
Lessons for Leaders: What have we Learned from the Global Pandemic?

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19 June 2020

Lesson #1

Slow and informed is better than fast and ignorant. Evidence may not come as quickly as you would like, but leadership is often waiting prudently for the correct information rather than acting in haste on hunches, assumptions and half-truths.

Lesson #2

You learn lessons as a leader BOTH from times of great crisis AND from seemingly mundane day-to-day practices. Pay attention to how you lead through silence in addition to the moments of sound and fury—followers are aware of patterns in both. Are you?

Lesson #3

Crises expose inequity and inefficiency in organisations. This is in part because historic and ongoing unjust practices are amplified, and in part because crisis responses are incorrectly crafted on the idea that everyone is affected in the same way as the privileged.

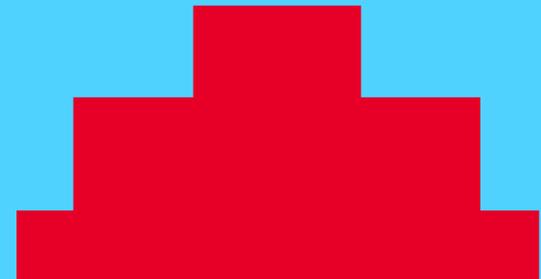
Lesson #4

A crisis makes it clear that leadership is first about supporting people's mental and physical health. This WILL NOT CHANGE post-C19--don't normalise hyper-productivity that demands suffering--welcome people back to a more compassionate organisation.



Lesson #5

C19 has affected every student, teacher, family and school differently. As you "re-open" create new systems and practices that put bespoke accommodations/tailored support co-developed with individuals in place rather than "one-size-fits-all" solutions.



Lesson #6

Student voice should be amplified rather than silenced. It is important for students and their concerns to be at the centre of education rather than at the margins. C19 reminds us that love, compassion and relationships are at the heart of leadership.

Lesson #7

Communication, Compassion and Collegiality are at the heart of leadership.

The prefix “co” means together—it is important to remember that leadership is best done with people rather than at them.



Lesson #8

Our ways of working, goals, and aims must be flexible, but always focused on an ambitious vision of excellence and equity. C19 has taught us that we need to be ready to bend, but not break. Organisations must be ready to be more agile so they can pivot to meet new needs.



Thank you

I appreciate your participation. Please address any questions or comments to jeffrey.brooks@rmit.edu.au

