

Alexander Alvarez

History 129

Kaleb Adney

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### Covid-19 and Its Effects On My Life.

COVID-19 has been tremendous for everyone. It has definitely affected my life in a way I never thought would happen. At least not in my lifetime. It has also affected my family in ways as well. Along with that, It has also altered with school and everyday life. It feels like that world has a new reality that we are transitioning into. Not only has this affected myself and my family, but it has affected my community and its dynamic as well. We are currently living through a historic moment and luckily I can document my experience of COVID-19.

This pandemic has meant a lot of things for me specifically. It has meant a change in the way we normally go about our day. We are used to waking up and rushing out of the house to get to where we need to be on time. Most of the time we forget something but now it's usually a mask that some forgot because some still haven't remembered we always need one. Other actions such as telling someone "Good Morning" are not said with a visible smile either. Physical distance is also something many people have learned which is not such a bad thing in my opinion. Giving people their space is a good thing in my opinion, but now that there is a threat of a virus it makes it difficult to appreciate the new physical distance we experience. One thing that I have noticed and am really appreciative of is the fact that people are now using their lawns and porches. Prior to COVID-19, people rarely sat at their porches or had fun on the lawn, but I've noticed many families hanging out on their lawn, including my own. Also, when we are out, we really appreciate going to the market or going to the gas station to put gas, because we can go out

and enjoy the streets at least. Very small tasks that were tedious before are now things that i really look forward to. This just shows how much things have changed for the world.

Another thing that has hit my family pretty bad is not being able to be around grandparents comfortably. I have a pretty big family and we live on the same street, so i am accustomed to simply walking into my grandparents house, giving them a hug and hanging out. It is different now as I can't really greet my family the way I normally would. Not only that but interacting with them has changed as well. We keep a larger distance between us as well, as I fear getting my grandparents or anyone in their house sick. Another thing is the fear of getting anyone in my family sick. My family has a history of medical problems that makes them prone to being seriously ill by COVID-19 which is also worrisome as well. So there is always a fear in the back of my head that I will get someone sick or they will contract the virus themselves somehow. I try not to worry but it is difficult to not, especially when places are opening up. I think that they should keep things closed up for a longer amount of time just to be sure. We are all people before we are consumers and our health is more important than making or spending a buck. So to me I think that we should stay locked down for at most two more months of self quarantine and only allow essential workers. The public will be safer and the doctors won't have a higher possibility of seeing more waves come after the first one so in a way it helps the medical workers as well. Also, I'd like to give a huge "THANK YOU!" to all of the medical and essential workers of yesterday, today, tomorrow, and the future. They have made such a significant impact on the world with their work and they deserve a lot more than a "thank you".

COVID-19 has also changed the dynamic on how people see certain jobs and workers. Prior to the virus, I heard and witnessed many people talk down on certain kind of jobs such as grocery store workers, garbage men, construction, janitorial work, chefs, and fast food workers.

COVID-19 has changed a lot of what people say about these jobs now. I rarely hear people talk down on this kind of work and I'm very happy that something positive has come out of this experience the world is going through. The world is finally seeing how essential all workers are and without them, the world wouldn't run, so i'm very glad that the population is appreciating the work that would unfortunately go unnoticed by many people. It is really disappointing to hear how bad the politicians want to reopen the economy. As stated before, we are people before we are consumers, so to know that politicians are struggling with even making the correct decision is very annoying, and it really shows where a lot of politicians interests are at. Luckily this is also an awakening to many people and they are realizing that the people in power do not represent us, but instead represent wealth and the “importance” of it. It sucks that it took this long for many to realize this but nevertheless, i'm glad it was sooner rather than later.

Work is something that is of a debate for all of us these days. We want to work and get a paycheck but we also do not want to contract the virus, especially if we have family that have preexisting conditions. Decisions like those are also being made during these times as well. Those decisions bring on different kinds of stressors, such as how one is going to feed their family, pay rent if landlords are asking, and many other expenses that come along with subsistence. I do not understand why the federal or state governments have not canceled or pushed rents or mortgages back. If they allow this decision to be kept up to the and lords the stimulus checks will be going directly to rent so i do hope that the federal or state governments use their power and take action and stop the payment of rents and mortgages at least for the time being. It seems that they tend to forget people have other worries such as eating, feeding your family, and protecting yourself against a virus than paying your rent. I see my community plagued with homelessness so it hurts to see individuals not have any proper protections against

COVID-19. Luckily I have seen a few mutual aid organizations helping out those without homes with what looked like food. My community is famous for Mariachis. Most are always hanging at Mariachi Plaza in Boyle Heights so I've seen mutual aid organizations helping them make ends meet, as they cannot be hired to play for gatherings or parties during these times.

One thing that is becoming a major topic of discussion is mental health during this crisis. Many mental health hotlines are being flooded with calls, along with abuse hotlines. This is yet another crisis we are struggling with. On top of being stressed from COVID-19, our mental health is taking strain as well, as we are home most of the time and we are not supposed to be going out so we can't really see friends or socialize like we used to. This can and does affect people in different ways and it has affected myself and others that I know as well. I am very fortunate to have MediCal so i can get help and speak to someone, but many do not have health insurance, or a plan that covers mental health as well, so we definitely have a mental health crisis as well. This pandemic is showing the need for Universal Health Care and how much we would benefit from it considering how many millions of people have lost their jobs and no longer have health coverage due to production being halted. This pandemic has been a wake up call for many governments and many citizens throughout the world. Not only have many governments mismanaged this virus but they continue to do so. It seems like history comes in waves instead of repeating itself. It isn't necessarily that it is repeated but it instead comes in different times and we continue to make the same mistakes. It seems like many governments throughout the world have yet to learn from the mistakes of the 1918 flu pandemic. Hopefully the situation will be controlled very soon because it would be very unfortunate to lose even more lives.

Just like it has been for everyone else, I find myself very bored. Aside from school work and reading, you have to keep yourself busy all of the time. School work in and of itself is

something that is difficult to complete. I find myself very unmotivated for any kind of schoolwork especially because it is online schooling, but it is a reality most students are facing so i know i am definitely not alone in this struggle. I am very proud of all of my fellow students who are still persevering through these struggling times. Some of my fellow people are mothers, fathers, guardians, workers, and caretakers and I am very proud that they continue to push and stay strong through these troubling times. Even though our health comes before anything, we're still achieving their goals and are still getting our work done regardless of the different and similar circumstances that we all currently face. I am also very thankful for the professors and TAs who have been extremely understanding of the circumstances their students face and have taken it into consideration. These times are not easy for the average person and I am very grateful for the space my professors and TA's have given us.

This pandemic reminds me a lot of the 1918 influenza pandemic. The reason being is because it is a virus that affects your lungs and it is affecting the whole world. Not only that, but it seems like these pandemic numbers have not yet peaked, so it is worrisome that the numbers of both infected and deaths is set to increase significantly. Considering the fact that the United States Government is already speaking about opening up the economy, it is extremely scary to see the outcomes of opening the economy up. Many of my family members are prone to being killed by this virus, so this is a big worry to me and my family. As stated previously, as we see the steps they are taking, it seems like maintaining Capitalism is a lot more of an important goal than maintaining the lives of human beings and that is very angering not only coming from myself, but many of my peers.

The future of what the world will be like is somewhat questionable. I do see the world wearing masks for at least another year. Also, I think that all concerts, very large gatherings, and

sports events will either be broadcasted and not have live audiences. Instead of seeing things live we will be reverting back to seeing things live on tv or clips of events through social media. I also see social distancing being in the future as well which is a good thing, especially when waiting in lines. One thing that is shocking so many people are the lines they have to wait in now. I hear many people talk about “the lines are so long” now. Prior to COVID-19, the world didn't have to wait for anything. If we wanted something, we simply went out to go get it, but now we have to wait, and many people still haven't learned how to have patience yet. COVID-19 is very politicized as well. Democrats and Republicans are arguing pointing fingers at each other about the pandemic and who to blame. Especially with elections coming up, the blaming of this pandemic has been very annoying as both Democrats and Republicans are to blame. They are giving trillions to corporations while many families are having trouble making ends meet. This is being used as a leverage for both sides and much more can be getting done but it is not because of how politicized this pandemic is.

This pandemic has been a huge experience for so many people. COVID-19 has affected so many people in different ways and it continues to do so. It has affected myself, my family, and the whole world. Luckily I am able to document my experience of living through this historic moment and I am able to share my experiences with the world. This pandemic has lifted the sheets to show what this nation and others throughout the world prioritize such as saving the economy, stock markets and haircuts. I hope all of my fellow people and their families stay safe throughout these times and I hope that communities have been looking after each other as my community has been doing to a certain extent. I hope that everyone is staying safe and they remain safe during these troubling times.