COVID 19 is a virus that has caused many problems but what educational effects has it resulted in? As you know, COVID 19 is a virus that started in Wuhan, China, and has spread all over the world. One rumor circulating on the internet about how it all started was a person getting infected after eating a bat that had the COVID 19 virus. However, who can prove that? What can be proved is that COVID 19 is affecting education because schools had to shut down for at least a quarter of the school year, in-person learning has been shifted to online learning, and children can’t have fun at school when they have to wear masks and be socially distanced.

Covid 19 has caused schools to shut down for long periods of time. Consequently, shutting down schools has caused social isolation, making it more likely for students to not return to school when they open up, and it has become harder to assess students’ progress. Shutting down schools will lead to social isolation because students cannot interact with each other face-to-face. This is not beneficial for students because the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has stated that social contact is essential to learning and development. Also, researchers have shown that social isolation can cause mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. If students have depression and/or anxiety, it makes it harder for them to learn because they have lower energy levels and lack concentration. Lastly, the website beyonddifferences.org states that there are academic effects due to social isolation such as students being less engaged in class and getting lower grades. When students do not participate in class, the teachers cannot evaluate their understanding of the subject being taught. As a result, these students end up with lower marks. It is clear that when Covid-19 shut down schools, it affected education negatively.

Also, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused schools to transfer from in-person learning to online learning. Online learning affects education because it doesn’t make students excited about learning, it is harder for students to understand new concepts or skills, and it hinders the development of the students’ communication skills. With online learning, students aren’t as excited about learning because they are in front of the screen all day and students can’t talk to their friends unless they are working together in groups. Also, transferring to online learning makes it harder for students to understand new concepts or skills. For example, for music class, it is hard for the teacher to teach new music components because students might not have the materials required to replicate the instrument. Lastly, online learning does not help improve students’ communication skills because students need to interact with others to learn how to talk to others or learn how to perform well during interviews. Also, what if your video or audio isn’t working? You wouldn’t be able to talk, so you would have to type in the group chat to communicate. This may become a habit and students end up hiding behind their screen and not talk to others. So, online learning isn’t as great as you may think.

Lastly, Covid 19 has caused children to not have fun at school and this affects learning. Enjoying time at school makes it easier to learn. Since students have to wear masks, practice social distancing and aren’t allowed to have parties to celebrate special days, students are not having

fun at school. When students wear masks, it is hard to hear each other because when they talk, it is muffled. For example, I was telling a joke to my friends and when I finished, I was laughing a lot. However, they didn’t laugh back because they couldn’t hear the punchline. Also, practicing social distancing isn’t always a positive thing, there are negative things about it too. For example, if I am socially distanced from other people, I can’t play tag or steal the basketball from my friends during recess. Furthermore, before the pandemic, we were allowed to share food and have parties to celebrate Valentine’s, Halloween and Christmas. Now, with COVID, students cannot look forward to these special parties. For example, last year I brought a bag of chips for my class for Halloween but this year, we weren't allowed to bring treats or drinks for our classmates. So going to school during Covid isn’t as fun as before.

As you see, COVID 19 can have a lot of educational effects when they shut down schools, make students transfer online, and make schools not fun anymore. When Covid shuts schools down, it causes social isolation, higher chance of students not coming to school after lockdown, and makes it harder for teachers to assess their students’ work. Also, when students transfer online, it makes learning less exciting, makes it harder to learn new skills, and hinders their communication skills. In addition, Covid made school less fun by making students wear masks, having students practice social distancing, and canceling parties for special events. Next time when the Minister of Education decides to shut down schools again for a pandemic, they should weigh the benefits and risks before shutting down schools and switching to online learning.