

## **Covid-19 and social inequalities: participatory diagnosis of the COLUNI / UFF school community**

*By Luciana Santos Collier,  
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The coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has surprised the world since the beginning of 2020. Before the beginning of the pandemic, Brazil already faced situations of imbalance in its political, economic and social structure, which worsened during the period of social distance, deepening social inequalities. Such conjunctions reveal the complex relationship between social inequalities and health, with negative forecasts in the socioeconomic context of each country.

With regard to education, the urgency of bringing the school and the economically vulnerable population closer together, encouraged us to start a health education project, based on the participatory diagnosis of the health situation with the community of the University School from Federal Fluminense University (COLUNI / UFF). Based on the diagnosis, we will map the priority demands related to socioeconomic factors that impact the prevention, dissemination and control of the new coronavirus. In order to know and understand the demands of the community and support the development and implementation of health education actions, we started the project by applying a questionnaire to be answered by all families of students, teachers and school workers of COLUNI/UFF. In addition, we created a blog and social networks (Instagram and Facebook) to establish a communication channel with the community to disseminate updated and truthful information about the pandemic, as well as to publicize all the actions of the project and expand the dialogue with them.

The health education actions will meet the priority demands of the community, raised through the questionnaire and deepened through virtual meetings for debates with the participation of groups of students, parents, teachers and school staff. These meetings will be in the form of workshops in which will be collectively constructed educational activities that contribute to the solution of the health problems that most affect the community.

In this sense, the project is characterized by being a participatory research, with a focus on the participatory diagnosis strategy, which seeks to expand the participation of the COLUNI / UFF school community in discussions about the health and social vulnerability conditions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the project started to be developed in the beginning of August, we've just builded the blog and social networks <https://coluniecovid.wixsite.com/covidblog>. Nowadays we're collecting community information through questionnaires. After analyzing the collected data, we will proceed with the other actions of the project.

It is important to highlight that the project is being planned and organized by four students of elementary and high school from COLUNI/UFF and three students of the graduation in Social Work from UFF, under the guidance of a school teacher.

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