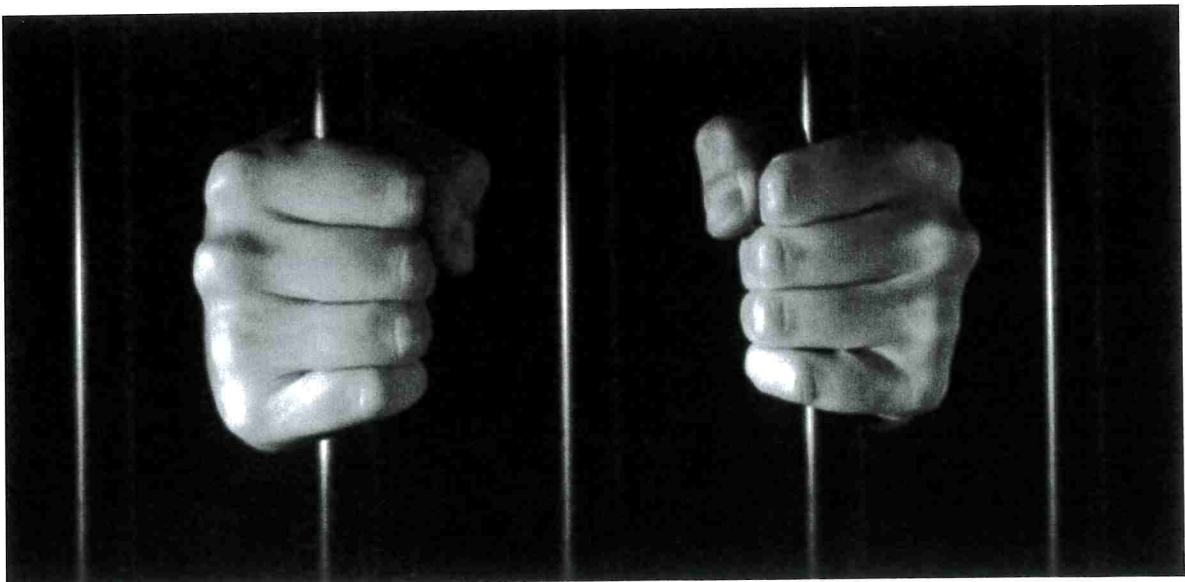
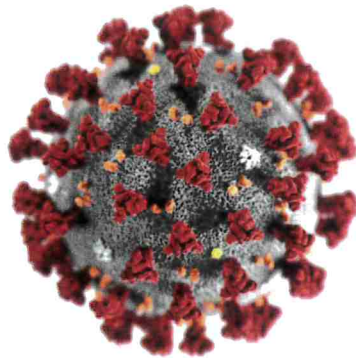
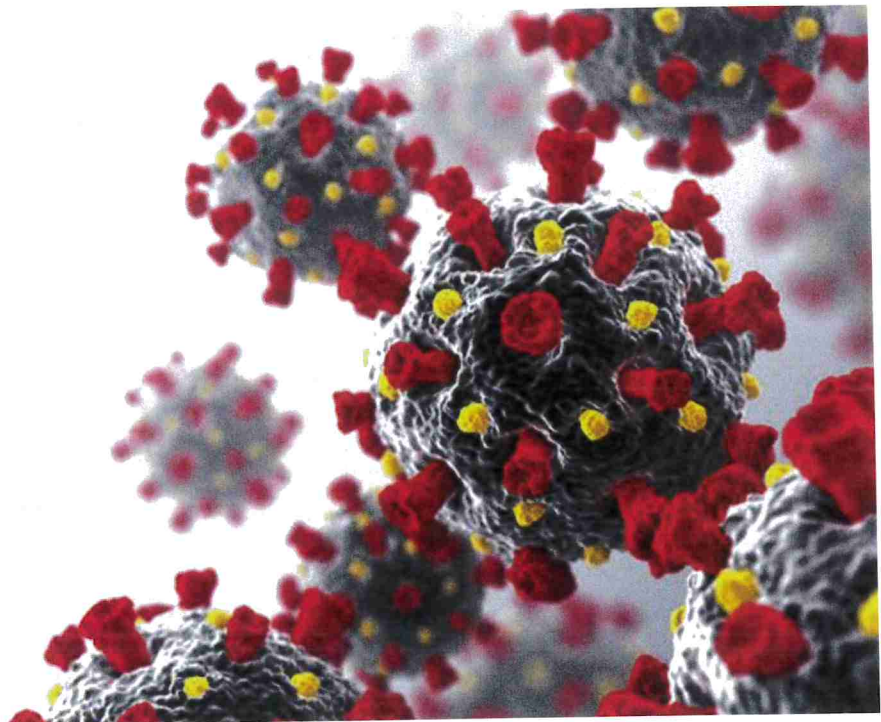


Life in



2020, the start of a decade was filled with exhilaration and anticipation all around the world. But, now a catastrophic enemy was in the midst of the world. The growth of fright that a death-dealing enemy had graced the world. By March the enemy reached its peak and killed hundreds of thousands of people. This made it the worst crisis since world war 2. It got majorly out of hand so the Government sent us into lockdown. The cause... a virus, a microbe so small yet extremely life-threatening... COVID-19



Classification of COVID-19

What is it?

COVID-19 is an infectious respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus. The lethal pandemic was first discovered in December 2019. SARS-coV-2 is in the family of COVID-19. It could have been what caused the outbreak to occur.

Where did it come from?

Evidence states that the outbreak started in Wuhan in China. There is no evidence of what it came from but there are rumours that it started in seafood market in Wuhan or from bats. If it was from bats, scientists believe that pangolins were the animal that transferred the rapidly spreading virus from animals to people. Therefore, several animals could have the virus so we need to be careful with unknown animal contact.

How do we stop it?

Stopping the outbreak will take extreme diligence. Slowing the spread until the virus dies out is our best choice. We will have to incorporate social distancing because the virus spreads very quickly. Washing our hands with soap and using hand sanitiser will kill the majority of the germs and help prevent the virus. Cleaning surfaces will kill the viruses on the surface before we touch them and get infected. While everybody needs to be careful some people are at higher risk of getting severely sick if infected. Older people and people with medical uncertainty have to be extra careful and if needed, they will have to self-isolate before it is too late. The virus needs to die out or the humanity could. It is now or never to make a difference.

How it changed the world?

The coronavirus has changed the world in many various ways. Anxiety levels are rising because people are stressed about food, hygiene and especially toilet paper. Anxiety also occurs because of loneliness in quarantine and self-isolation. Lots of people think of this crisis as only being negative but there are some hidden blessings through the pandemic. Although scientists are now focused on finding a cure for the disease, some have discovered that there is less pollution when people stay at home compared to when they go to school and work places. Many businesses like restaurants & gyms have closed. Even Churches have had to close. Many people have made the effort to exercise and get fitter because they aren't busy. However, mistakes & lack of care have led to people passing away rapidly. COVID-19 is like a massive puzzle and we have to solve it piece by piece.

Homeschooling

Before schools were shut down because of COVID-19, students and staff were interacting with each other a lot. Therefore, we were forced into homeschooling. Homeschooling was unique but not always great. When I was being homeschooled, both my parents were working from home. This meant that I could ask them for help when they had done their work. It was good because it felt like I was the only student in the class and got all of the teacher's attention. My teacher had made a pack that included all the necessary studious work. My tasks were clear & I worked through them. My brother and sister had their schooling online with a set timetable to be followed precisely. They had specific times for each lesson and breaks, whereas I had flexibility in my usage of time. I could also have longer breaks and breaks more often. Homeschooling allowed me to finish my work earlier so I could have more free time to relax after school unlike normal school days which finishes at a fixed time. The worst thing about homeschool was that I had no friends to play with. Homeschooling was a good experience but I don't want to do it again.

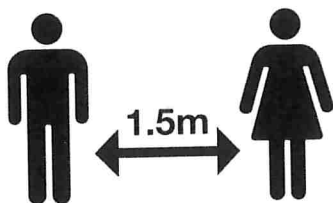


Social distancing

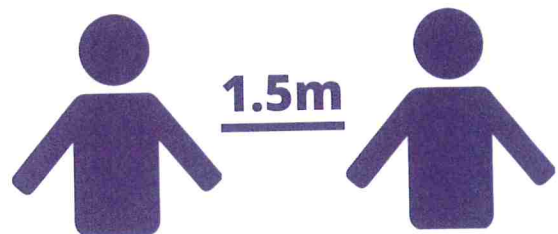
When the outbreak could not be contained by previous measures, the government put in restrictions that we had to follow. One of them was social distancing. We had to stay 1.5 meters away from everybody not in our immediate family. This is to stop interaction with other people. The government figured that 1.5 metres was enough to prevent people coughing or sneezing germs on you. At shops, airports and business offices there were stickers stuck on the floor to stand on, so that each family maintained distance. Although school children didn't maintain distance between their friends, schools stayed open for quite a long time. This was because they needed education and they were at very low risk of dying or getting extremely harmed if they caught the virus. Eventually when schools did temporarily close they reopened 3 weeks later. Social distancing was a piece of the big puzzle to stop the spread. Social distancing although difficult to do, did assist us greatly in reducing the infection from spreading.



**KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE**

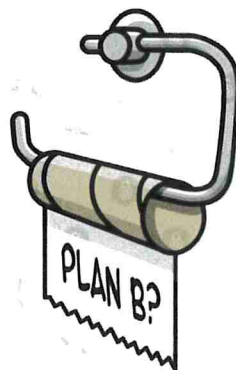


**HELP PREVENT
THE SPREAD**



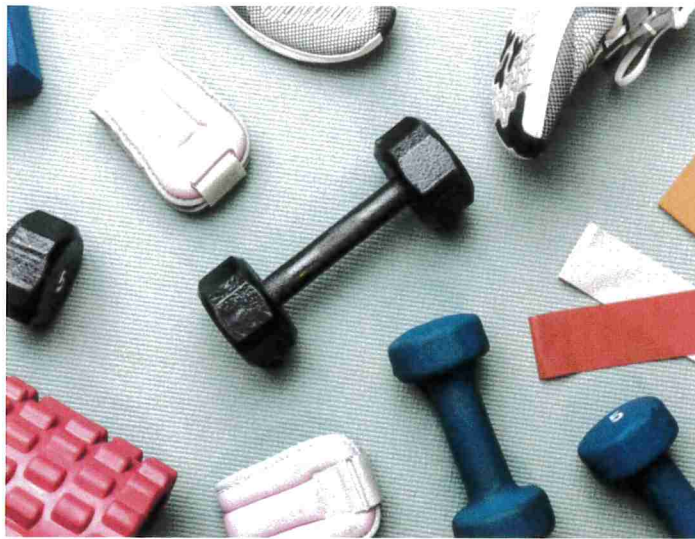
Shopping

During the desperate time of the outbreak, shopping changed in a variety of ways. Most non-essential shops were temporarily closed to prevent unneeded interacting. People minimised the amount of trips to shops so that they would interact with other people less. It was a great idea until most shops put limits on the amount of groceries you are allowed to buy. This backfired. Safety at shops was reinforced. Everybody had to sanitise their hand before they came in. There were stickers stuck on the floor of stores that customers had to queue up on so that they would maintain distance. Each person had to wear a set of gloves and a mask when they entered the shop. Most people used card payment to avoid contact with money. The reason why people didn't want to touch money was that it could have germs or even the coronavirus. A crucial part of cleanliness was that all the surfaces in the shops needed to be disinfected regularly. Before the grocery limits were introduced many people went panic buying. Panic buyers stripped shelves clear and that is why shops put limits on the amount of groceries anyone can buy at a time. Panic buyers stocked up on mainly toilet paper, food ingredients and hygiene products such as hand sanitiser, soap and surface cleaners. Online shopping was very useful because it avoided the risks of spreading germs when people entered stores. The change in shopping helped slow down the spread of the virus. The change was hard to adapt to but it was for the greater good.



Staying at home

When scientists realised how fast the virus could and was spreading, the government asked all Australians to stay at home except those who were needed in important areas of work. People staying at home would reduce the rate of the infection and allow those affected to be treated better. While staying at home, I had a great amount of spare time. I also missed out on a flight to Sydney for a holiday because the borders were closed. People could only travel if it was for an emergency or crisis. In my spare time, I focused more on fitness by going for hikes, bike rides and playing at the oval. I also watched more TV and played more video games than I usually would because I had more time to relax. I also played card games, board games, cooked more, did more art than usual and more house chores. Parties were cancelled and I couldn't visit my friends. Staying at home was exciting but there were some disappointments. Staying at home helped stop the spread and that's why we in Australia are doing very well with handling this tough time.



Lockdown was difficult and at times unbearable. The first half of 2020 wasn't very exciting but we can make up for that with in the second half of the year. But we still have one piece of the puzzle to solve,. The cure. People have been attempting to find a cure but nobody has been successful yet. If nobody finds a cure the death rate might not reduce. Although Australia is doing fine, most countries are failing at stopping the spread of the disease. Oh dear! The end of the world might be approaching. Do something now before there is nobody left!

