQ3cQAvDBwE>
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52003804>
3. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/11/804862868/theres-no-specific-drug-that-kill-coronavirus-but-doctors-have-ways-to-treat-it?t=1591265965676>
4. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
5. <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200422-why-are-coronavirus-tests-so-difficult-to-produce>
<https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2020/03/02/asymptomatic-coronavirus>
6. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-pandemic-slowing-in-europe-who-says/a-53430244>
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/03/toilet-paper-is-trending-in-australia-heres-why>
8. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/business/economy/china-coronavirus-economy.html>
9. <https://www.sciencealert.com/why-is-this-coronavirus-so-much-more-dangerous-a-coronavirus-expert-explains>
10. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/investor/2020/05/26/a-coronavirus-second-wave-will-crash-the-market/#15baf62f215b>

18. Kahoot Quiz

1. My parents say that Corona is like a FLU

- a. It has the same symptoms, just stronger.
- b. It's an "Asian FLU".
- c. Corona attacks not only your breathing system, but can attack other organs.
- d. All Corona viruses are like FLU.

2. Corona is a danger just for elderly people

- a. Just old people can get infected, so yes.
- b. Just old people can die of Corona, so yes.
- c. Wrong! Everyone can get it and there is a risk for all people.
- d. Wrong! Corona is more dangerous for people from 6-18 years' old.

3. If you are infected, you should go to the doctor

- a. The best thing you can do, they have a vaccine.
- b. The only thing that doctors can do is try to support your body.
- c. Don't go! They can't help you at all.
- d. Just stay at home, because that doesn't affect you anyway.

4. This is just a rumour, nothing serious

- a. It's a plan from the Chinese government to conquer the world.
- b. It is surely a rumour. How many people do you know that are infected? 2? 1?
- c. It's not a rumour, but the fear kills more than Corona itself.
- d. More than 450,000 corona deaths worldwide in just 5 months.

5. I don't know a single person who is infected, so I'm not in danger

- a. That's because much more tests need to be done to know the real number.
- b. People can be infected and not show symptoms. That's the biggest problem.
- c. You're not in danger if you are young, and you are just around young people.
- d. Even if it were dangerous, it is impossible to avoid contact with other people.

6. **The whole lock-down caused a big economic crash, but did not stop Corona**
 - a. We should remove all restrictions, we still have a chance of recovering.
 - b. The economic systems were not so hardly affected by the crisis.
 - c. The infection rate slowed down, that is already a big success.
 - d. The curfews should have been much stricter (like in Italy).

7. **The quarantine was implemented just to make profit: Bill Gates, Amazon, Pfizer are the actors in the back earning a lot of money**
 - a. Crisis opens several economic opportunities. Toilet paper was worth gold for some time.
 - b. Those companies lost a lot of money because of the pandemics.
 - c. They predicted everything, and they already did the same thing with Ebola.
 - d. They should go to prison, who thinks about profit when people are dying?

8. **The Chinese want to ruin our economy and take over power**
 - a. Dollar has lost a lot of value compared to the Chinese money since January.
 - b. They're also suffering a lot; they also need the global economy to survive.
 - c. We should never trust communist governments.
 - d. They are already used to use masks and stay at home, it's obviously a plan of a foreign power.

9. **The public media are cheating us with "fake news"**
 - a. These media are controlled by the governments to show whatever the government wants.
 - b. Public media (ARD, BBC) are always lying, you should read more private media (RTL, ITV) suppliers.
 - c. The public media are never wrong! Don't trust the private media.
 - d. If you want facts with veracity, you should check studies/ sources from virologists and different media.

10. **You see, after 2 months the show was over, it was too much noise because of a simple infection**
 - a. The people who died were already sick and old, they would die fast anyway.
 - b. It just gave problems to the whole world. People want to work! Let them be!
 - c. With a second wave of this "simple infection", the entire global economy would collapse.
 - d. The prevision of the scientists is almost always wrong. They just want to do something important.