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**UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION DURING THE SEVERE  
ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONA VIRUS<sub>2</sub> OUTBREAK**

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**Abstract**

Due to the spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome, Coronavirus 2 (COVID-19), the start of a new university semester was delayed. Additionally, all lectures are being delivered remotely, as students are not allowed to visit campus until the end of the semester. Freshmen students, in particular, feel considerable anxiety about both their studies and health. In Japan, students study health science from preschool to elementary and secondary education. Therefore, this study aimed to identify any contribution of education on students' ability to cope with an emergency, such as the spread of COVID-19. If no contribution was found, we wanted to understand the reasons and what type of education should be provided at university. To this end, we administered a questionnaire to freshmen during the outbreak of COVID-19, and almost all students reported an insufficient study of infections before secondary education. Prior to COVID-19, students wanted to study longevity and nutrition. However, during the outbreak, students were concerned with COVID-19, as they could not recollect having studied infections until secondary education. Moreover, inconsistent information from the World Health Organization, governments, and the media has added to students' confusion. Our findings suggest that education at university should provide accurate information to students and promote their health literacy skills.

**Keywords:** Anxiety, COVID-19, Health science education, University students.

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