

COVID-19 , School Closings and Weight Gain

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Dear Editors,

We found the publication on “COVID-19 Related School Closings and Risk of Weight Gain Among Children” to be interesting.¹ Rundle et al. noted that “*we anticipate that the COVID-19 pandemic will likely double out-of-school time this year for many children in the U.S. and will exacerbate the risk factors for weight gain associated with summer recess.*”¹ In fact, there are several factors relating to nutritional status of the children. We would like to share observations from Thailand, the second country in the timeline of COVID-19.² In Thailand, school aged children in rural areas where COVID-19 disease outbreak exists are usually underweight.³ Thus, school closing means the children have to live with poor parents adding to economic problems of the family. If the school is not closed, children have access to free meals provided by governmental funds at schools. In Thailand and in other low income countries and even in regions of middle income countries, poorer childhood nutritional status might be the result of school closing related to COVID-19.

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Conflict of interest

None

References

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