

Corona Weltweit

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Corona in Australien

John Klunder

I started to really worry about covid in early March and started keeping statistics from March 16.

On March 16, Australia had 401 cases, not many when set against a population of 26 million, but I was worried about the speed with which it was spreading. On March 17, we had 452 cases, an increase of nearly 13% in one day. The formula for compound interest applies here, so I used it to work out how many cases there would be in four weeks (April 14) if there was no change in the percentage increase. The answer was more than 13.000 cases.

The government stepped in (finally) with restrictions on March 19, but the percentage increases kept going up and hit 27% per day on 22nd March. This would have produced more than 300.000 cases by April 14 if nothing changed. Over 1% of Australians would have had covid.

Fortunately, the restrictions had the intended effect and the percentage increase dropped to 1% after 3 weeks. The actual number of cases on April 14 was 6.400.

From 30 April to 14 July, the number of new cases fluctuated between 0 and 2 and we considered ourselves very lucky.

However:

There were many Australians overseas who wanted to return. Since some of them had covid, they were all required to stay in isolation in specially designated hotels. In one such hotel in Melbourne (in the state of Victoria), a security guard caught covid from a guest, went home and infected many others before anyone realized he had the disease.

Most of Victoria's cases (20.345) and deaths (819) come from this period.

Victoria closed down under very tight restrictions, has had no new cases for the last 29 days and has lifted restrictions.

Australia so far has had 28.000 cases and 907 deaths which shows that a single mistake in Melbourne can make a huge difference.

In South Australia, (population 2 million, capital: Adelaide), we have had 561 cases and 4 deaths, but we did have a big scare 10 days ago. A cleaner in an isolation hotel caught the virus and went to his second job in a pizza bar where he infected others. This should have been a simple contact tracing operation. However, another person who caught the virus claimed that he caught it from a pizza delivery from that shop. This terrified the contact tracers because you don't normally catch the disease from such a short transaction. Suspecting that they were dealing with a fast-transmitting

variety of the virus, the government shut the whole state down to let the contact tracers have the time to check it all out. Three days later the contact tracers found out that the person who claimed to have been infected from a pizza delivery actually worked at the shop but had lied because he was a visiting student without a working visa. The restrictions were lifted.

Has Australia been fortunate? Yes, we've had a much lesser problem than most of the world.

Was it due to skill? Probably not. We live on an island which means we have good control over people entering the country. We have huge distances: Melbourne is the nearest major city to Adelaide, but it is 800Km away. And most of us live in houses surrounded by gardens so that social distancing is part of the way we live. All of these naturally slow the spread of the virus.

But, in a country which routinely faces fires, floods, droughts and other natural disasters, we listen to our governments.

Jane Anderson

In the middle of March when the Chief Medical Officer in South Australia became alarmed at the growing number of cases, she directed the government to shut the state down, except for ,essential businesses (groceries, petrol stations, alcohol drive through, and DIY (do it yourself) home improvement places). Restaurants & bars were closed, but take away food places were allowed to operate. Business people learned how to work from home and do Zoom conferences. Schools were closed for one week before the regular 2 week autumn break, to give teachers time to prepare for teaching on line. Places of worship were closed but soon learned how to do ,Zoom' worship. Gyms and playgrounds were closed, but South Australians were allowed to go outside and exercise. Mask wearing was not required. Panic buying hit the grocery stores in the few days prior to lockdown. Toilet paper and hand sanitizer were impossible to find!

The lockdown included not allowing persons from other states to come in to SA. It worked well to slow the spread and schools in SA opened for 2nd term on time. People at home were busy doing home renovations and de-cluttering. Hard ware store sales were booming. Second hand shops (closed) were overwhelmed with the number of bags that were dropped off at the front doors, so the stuff was just stuffed inside as no one could go to work. Even after op shops opened, the goods were quarantined for a week before putting out for sale. Many restrictions were lifted in mid June: shops, gyms, churches, and restaurants could open, but all had to do a „COVID SAFE“ plan first. The 1.5 metre social distancing rule stayed in place, a limit on the number of persons in an enclosed space, no hand shaking or hugging. So from July to October, life in South Australia was fairly smooth as people followed the guidelines.

Then, early November the virus escaped from a quarantine hotel where returning Australians were being kept and tested. 14 people in one family tested positive, plus a person who said he got the virus from buying a pizza. The state went into immediate and severe lockdown for 6 days. Restaurants were most disadvantaged as they had to throw away perishable stock. Other states closed their borders to us, and persons who were already in Western Australia or Northern Territory were put into self isolation for 2 weeks. In 3 days the lockdown was relaxed, because it was discovered that the guy lied about how he caught the virus. Now at the end of Nov, we are still worried about the spread, although as of today, only 35 positive cases with 5000 persons in self isolation and testing over 10.000 people a day.

The Saga Continues!!! Who knows what December will bring?

Corona in Chile

Omora Sieber

Seit Anfang März der erste COVID Fall von der Regierung bestätigt wurde, hat sich Chile sehr verändert. In der Hauptstadt, Santiago, gingen die ersten Gemeinden am 26. März in totale Quarantäne, es folgte eine landesweite nächtliche Ausgangssperre, Maskenpflicht und die Schließung der Grenzen. Nun konnte man nur mit einer offiziellen polizeilichen Erlaubnis aus dem Haus gehen. Außerhalb des Hauses konnte man aber auch nicht viel machen, denn Restaurants, Kinos, Clubs, Schulen usw. waren alle geschlossen. Man begann von Zuhause aus zu arbeiten und man begann mit der Onlineschule.

Trotz diesen scheinbar radikalen Maßnahmen wurde die Anzahl der Fälle aber nicht kleiner. Für viele Menschen war es unmöglich von Zuhause aus zu arbeiten und sie mussten sich immer noch jeden Tag in vollen Bussen zur Arbeit begeben. Die Fälle stiegen bis etwa Mitte Juni (ca. 7000 Fälle/Tag) rasant an. Die Krankenhäuser waren überfüllt und es gab nur knapp genügend Beatmungsgeräte, aber dann begann die Zahl der Fälle langsam zu sinken.

Jetzt im November gibt es täglich etwa 1500 neue Fälle und es gibt noch keine Anzeichen einer zweiten Welle. Die Grenzen wurden am 23. wieder geöffnet und verschiedene Gemeinden in und außerhalb der Hauptstadt, lockern langsam ihre Sicherheitsmaßnahmen. Mittlerweile dürfen in vielen Orten Restaurants wieder öffnen und die ersten Schulen (nur Privatschulen) versuchen es wieder mit normalem Unterricht. Obwohl die Situation von Region zu Region variiert, kann man allgemein behaupten, dass sich Chile langsam und vorsichtig wieder öffnet. Die Ausgangssperre beginnt immer später und man kann in vielen Orten auch wieder ohne Erlaubnis aus dem Haus. Hoffentlich verbessert sich die Situation weiter und hoffentlich bedeutet die Lockerung der Maßnahmen keine zweite Ansteckungswelle, bis jetzt jedenfalls noch nicht.

Corona in San Diego (USA)

A Friday in March 2020 the office I work at closed. The plan was to work from home for 3 weeks and then come back. As I went home that Friday afternoon I got a call from the school district informing me that all schools were also closing for 3 weeks.

Now it has been over 8 months and my office is still closed and so are middle and high schools. Elementary schools opened in October but only part time. All kids are required to wear masks in school. As for the older students they study from home, online.

We are all required to wear masks when outside of our homes and keep 6 feet away from other people. Restaurants are take-out only and stores can only let in 25% of capacity. There are no soccer games, no movie theaters and no gyms.

Covid has slowed our lives down and sometimes I feel isolated. We have not been able to visit out of town friends or family since March. Even though I miss my coworkers and my relatives everything is not negative, we spend more time outside, have more family time and do more cooking at home!

Corona in Washington, D.C. (USA)

Tracy Johnke

One Friday in March, my boss suggested that I try to work from home on the following Monday. We knew that coronavirus restrictions were coming, but not when. I thought I would return on Tuesday

so I left my raincoat at work. It had turned into a warm sunny day and I didn't feel like lugging it home on the bus.

My raincoat is still in my office. I haven't been back there since, and it has been that way for thousands of office workers and school kids in Washington, DC since March 13th. My son spent the last two months of sixth grade in remote learning. Seventh grade has continued in the same way, with no end in sight. The eighth graders at my son's school usually travel to France, Spain or China for two weeks in the spring depending on the language they are learning. The class did not get to do that this year, and the trips will likely be canceled next year. Students are missing out on graduation ceremonies and other rites of passage, too.

Older students this year, however, have participated in another rite of passage – as protesters and protest leaders in the Black Lives Matter movement. The death of George Floyd in police custody in late May spurred protests across the U.S. two weeks later. Soon, there were protests in DC on a daily basis. Since the DC school year ended early due to the pandemic, high school students had a lot of time to organize, to show up, and to lend their voices to the protests. Young and mostly Black people have risen to the occasion.

My family is among the lucky ones. We are able to work and learn at home when many are not. We have been healthy. We enjoy spending more time together, and that is a good thing, since we are three people in a small two-bedroom apartment. We take long walks and have explored everything in our neighborhood and the surrounding area. One thing we discovered is that the highest natural point in DC is a ten-minute walk away!

Corona in Kinshasa (Demokratische Republik Kongo)

Einstein KABWIKI MUBIKAJI

Ich heiße Einstein KABWIKI MUBIKAJI. Ich bin am 22. Februar 2009 geboren und heute 11 Jahre alt. Ich bin Schüler der 7. Klasse am Moseigneur-Moke-Schulzentrum in Kinshasa. Wir sind zu 50st im Klassenzimmer, davon 22 Mädchen und 28 Jungen.

Coronavirus, warum hast Du den Schulalltag verändert? Wann kehren wir zum schönen Schulalltag zurück, wo wir mit unseren Freunden lauthals lachen können? Wann dürfen wir unsere Freunde beim Spiel in den Pausen wieder berühren?

Das weiß nur Gott allein! Denn heute ist unser Mund verhüllt wie bei den Ninja wegen der obligatorischen Maske und die Pausenaufsicht verbietet jedes Spiel, das nicht das Abstandhalten fördert.

Im März 2020 hatte uns das Coronavirus sehr lange Schulferien von über 5 Monaten Dauer aufgezwungen! Liebe Freunde, in dieser langen Zeit sollten uns die Mediziner ein Medikament gefunden haben, aber ich musste einsehen, dass COVID-19 stärker war und uns weiter zwingt, unter diesen Umständen zu lernen: Verpflichtendes Maskentragen, Abstandhalten und dauerndes Händewaschen, auch wenn diese gar nicht wieder schmutzig sind.

Liebe Freunde, während ich auf die Hilfe Gottes durch die Hand der Mediziner warte, ermutige ich uns alle, die Abstandsregeln einzuhalten, um Ansteckung zu vermeiden und ich danke Gott, dass er meine Angehörigen und mich davor bewahrt hat, krank zu werden.

Delicia EGBOKI SAWANA

Ich heiße Delicia EGBOKI SAWANA und bin Schülerin am Mpiko-Gymnasium in Kinshasa, wo ich in der 7. Klasse bin. Ich bin 11 Jahre alt und werde im Mai 2021 12 Jahre alt.

Seit der Ankunft des Virus in Kinshasa ist mein Schulalltag seltsam geworden. Vor dem Betreten der Schule muss man die Maske aufsetzen, sonst wird man gejagt und jeder muss unbedingt sein eigenes Desinfektionsmittel in der Schultasche haben. Das wird direkt am Eingang kontrolliert.

In den Klassenzimmern darf man sich wegen COVID-19 nicht mehr berühren. Wir müssen einen Meter Abstand voneinander halten, um zu verhindern, dass wir eine schlechte Note in Betragen bekommen. In den Pausen spielen wir nicht mehr außerhalb unseres Klassenzimmers.

Vor dem Ausbruch von COVID gab es keine Einlasskontrollen an der Schule, wir gaben uns die Hand zur Begrüßung und wir teilten unsere Schulsachen (Stifte, Radiergummis, Tintenkiller). Beim Sport (Gymnastik) haben wir uns berührt und an den Händen gehalten und die Kontakte untereinander waren nicht verboten.

Auch zuhause gibt es Vorsichtsmaßnahmen meiner Eltern: Wenn unsere Haushaltshilfe morgens kommt, wäscht sie sich die Hände und wechselt ihre Maske, und wenn wir selbst von der Schule kommen, lassen wir unsere Schuhe direkt hinter der Haustüre stehen und legen unsere Schuluniformen ins Badezimmer, damit sie direkt gewaschen werden und wir selbst waschen uns auch sofort. Was sehr traurig ist, ist, dass meine Eltern alle Verwandtenbesuche verboten haben: Seit März 2020 besuchen wir meine Tanten, Cousins und Cousins nicht mehr. Die Geburtstage feiern wir alleine bei uns zuhause. Zu Besuch kommt nur noch mein Großvater väterlicherseits, der sich mit Papa im Wohnzimmer unterhält, aber seine Frau solange im Auto warten lässt. Auch Mamas Mutter kommt manchmal, aber sie umarmt uns nicht mehr wie früher immer. Alle anderen Besucher empfangen meine Eltern nur noch an der Haustür.

Die große Hoffnung ist, dass schnell eine Impfung oder ein Medikament gefunden wird, das diese Krankheit bekämpft, das würde dafür sorgen, dass es nicht überall diese Verbote gibt. Vor allem, weil ich, mein Bruder und meine Schwester im Juni 2021 unsere Erstkommunion haben sollen und die Gefahr besteht, dass das Fest nicht stattfinden wird. Wir könnten keine Freunde und keine Verwandten einladen. So hat Corona unser Leben verändert.

Corona in Brasilien

Ana Julia Evangelista Marrocos de Aragao

Die Kinder gehen teilweise in die Schule aber die meisten machen noch online Schule. Fortaleza ist die Hauptstadt von Ceara. In Brasilien war gerade Wahl, deshalb sind die Maßnahmen noch nicht so

streng. Fortaleza ist sehr belebt. Die Wahl lief ganz ruhig: wir gingen (mit Maske) in eine Schule und warteten an der Schlange. Dann gingen wir in einen Klassenzimmer und mein Bruder und ich warteten an zwei Tischen. Mein Onkel wählte an einer Maschine und dann gingen wir wieder nach Hause.

Die Maßnahmen sind folgende:

- Wir müssen Maske außerhalb des Hauses tragen
- 1,5 Meter Abstand halten
- Maske im Auto tragen
- Desinfizierungsmittel 70% benutzen.
- Die Läden haben immer noch offen und ich hoffe dass es noch so lange bleibt.
- Es sieht eigentlich gar nicht so aus als ob Brasilien mehr Fälle hat als Deutschland.
- Für alle war das COVID-19 blöd, langsam gewöhnen sie sich auch dran. Aber wir alle hoffen das es wieder weg ist.

Corona in Schweden

anonymer Autor

The schools for kids from 16 years are closed (homeschooling).
Some service homes for elders do not allow any visitors.

Gatherings are regulated by law (ordningslagen) with a monetary penalty or up to 6 month prison for those who organizes such gatherings: Max 8 persons gatherings allowed (does not apply for private gatherings), both indoor and outdoor.

Ica (like Edeka) have a red light sign showing if the max capacity is already reached and you are not yet allowed to enter.

Due to one of the 4 „basic“ laws in Sweden (grundgesetz), it is difficult to control/forbid peoples movement (consider the Allemansrätt in Sweden). The government can ask the swedish people to take responsibility and follow all recommendations:

You should only socialize with the persons living in the same house. If you are living alone, you are „allowed“ to meet with someone you are usually meeting with.

Work from home if possible.

If someone in your family is positive, the whole family should stay at home.

It is based on solidarity and each persons responsibility.

We stopped going to the gym already in the spring, now they are closed. We only meet with a few people and always outdoors, we always bring our own „fika“ (coffee). We are missing our children and grandchildren very much. Our church closed directly (in the spring) and all meetings are online. Services are broadcasted over YouTube or Facebook. We are now planning to meet for a coffee over zoom.

More and more people are shopping online, the shops are doing worse and worse or even bankruptcy... Doing your grocery shopping online (homedelivery or picking up outside the store) is increasing a lot! We are not going by bus, only by bike or walking. Only a few are wearing a mask. In the hospitals and in the preschool (0 -5) no one is touching anyone else.

Public gatherings and events have a maximum of 8 participants. The police is allowed to cancel or disband a public gathering/event with more than 8 participants. Anyone who organises an event that violates the ban can face a fine or prison sentence of a maximum of six months. An exception is made for funerals, where a maximum of 20 participants is allowed.

There is a ban on non-essential travel to Sweden from countries outside the EU in order to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus.

In church we have a small team of technicians of max 3 persons. A team of max 8 to make the service + music. We are disinfecting everything anyone used or touched. There are hand sanitizers at several places in church...

We are ok, we have each other and the possibility to be outside. A nice home and mostly nice food ;-). However, many are feeling isolated, the numbers of mental illness as well as unemployment are increasing.

For more information, if you are interested (both websites are in english):

<https://www.krisinformation.se/en/hazards-and-risks/disasters-and-incidents/2020/official-information-on-the-new-coronavirus/restriktioner-och-forbud>

<https://www.government.se/articles/2020/04/strategy-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>