

BONUS

COVID-19 Effects on Food & Vulnerability

Many Ways to Home

Changing the Face of Our Community,
Our Role, Our Response

Discussion

Research Matters: Read, Listen,
& Watch to Find Out More

2020 has been a historically chaotic year. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your daily life since then?

At a Glance

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Food Security: Definition

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life

(World Food Summit, 1996)

[Policy Brief: Food Security](#)

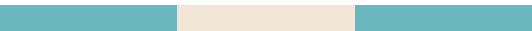
COVID-19 Origins

Originated: believed to have originated in bats or pangolins

Where: Wuhan, China

When: reports began December 2019

[\(Kandola, 2020\)](#)



The novel coronavirus began with a panic

- People began getting **seriously ill**, and in some cases dying, all around the world
- **Panic buying**
 - ◆ toilet paper, yeast, hand sanitizer, Lysol wipes etc.
- **Discrimination** and **racism** against people of East Asian descent

Then countries began to restrict movement

- People were encouraged to **self isolate**
- Crowd sizes were restricted, **social distancing** encouraged
- **Businesses closed**
 - ◆ including restaurants, hairdressers, clothing stores, etc.
- **Workers lost their jobs**
- **Schools shut down**
- Those who got to continue working were either deemed “**essential workers**” or were able to work from home
- **Borders closed** between countries for travelers, only trade routes and essential travel remain open
- **Farmers struggle to find labourers**
 - ◆ as border movement is restricted and people are encouraged to go back to the country they hold citizenship

Then people began to adapt their daily life

- Working from home and communicating via an app no one had previously heard of '**Zoom**'
- There is a push for restaurants and other businesses to offer **delivery** and have a **web presence**
- Many businesses get resourceful, selling **hand sanitizer** and **masks** to try **afford the rent**
- There is a change in consumption
 - ◆ people are beginning to **eat more at home**
- People get creative to pass the time
- People struggle to afford **food**, the looming **rent**, and **avoid evictions**
- Businesses open back up with **capacity requirements**, **social distancing markers**, **cleaning**, and/or **mask requirements**
- **Schools begin again** virtually at first, then in person again (with new restrictions)

Food Insecurity: Statistics

- **1/8 households** across Canada experience food insecurity
 - That's **4.4 million people**, more than ever recorded for Canada ([Jackson, 2020](#))
- The U.N. World Food program warned that **130 million** more people could face acute food insecurity, on top of **135 million** who were previously experiencing acute food insecurity ([Preneuf, 2020](#))
 - ‘Newly Food Insecure’ ([Niles, 2020](#))
- **17% of Canadian children** under the age of 18 are now experiencing food insecurity ([Jackson, 2020](#))

Food Insecurity

- Restrictions on product movement and trade means those in poor and rural areas have **less access to the markets** [\(Di Caro, 2020\)](#)
- Many countries are experiencing **food price inflation**, due to measures taken to combat the spread [\(Preneuf, 2020\)](#)
- **Outbreaks** at food centers
 - [Fraser Health declares COVID-19 outbreak at Abbotsford fruit processing plant](#)
 - [Coronavirus: Why have there been so many outbreaks in meat processing plants?](#)
- **Food hoarding** and a **decline in donations** makes it difficult for food banks and other charities [\(Hopes, 2020\)](#)

Learn More: [COVID-19 pandemic - impact on food and agriculture](#), [Food supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Disproportionately Affects Vulnerable People

Previous discrimination: in health care, housing, education, criminal justice, and finance sectors translate to an increased risk of COVID-19

Racial and ethnic minority groups: essential workers at greater risk (healthcare, farms, factories, grocery stores and transportation)

Education inequalities: means lower paying, or less stable jobs, can't afford to miss work, at risk of eviction

[\(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020\)](#)

Vulnerable People: The Homeless

Homeless populations are greatly at risk: preexisting health conditions, no home to quarantine, difficulty of social distancing, staying clean, washing hands, and other high risks; worry that it will pass to other people in the shelters and spread ([Perri, 2020](#))

Increase of overdoses: 5 months with 100+ overdose deaths, “pandemic has led to more people using and dying alone,” 93% increase of indigenous people dying of illicit overdose. Border closures disrupted flow of fentanyl mean it is replaced by locally produced substances ([Schmunk, 2020](#))

Food Systems Affected: 2020

COVID-19 combined with ongoing civil conflicts, hotter/drier weather, and a locusts invasion in Africa and the Middle East, could cut off food access for millions [\(Jordan, 2020\)](#)

- Labour Shortages
- Reduced import of foods
- Civil conflicts
- Global Warming
- Heightened storm season (natural disasters)

A natural disaster does not eliminate the danger of a pandemic

[\(Wei-haas, 2020\)](#)

Innovative Solutions

Online Shopping

[How grocery shopping online could help close equity gaps](#)

[Food4All : Built for farmers, ranchers and food artisans](#)

Using Robots to Reduce Food Waste

[50% of food grown globally is wasted. Can AI fix it?](#)

Access and Connections to Food Systems

Community Food Sharing Apps

[092 Food Security + Olio \[podcast\]](#)

[Olio \[website\]](#)

Farmers Market Food Delivery

[It's like Uber, but for farmers' markets](#)

Resources

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Resources

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