

Isaac Wulff

History 129A

Professor Ruiz

May 18, 2020

My Covid-19 Experience

Covid-19 will forever change the way society interacts with one another. On December 31st, a group of scientists in Wuhan, China, treated a dozen cases of flu like symptoms, but were unaware of the origin or cause. Today, there are over 1.4 million confirmed cases and around 85,000 deaths. The most concerning factor of Covid-19 are the vast numbers of cases that are not recorded due to the lack of testing or lack of symptoms. What is believed to be created in a lab in Wuhan, Covid-19 (Coronavirus) is a respiratory illness that can prove fatal to people with underlying health conditions or people with old age. This virus's global impact is unlike anything ever seen and it will change the way people and business interact going forth. Personally, Covid-19 has changed the way I think and act from a day to day aspect. Through long days filled with From interacting at a social event to going to a concert there is now an overcasting fear of social interaction that will hinder me, my parents and society as a whole leading into the future.

The past four years, I've had the opportunity to play on the UCLA basketball team. After enduring three coaches, practicing on Christmas and experiencing gruesome practices I thought I'd seen it all. With the emergence of our new coach Mick Cronin and the returning of a couple injured players, the team won ten out of the last twelve games surprising almost every sports fan around the country. With the team playing incredibly well and me trying to soak up every bit of

senior year, I was looking forward to the Pac-12 tournament and possibly a run in the NCAA tournament. Upon arriving in Las Vegas for the Pac-12 tournament, the team was incredibly enthusiastic and determined to win the following game in hopes of securing a spot in the NCAA tournament. With the abundance of steam accumulating from the previous games we had won, an early exit in the tournament was not on our minds. After a well-deserved practice and a hearty meal the night before the game, we were prepared to face anyone. The next morning, anguish and heartbreak filled the air as our phones were blasted with updates that almost every major conference had cancelled their tournaments. From the players to the coaches, not one person was tested positive in college basketball and they decided to cancel everything. All the hopes and dreams of many seniors just squandered away like nothing happened. After the disappointing news regarding the end of the season, I spent the following six weeks with the parents and my three siblings. From learning to play the guitar to learning how to juggle, I was able to pick up different hobbies and skills that filled the endless days of being on lockdown. I was also accompanied by my girlfriend who is from New York, but was unable to return home due to the safety issues surrounding the airports and the risk of getting her parents sick. Being close to a private beach we were able to wake and complete our morning yoga and coffee sessions where we could detach from society and become closer as people and family. As much as I tried to forget about the world's horror I couldn't get my mind off basketball and the circumstances that the leaders of sports chose. Despite the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases around the country, alternatives could've been in place rather than canceling all tournaments and the economy losing millions of dollars. From playing without any fans to carefully monitoring players on a day by day basis, the decision to cancel college basketball and sports in general was premature and was

deliberated by a sense of fear. Despite my age and my health, I know that the older generation have differing opinions about the situation.

COVID-19 has similar symptoms as one would have the flu, and much like the flu people with underlying health conditions and are older in age are at risk. The most frightening aspect of the coronavirus is the fact that it is an unknown virus and there is no vaccine. After they cancelled every sport and the team flew back on the charter plane back to California, my mom, Debbie, went on Amazon and bought an additional freezer to store meats in. No one truly knew the extent of the sickness of COVID-19, all people heard on the news was the death rate and how fast it was increasing. Upon hearing the potential lockdown of every state, my mother went to the nearest grocery store with a mask and gloves and bought food for the next couple months. Unaware if even grocery stores would be open or if everything would be sold out in a week, the feeling we went through as a family at the beginning of the pandemic was something out of a zombie apocalypse movie. My parents, both being over fifty and with the lack of information we had on the virus, couldn't risk going to a heavily populated place and contract the disease. With the addition of the extra freezer and an abundance of frozen meats and veggies, we were set for a national lockdown. Despite my mother going out of her way to ensure the safety of her family, my father, Kevin, took a different approach to the situation. My father has been involved in the sports industry his entire life, from the President of Nike, Adidas, Miller Lite, And-1, Pony and many more, he had recently acquired a company with another investor. Mitchell and Ness is an Authentic sporting goods company in which they focus on the sales of headwear and Authentic Jerseys of professional sports teams. What started in 1904, Mitchell and Ness is the oldest sporting goods company in Philadelphia and created a culture of high quality material. Like

everyone else during the past 2 months of the pandemic, sales and profit margins were suffering to the max. With the highest rate of unemployment since the great depression, furloughs and releases were in full force as companies had to save money in order to stay afloat amidst these harsh times. The argument of re-opening the economy has been a controversial topic in the world today. With almost every Republican state's economy open and almost every democratic state closed, the country is currently split into two. This has turned from a global pandemic to a political chess game as each state is taking different approaches. Although many people are not in favor of opening the economy due to the opportunity of another spike in cases, my parents realize that there is a greater threat to society. The demise of the economy is leaving people depressed, suicidal, and unable to financially support themselves or their families. The questions surrounding the world right now is: would people rather lose their business and livelihood by staying at home or would people risk getting a virus if it would guarantee job security and a sustainable life?

Throughout history, the world has endured a number of deadly viruses. From the Ebola Virus in 1976 to smallpox that erupted in 1980, no other virus has produced such an economic and social distraught. Outside my family's personal experience the world has encountered one of the strangest most unpredictable series of events in history. From city to city, country to country, individuals have stayed home and self-isolated for the past 2 months. What is known as "social distancing" has turned into a lifestyle as human interaction is forbidden. As we head farther into May, I have noticed that there is a sense of personal freedom that people are starting to question. After months of quarantining and staying at home under the rules of the government in order to "flatten the curve" places like California are extending their stay-at-home orders another 3

months. Despite a rapid decline in the number of cases around the country, one would assume the urge to re-open the economy in order for people to start working and save whatever life left in their business or income. On the other hand, the emergence of an economy would increase the amount of individuals in public which would put more people's lives in danger. Although there is the chance of tracking the virus and spreading it to other individuals who might be at risk, many people believe that the bigger threat to society is not opening the economy. Currently, the United States of America and many other countries are in a tough predicament in which the decision to open states is in the air. Personally, I have seen a bigger shift in attention to the virus and the total death rate to making this pandemic a political aspect. As my family has quarantined for the past 2 months, politicians and many outspoken Americans are taking this opportunity to redirect attention to the political side of things rather than the actual virus.

In the future, certain industries are going to become more prevalent and others are going to be in a decline. For example, the sanitation industry will be heavily depended on as companies and restaurants will be required to contain these products. There will be certain laws and regulations for concerts and sporting events as these events with large numbers of people will be limited or restricted to prevent disease spreading and another outbreak. Wearing masks and carrying around hand sanitizers will be the norm as people are more worried and will walk the streets with fear. From a corporation standpoint, due to the productivity that companies were able to get from employees when they are home will change the real estate business. Companies now see the negative side to renting out big industrial buildings just for employees to sit on a computer. The digital world of Zoom and other technological sights can connect people and grow companies without the use of face to face interaction. There is no need to lease an

expensive building when all employees can work from home. From a school and university aspect, there is the possibility of certain majors and classes to be completely online. Although there is already a vast number of colleges that have online classes, the change for highschool and other middle schools will now have the option of applying certain classes or extracurriculars online.

This will not be the last virus to outbreak and threaten society and the world economy. Covid-19 has taught the government and its citizens how to react and how to combat a virus, when the next outbreak occurs. The safety of humanity is the most important thing to our world and it is our duty to protect the earth and the people who live on it. My experience of the virus was one that I will never forget. The time I got to spend with my family mixed with the new experiences of picking up different hobbies will last with me forever. I think companies will and other large What does the future hold for the people of the world and Covid-19.