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### Life During A Pandemic

Covid-19 has changed the way humanity will live forever. The virus has led to people all over the world make changes in their daily lives that affect them in every single aspect of their life. Fall quarter 2019 was my first quarter at a four-year university, the University of California, Los Angeles, in which I entered my junior year of college due to me going to community college for my first two years. I transferred to UCLA from a community college and the change was extreme for me even though home for me was less than an hour away. The Covid-19 virus spread extremely quickly and in a short amount of time in which it became a global pandemic that would cause hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions becoming sick. The effects of the virus will last for many years to come but the short-term impact that it has on people is a lot worse than what may come in the future due to Covid-19. The pandemic has caused people all around the world to lose jobs, money, friends, family, and many other things. For myself, I have only been able to experience what UCLA is like for two quarters with some of the most amazing people which I miss dearly. Since the spread of Covid-19, my life has changed in many negative ways but there are also some positive ways it has changed, Covid-19 is not the first pandemic to occur and with that we can look to the past to see how similar or different it is from past pandemics.

UCLA has been my dream school since I was a young boy. Out of high school I did not get into UCLA, but I knew that's where I always wanted to go so, I decided to do two years at community college and hopefully get admitted. The day I got admitted to UCLA was one of the happiest days in my life, my dream of attending UCLA would be coming true. I decided to live in the transfer dorms in order to meet new people and make new friends since I did not know many people at the school. I made some of my closest friends through living in the dorms, as well as through other clubs that I joined. Living in the dorms was definitely an experience I will never forget even though my time in the dorms was cut short because of Covid-19. Once Covid-19 began to become a worldwide pandemic and the school had decided to shut down for the time being, I became really sad for several weeks because of all the different things that I was going to miss out on that I may never experience as a transfer student. I figured out that I am going to miss out on making memories with friends, many different events that go on during the spring quarter that the school puts together, as well as other events through clubs, and possibly miss out on an internship. The university had moved everything online which meant that people were going home and would not see each other in person for a long time and this really affected me. I am a people person, so I love being with people and my friends so not being with my friends and making new memories saddened me very much. Talking on the phone or through video chat is simply not the same and so it makes social life very tough. I had only been at UCLA for two full quarters and with that I felt I had made some of the most amazing memories with some of the most amazing people in the world. Having to say goodbye to friends when we were all leaving to go home was extremely tough because even though I have only known these friends for a short period of time, I felt that like I have known them my entire life and so it was tough to say goodbye. Moving out of the dorm and going home meant that I would not be making memories

with new friends, but I would be going back home and be with my family for more time which I had done extensively throughout my time at community college.

To me, family is one of the most important things in life. I truly enjoy being home and with my family, and we are a very close family too. When everything began to close down due to Covid-19, my grandmother came to live with my family so that she would not be alone for an extended period of time and so she would not have to go out of the house due to her old age. Having my grandmother at our house means that we have to be extra careful with everything that we do outside of our house, we have to make sure that we are always wearing a mask and gloves when we leave the house to go anywhere so that we avoid getting the virus ourselves and then possibly transmitting it to my grandmother. It is very nice having my grandma at our house for the time being because she is an extremely talented chef and baker so she is always cooking and making us delicious food that we would not have had if she were not with us. In order for us to bring anything into the house from a market or bring anything else into the house, we first have to disinfect it with different cleaning supplies as well as wash any foods that we bring into the house so that we minimize the chances of someone getting infected. This process of disinfecting anything that we bring into the house is very time consuming and requires us to make sure that we have enough disinfectant in our house which is something that is very tough to find currently with everyone needing it. Being able to spend time with my grandma now is very nice because she is getting older and she might not have much time left and so even though we have to be extremely careful with what we do it is worth being able to be with her. Being home with my entire family being home due to stay at home orders, we have been getting closer with one another as the days go by. Before Covid-19, my family was very close with one another and

now since we are all home with our busy lives put on pause, we have gotten even closer than ever.

Covid-19 has impacted and affected my father's work tremendously, there has been extreme loss of revenue as well as loss of workers due to them not wanting to be exposed to the virus. My dad owns his business which is a tree service company so the employees do not go in people's home but there are many employees and if one gets the virus then they all get it so they all have to make sure that they take the proper safety measures which my father enforces. With unemployment being extremely high, many people do not have income coming in and so they do not spend their money on things that are not necessary to live. Tree work can be something that can wait unless it is an absolute emergency and the tree fell down but what cannot wait is making sure that you have enough food, water, and shelter to make sure that you stay alive. Since tree work is not something for people to spend money on right now work for my father is very limited so he spends lots of time at home with us. Due to work being slow for my father and my mother is currently not working, we have become very strict about what we spend our money on. With Covid-19, the economy has drastically declined with millions no longer working and with that comes the fact that people need to save their money and spend it on things that are necessities and not things that will not help them survive.

Pandemics have happened in the history of the world which some can be compared to Covid-19. The Spanish Flu is a pandemic that is very similar to Covid-19. Just like Covid-19, the Spanish Flu at the time that it began to spread did not have any type of vaccine or any drugs to not get infected. The two pandemics can be compared in the sense of how much damage they did to global economies as well as to the individual. In both instances, businesses had to shut down for long periods of time and the loss of revenue became an issue since businesses need money to

pay people for supplies, rent, and wages. Another issue that many businesses faced during both pandemics was the fact that many employees of businesses were getting sick and some even were dying which meant that they did not have the proper workforce to keep their businesses profitable. There are many different aspects of both the Spanish Flu and Covid-19 that can be looked at and seen as almost exact similarities until the same point which can make people wonder if looking to the future there will be the same affect for Covid-19 like there was with the Spanish Flu. With the Spanish Flu, there was a second wave even more deadly when flu season got closer as well as colder weather and so people may wonder if that may happen with Covid-19. Pandemics are things that occur throughout history which are not pleasant in any way for anyone because of the uncertainty that comes with it as well as the different effects it has on the world and more importantly on the individual.

Covid-19 has brought many negative things to my life but there were also some positives to it no matter how bad the negatives were. Being able to attend UCLA and have a real college experience was a dream come true for me, but that dream was cut short due to Covid-19. The UCLA campus is closed and with that many other things were forced to shut down in order to try and limit the amount of people that can get exposed to the virus. With everything shutting down, I went home in order to be with my family and minimalizing the ways for me to possibly get infected. Being home is always fun but when I had been home due to me going to community college, I wanted to get away and just have fun with some of my closest friends who I just met at the beginning of this year but made so many amazing memories with. Since I will not be with friends for the rest of the year and thinking about how most likely things will not return to normal in the fall, it makes me sad to know that I will be missing out on so much. Even home life has changed due to the pandemic, it requires us to be very careful with what we do outside of

the house, who we interact with, and what we bring into the house. Covid-19 is a pandemic that has affected millions in many different aspects of life, and it is not the first pandemic to do so, there have been pandemics throughout history that have had very similar impacts. Covid-19 has changed the way that people will live their lives for many years unless a vaccine will be found for it soon.