

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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Title	SARS-COV-2 LOCK DOWN AT THE MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: FEARS AND COPING STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS AND THEIR EDUCATORS
Type	Oral Presentation <i>High-Quality Learning and Collaborations in the Health Workforce</i>
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Abstract N ^o	TUFH720
Content	<p>Background: WHO declared the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a global pandemic in March 2020. Following the announcement, the President of Uganda ordered a national lockdown to curb the spread of the virus. Mbarara University of Science and Technology was not exempt from this, and thus teaching and learning was affected. The study assessed the effect of the lockdown on medical and nursing students and educators during the lockdown. Methods: A cross-sectional mixed methods study was conducted. Students completed a survey online or via phone call, in-depth interviews with students and educators were carried out via phone call interviews with subsequent thematic analysis. Results: 253 students participated in the quantitative survey, 114 (45.06%) nursing, and 139 (54.94%) medical students. 96% of the respondents were Ugandan, male (59.3%), between 21 and 25 years old (72%) and, had access to internet during the lockdown (79.36%). Themes identified included, 1) perceived fears/distress related to program continuation, 2) lack of basic needs by learners, 3) time for other activities for the educators, 4) effects on career development, 5) perceived lack of personal protective equipment and SARS-CoV-2, and 6) preferences for online teaching and schools opening with COVID-19. Conclusion: Lack of communication with the university and uncertainty about when the university opening greatly contributed the learners' fears. Building better relationships and communication channels between learners and educators during such time could improve the learner-educator interactions. These findings are important in the vital needs of the students during the lockdown.</p>