

COVID – 19 Archive

Towards the beginning of the United States' 'new normal' when school became virtual, shops started to close, and sporting events were canceled, I came across an article about the country of Belarus. The image in the article contained the President of Belarus playing hockey in an amateur game where after the game, the President discussed how sports will continue to be played despite threats of COVID-19. Why put a halt on daily life and the thrill of sports for a virus that could infect someone whether or not sporting events were being played? As of April 14, 2020, sporting events continue to be played in Belarus, and while there are few fans in the stands, there are many fans viewing the sporting event via livestream.

Critical geopolitics encompasses an intellectual idea that influences political actions and the effects of that action on the people. It can be determined that while COVID-19 is being taken seriously by the Belarus government, the government's actions in fighting the spread of the disease is not the same as other countries. The continual rise in cases of COVID-19 has essentially shut-down nations; its power to spread exponentially has threatened countries around the world and led to 'stay at home' orders, especially in the United States. Belarus' government has not let COVID-19 completely threaten its' country as 'stay at home' orders are not in place. Sporting events have provided the citizens of Belarus a sense of normalcy and joy during this pandemic. There have been mixed responses to the continuation of sporting events in Belarus with some fans boycotting the in-person events, but it is unknown whether these same fans viewed the sporting event online. COVID-19 has taken control of life as we know it, but it is impossible to know the outcome of every response that could be taken by a country to counteract the virus; therefore, sports will continue in Belarus.