



Resumption of schools after closure

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After months of speculations on a new disease that had broken out in China and most of Europe, the worst happened in Zambia. We recorded our first case of the Coronavirus. Having heard experts and the ravaging impact of the disease in most parts of the world, the government closed all schools, most businesses and churches after one case was recorded in Zambia in March. Chalo Trust School, and all other private institutions followed suit and the KF office was closed too for safety reasons.

After staying home for nearly three months and taking difficult online classes, the government announced that schools could open for exam grades only. However, the rest of the students would stay home and continue learning online from state television channels or school provided lessons. Schools resumed this September for all the other grades though I must say it is different. We are expected to mask up and observe social distancing, harboring many activities. Despite the need to stay close to friends and family, I believe this is key to avoiding a break out of the pandemic in school. We have so far had no positive cases and continue to enjoy physical classes.

Popular opinion among the less educated local community members is that the virus is for the rich. This made me fear for my life most of the times while at home because most people were not wearing masks. However, I ensured that I wore face covering all the time when in public. Because I am back in school, I feel safer here because everyone knows the extent to which this disease can weaken you and kill you.

After struggling with my social life at home and adjusting to being at school once again, I have learned to be open minded and adapt to new changes faster. This year may have been challenging, but surely it has built my emotional and psychological capacity to be open minded.