Commitee: JR UNICEF

State: Canada

Agenda Item:

The Effects of COVID-19 on Children

It is an undeniable fact that COVID-19 has become one of the biggest parts our lives. During the past years we all had to deal with serious situations such as mental health, lack of sociability and education problems aside from all the other medical issues. It needs to be mentioned that although adults were able to adapt much quickly to the circumstances, children were not capable of getting accustomed to this new environment. For instance, many children were having difficulty enforcing new measures such as social distancing and the use of masks. Especially in younger age groups, the lack of communication caused by lockdown was one of the biggest problems. Although solutions such as online education were introduced, we cannot deny the fact that this new system was far more remote and difficult to access than what our children were used to. Even though we have made much more progress during this period, we still see the effects of the pandemic on children. As the delegation of Canada, we are trying to support our children as much as possible during this process while taking the necessary measures. For example, we have developed contingency plans as risk fluctuates for each province and territory. Adhering to provincial and local risk levels, parents of elementary school were given the option to have their child learn in person or virtually, while a blended learning model was also offered for secondary education.