Lunch Force

Quranteam/ Team 23
Sana Elaloosy, Allison Gingold, John Hubert, Aalayah Gaona, Michael Corona
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What is Covid-19? How is it affecting the school atmosphere?

- Covid-19, also known as coronavirus, is a highly infectious respiratory virus that has spread nearly all around the globe and evolved into a worldwide pandemic. Due to its high infection rate there had been many different suggestions in how to stop or prevent it. Covid-19 also has many different complications in that some people may spread the virus unknowingly, since they may be asymptomatic.

- Schools must be aware that students must be in a 6-8 ft radius from any teachers, faculty members, or other students. Since the virus, thus far, has been known to survive on surfaces, schools must ensure that they prepare for high levels of sanitation.

- It is also important that they are aware of the psychological effects that students may be going through due to these rough times.
School Cafeteria

- The school cafeteria is used by students and staff members.
- Interactions occur in this space between staff and students when students are getting food, and students interacting with other students when sitting with friends and communicating.
- The cafeteria is fairly big and gets crowded very easily due to students and staff eating and waiting in line.
- The challenge with social distancing is the crowds that form quickly while in line, people entering and exiting in groups, and the groups at tables sitting and eating.
- In the cafeteria spacing between tables and proper sanitation needs to be maintained in order to create a safe and healthy environment on the school campus where a lot of people interact and eat.
Solution

- Our creative design process was to ensure that all the factors necessary were thought of in order to gain the best results. A cafeteria is a very important area in a school and also a place where the most socializing and interactions happen. If this space can be modified to fulfill our needs of social distancing and sanitation then it would be extremely beneficial to schools. We had begun brainstorming ideas regarding sanitation, air quality, food prep, and distancing. Leading us into generating amazing ideas that would solve those problems, and from those great ideas we voted on the best.

- Every child would be assigned a seat by the faculty in which they would sit in everyday in the cafeteria. The seats would be labeled in numbers and/or letters, sectioned by grade level, and socially distant ensuring that none would not abide by the new regulations.

- Pre-packaged food is given to students in their classroom before lunch in order to avoid lunch lines all together.

- For lunch, grade levels would be split and send half to lunch and the others to advisory. Everyone will be assigned to go to a certain teacher. Freshmen and Juniors would go to the assigned teacher first and the others would go to lunch and then switch. Each would be 30 minute lunches.
What do people think about our solution?

“We also need to be mindful of the time it takes to hand out lunches. It takes time to sort and distribute the lunches, and if it has to be done in a timely fashion (such as the period before), we have to consider staffing (people who would be available during that period consistently and who are willing to take additional safety precautions to hand out everything in a safe manner for food consumption and being mindful of current health guidelines.”

“Now let’s assume that the human factor, cost, and space can be accommodated and we assign students to the desks. The more we follow the recommended guidelines by health officials, the less likely we are to get sick. The fewer people that touch the same desk over time means less of a chance to be exposed, and therefore less of a chance to get sick.”

- Dr. James Francis, Dean of Students
What do people think about our solution?

“It is great to hear from you and see you working on your passion at a higher level. Your proposal looks very good and well planned. My only question is how would you ensure the students sit in the assigned seats at lunch? You and I both know that is the one time they tend to do what they want to be with their friends.”

“That is my only feedback. Great job and best of luck”

- Dr. Chuck Balogh
Barriers to Design Implementation/Things to consider

- There wouldn’t be that big an extra cost. It’s just a matter of getting more supplies to sanitize the area and packaging equipment/ storage for the pre-packaged lunch food.
- Ensuring that all the sanitation equipment is available constantly. As well as packaging equipment, such as utensils and the schools choice of containers to give to the students. This way there is less contamination when getting food and utensils.
- The space is fairly large, and there are constantly several crowds and groups of people. This can quickly lead to the spread of Covid-19 if there's a lack of sanitation and precautions.
- Students would most likely not be wearing masks while being in the cafeteria, since they are eating.
How would our solution change the space?

- There would be more responsibility in maintaining the cleanliness of the space and ensuring that resources are available constantly. This way a school cafeteria is sanitized and becomes a safe environment for staff and students.
- Negatively, students would no longer be able to stand close to their friends or hang out as close as they were doing previous to Covid-19, but a more positive impact in the sense that students and faculty would be safe and less prone to the virus.
- The cafeteria will be a lot less of a social space where people can interact with friends and eat.
What did we learned as a team?

- We were successful when coming up with ideas.
- We had some unsuccessful ideas that helped us learn and come up with new ideas that were more helpful.
- We learned how to improve on our past ideas and how to work together in a group over zoom. We also learned how to generate problem solving and critical thinking in order to implement them into our project.
Citations

- https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf