

Children are our most precious and have the right to an education

School closures are the product (not the sum) of irrationality, cowardice and stupidity, which is badness cubed.

Dimension One: Irrationality

It is already almost certain that the loss of human life as a result of government action will total an order of magnitude more than the deaths caused by the virus itself. That's not counting the economic impact. I explain this in more detail in my blog [Corona mathematically and humanly](#).

School closures are responsible for a significant portion of this loss of life. We have already deprived children of a year of normal life. Yet childhood is crucial for the development of personality. Many children are physically and mentally deprived, lacking social contacts, which affects their health and mental balance. Some children are denied the right to education and more than a year can already be a significant negative in terms of its overall quality. Yet we know that life expectancy is significantly correlated with level of education attained.

It is clear from the above that it would be a great mistake to close schools, even if their impact on the spread of the virus was relatively large.

Dimension Two: Cowardice

A society that sacrifices its children out of fear for itself is a sick, cowardly and stagnant society. As psychologist Martin Hofman says (for myself, I would add the adjective "many"):

"Epidemiologists have a narrow view of their field. But people who work with children, whether they are teachers or child psychologists, see that the situation is serious for a large proportion of children. [Children feel thrown overboard by adults](#), they are angry at them, they feel absolute helplessness, frustration, hopelessness, and they completely lose motivation when they see that they are simply not a priority for the political representation and the experts."

It saddens me to see how far human society has fallen in some aspects. Every animal, every species protects its young, and a mother animal does not hesitate to put her life on the line to save her offspring.

I was disgusted when I heard about [Minister Arenberger's proposal](#) that the Ministry of Health wanted to use rectal tests for children. Although the Minister subsequently denied this, it is not clear whether it was really a mistake or whether he backed down under pressure. Something so heinous would be a complete breakdown of the moral values of our society, comparable in my view only to the worst of what happened during the wars.

Dimension Three: Stupidity

It is funny, or rather tragically funny, that we have denied children the right to education, even though they are at almost no risk from COVID and the vast majority of studies show that closing schools has little effect on the spread of the virus. That's one thing to be said for the current pandemic: as tragic as the loss of life from

COVID has been, at least it hasn't targeted our children.

Facts

- School closures have real and dramatic effects on the mental and physical health of our children.
- Covid presents almost no risk to children.
- The prevalence of the virus in the child population is much lower than in adults.
- Children have a much lower risk of becoming infected and spreading the virus.
- Children have fewer ACE2 receptors, through which the genetic information of the virus enters the cells.
- Their infection does not primarily occur in schools, but in the home from contact with adults.
- School closures do not have a major impact on the spread of the virus.

Why did we get it so wrong?

Fear has gripped much of our society and we are willing to accept cowardly solutions. However, even cowardice cannot excuse the huge degree of irrationality and stupidity where, despite the facts above, we are now in the second year of negatively restricting the lives of more than a million of our children by taking away their right to education and normal development.

One reason for this may be several questionable and flawed attempts to mathematically model the spread of the epidemic in schools (see my blog [Causality vs. Correlation: Beware of Covid Models](#), explaining the mathematical incompetence of some models), or studies by the Czech institute ÚZIS. The latter is trying to tell us and the government, based on poor quality data and procedures, that school closures have a major impact on the spread of the epidemic. The statistics used by this Institute for Misrepresentation of Information and Statistics (IMIS, ÚZIS in Czech) are based on data from only five per cent (about 77,000) of cases of infection. These are attempted to be categorised by the IMIS, whereby in school settings, even a school with one infected person is considered an outbreak. The analysis below shows that a large proportion of 'outbreaks' consist of a single person. Everyone understands the nonsense of a single infected child from a school becoming infected at school. For example, Olomouc mathematician Tomáš Fürst comments in more detail on the IMIS data [here](#).

Equally dubious is the [BISOP research report](#), which was used as one of the important documents when considering the school opening scheme. Virtually all of the conclusions about the spread of the disease in this report can be considered conjectures or hypotheses that cannot be supported by data, as pointed out by associate professors of mathematical statistics Arnošt Komárek and Stanislav Katina in "[Commentary on the BISOP research report "Model of the spread of COVID-19 in primary schools."](#)

What next?

Will we continue to rob our children of their education and future? Are we going to allow only some children to be educated and under difficult conditions? Are we going

to force them to rotate their schooling week by week? Or will we finally stop worrying about something most studies refute and open schools fully, without restrictions and without delay? Our children need to get their lives back to normal.

Let's try to find more courage, face our fears and not be cowardly. We cannot sacrifice our children because of fear. The lethality rate of the virus would have to be two orders of magnitude higher, not just one order of magnitude, for us to in any sense justify the flat-out traumatization of our children.

I understand that many of us cannot actively speak out against misguided measures such as child masks. However, it is important that we as parents do not start making excuses for evils that we cannot currently do anything about. Let us all remember that we have to endure as parents. Let us not forget about the stress for our children. We must not accept that people have to '[get used to testing](#)', as Minister Havlicek, for example, has said. We must in no way accept what the [Covid Inquisitors](#) would have us do. On the contrary, let us be active and not sit at home, but let us play sport and move our bodies, because this will increase our immunity and substantially reduce the risk of severe illness, as we know, and not only from [scientific studies](#).

What can we do now?

Let's support the brave people who are fighting for our children's rights to a normal life. Let us mobilize as parents to allow all our children to return to school, without the conditions under which our government has allowed children to return to school. [The serious crackdown on children's rights has mobilized thousands of parents.](#)

Let us support the courageous lawyers who are filing lawsuits against the measures and standing up for the rights of our children, such as [Tomas Nielsen, Ondřej Svoboda, the Zahumens, Vladimír Mrkvička and Lenka Trkalová](#), and [Jana Zwyrtk Hamplová](#). Experts such as Prof. Beran, Prof. Balík and Doctor Pollert, who are not afraid to speak out against covid hysteria, also deserve strong support. [Let's open schools, let's return the Czech Republic to normal, doctors and politicians call for in the petition.](#)

Let's be active - let's communicate with as many people as possible and explain to everyone the gravity and danger of the situation for our future. It is extremely important that as many people as possible wake up from their fears and become resistant to the manipulations of [COVID's inquisitors](#). It is important that politicians perceive the shift in the collective consciousness of us all and change their approach.

The decision to close schools is a decision of fear, not of reason. The senselessness of the school closures is glaring. COVID, which is almost harmless to children, is teaching us a lesson in maturity and courage. And in these we have failed disastrously as a society. At least for now. We urgently need to make amends.

Studies and arguments: it makes no sense to close schools!

At the end of this blog, I list a few studies that prove that there is no point in fearing the opening of schools. There is no truly rational argument for closing schools!

.... Tady jsou argumenty česky ...

1. Current testing in schools has revealed very few positive children. There were 15 positive children out of almost 36,000 pupils tested in Prague (i.e. 0.04%) and 20 children out of almost 49,000 in the Central Bohemia Region. This is more than 11 times lower than the detection rate in the preventive antigen testing of the population (0.45%). These measurements demonstrate the low prevalence of the virus in children relative to the general population, regardless of the reliability of antigen testing.

<https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/testovani-na-skolach-presna-cisla-jak-dopadlo-ministerstvo-nezverejnilo-150681>

2. A meta-study by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control concludes that the decision to close schools should be a last resort to control the spread of the virus. Indeed, the negative physical, psychological and educational consequences of closing children outweigh the benefits (by an order of magnitude, I might add). The study also notes that younger children are less susceptible to infection and less likely to transmit Covid than adults.

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-in-children-and-the-role-of-school-settings-in-transmission-first-update_1.pdf

3. A study of the evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 infection initiated by the Central Bohemian Region proves that the closure of schools does not have a significant impact on the spread of the virus.
Vývoj epidemie SARS-CoV-2 u dětí v populaci České republiky

4. An Icelandic study has shown that children under the age of 15 are about half as likely to be infected and about half as likely to spread the virus as older people.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/we-now-know-how-much-children-spread-coronavirus>

5. A German study showed that the epidemic slowed down after schools reopened.

<https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/13790/school-re-openings-after-summer-breaks-in-germany-did-not-increase-sars-cov-2-cases>

6. A UK study published in the Lancet showed that reopening schools was associated with a low risk of an increase in cases, with only 113 cases associated with 55 outbreaks in more than 57,000 educational establishments.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33306981/>

7. A Swiss seroprevalence study in the canton of Geneva has shown that the risk of acquiring the infection in a shared household is four times higher than outside, and that young children become ill less often than adults.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.04.20225573v1>

8. Another Swiss study, this time from the canton of Zurich, showed that even in an environment of high SARS-CoV-2 infections, the incidence of spread in schools was very low. Schools appear to be safe with protective measures in place (e.g. symptomatic children must stay at home, rapid contact tracing with individual quarantine even at classroom level, and structured infection prevention measures at school).

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.12.24.20248558v1>

9. A French study in the Lancet showed a low proportion of young children with SARS-CoV-2 infection. Transmission within the family seemed more plausible than transmission in day care centres.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(21\)00024-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(21)00024-9/fulltext)

10. The English study showed that primary schools were not sites of significant transmission. The authors found very low rates of symptomatic or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection in students and staff following the partial and full reopening of primary schools in England in June 2020.

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(21\)00061-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(21)00061-4)

11. A comparative study between Finland and Sweden showed that closing or not closing schools had little or no impact on the number of laboratory-confirmed cases in school-age children. The negative effects of school closures must be weighed against the positive effects, if any.

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/publicerat-material/publikationsarkiv/c/covid-19-in-schoolchildren/>

12. A landmark ruling in one of Germany's federal states: no masks, no testing, no distance in schools. Germans protect their children!

<https://www.berliner-zeitung.de/news/urteil-in-weimar-keine-masken-keine-tests-und-kein-abstand-mehr-fuer-schueler-li.151838>

In its reasoning, the Weimar Court stated, first of all, that the obligation for children to wear masks and to keep apart is psychologically, physically and educationally damaging and disruptive to their psychosocial development, without any significant benefit to them or to third parties. He also questioned the effectiveness of the tests used, referring to the expert report of the Robert Koch Institute. The court further opined that blanket testing of symptomless students cannot be mandated because it is disproportionate given its low effectiveness.

https://realitadne.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2_5445286698965535461-1.pdf

13. Interesting article analysing various studies showing that children are not significant spreaders of coronavirus infection.

https://www.prolekare.cz/covid-19/jsou-deti-vyznamnymi-siriteli-koronavirove-infekce-nebo-se-jedna-o-mytus-126622?utm_campaign=section-70&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_source=vlastovka-51-6231