

Hello,

My name is Shannon Nelson and I have two school aged children. My oldest is in 5th grade and his younger brother is in 4th grade. They're currently enrolled in Comprehensive Distance Learning through their elementary school. But, is assure you, it is far from Comprehensive.

In the beginning of the year we sent them full time, which was about 4 hours a day with a 2 hour break in the middle of the day. We discovered very early on that this schedule was difficult for them, especially with all of the technological challenges that come with CDL. My boys are, and always have been, good students who always receive praise from their teachers. But, they became detached, anxious, distracted and exhausted with school. So much so that we pulled them from half of their CDL day and worked with them ourselves.

On top of all of this, our boys have been stripped of ALL social activities and interaction with their peers. The damage this has caused my boys is heartbreaking, to say the least.

My oldest, 11, has suffered MULTIPLE anxiety attacks. The worst of his attacks "made his body feel like he didn't want to live anymore." FROM AN ELEVEN YEAR OLD. This is not something he's ever experienced, not once, until Covid Closures and CDL. Both of my boys are in therapy now and my 4th grader has even gained weight because he's not been able to play football, his favorite sport, or get much physical activity outside of playing on our street and at the park.

We've gone to great lengths to make sure our boys' mental, emotional and physical health are taken care of. We fear without schools reopening soon, there will be irreversible damage. We ask our lawmakers to reopen schools and require teachers to do their jobs and do what is best for students everywhere. I know the struggles, tears, anger and fear that we experience in our home is not unique. This is happening to kids everywhere and it is not fair that we are asking them to risk their health for the sake of the few that Covid-19 could hurt.

Schools everywhere have been open and are reopening safely. There is NO REASON we cannot do the same. To say we are frustrated is an understatement and I hope that I've relayed the intensity of the situation appropriately.

Thank you for your time,
Shannon Nelson - A very concerned parent