

Reflection on the Covid-19 Pandemic

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College was supposed to be the best times of our lives. High level courses, new relationships, and an experience that could only be enjoyed one time in a lifetime. As a first-year transfer from a community college, I was so excited to finally have the college experience, even though it would only be for two days. But unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has cut that short; and has caused severely worst problems in the world, then just missing out on a real college experience. Thousands of people have died due to this virus, thousands have lost jobs, or have no income during the past three months, and millions of people are affected by this pandemic. This is not the first time the world has seen a virus infect and kill thousands of people; as smallpox spread throughout the world in the 1500s and killed thousands and thousands of people as well. But for me personally, the Coronavirus has changed the landscape of my current and future livelihood.

The coronavirus played a major toll on my life, and my family's life as well. Even though none of my family members have been diagnosed with the virus itself, it still affected us in a negative way. Both my parents work full time to try to keep us afloat. The first thing I was scared of was that they would have no money to support us, because neither of them could no longer go to work. They both work independent jobs and rely on consumers and the public for economic support at their retail store. That was the first major hurdle due to the virus. We all stayed home all day together for three months thinking of things to do while this virus killed thousands of people in California. But in a way this pandemic has also brought families together, as they are all reunited in one place, where they can reconnect and try to make new memories together while we are stuck in quarantine together.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also affected my social life dramatically. I have not seen most of my friends throughout the entire pandemic and have nowhere to go most days because everywhere is closed and in lockdown in Los Angeles. So many restaurants and stores are going bankrupt due to the virus; which is very similar to the Smallpox Pandemic that started in the 16th century that destroyed so many indigenous communities, by destroying their economy and the social aspect of life, similar to what the Coronavirus is doing at the moment. The economy got destroyed; while so much of the population became poor. There was also shortages of food and resources during that period of time due to the smallpox pandemic causing thousands of more deaths as well. This led to the large and dominant country of Spain to take over and conquer the indigenous.

However, one major different between the two pandemics, is that the world was not nearly as prepared and as advanced as it is now to deal with the devastations. Millions of people died from smallpox, the coronavirus thank god has not reached those levels of death tolls, and god willing will never reach them. The virus today still has killed many loved ones and is still spreading every day. The virus has changed the whole landscape of going out. We cannot leave our houses without masks now. There is a limit of people that can enter a grocery store, and usually a line outside to make sure it stays to the capacity. This is all different than the norm. We cannot go to the beach on a sunny day in Los Angeles anymore, and do so many of the things that we really love to do on a daily basis.

I personally loved the outdoors. I would play basketball almost every day, or go to the gym almost every day. This pandemic has made me give up my favorite hobbies for the time being. I miss going out and running and playing basketball with my friends. I miss touching a basketball, even though I try to play by myself in my backyard from time to time, it's not the

same. Quarantine has made me more bored than I have ever been in my life. It has forced me to find new things to do on my own at home. Whether it be attempting to learn a new language or learning how to play the guitar. I try to spend time with my family more, because I am basically stuck in a home with them 24/7, but it allows me to catch up with them and learn more about them.

Sports is major part of my life. I love watching basketball and football and participating in the sports as well. All live sports were cancelled or suspended because of this virus which made everything even worse. I could not watch my college team, UCLA, in the NCAA March Madness tournament anymore as it was cancelled. I can't watch the Lakers playoffs games which were supposed to be taking place right now. I live for these moments and enjoy them so much, and it feels like a massive loss to my life right now because of the virus. Hopefully they will resume again soon, but there will not be fans in attendance, so it won't be the same. College parties and events are all cancelled, which really hurts as well. I was looking forward to enjoying my couple years in college, but this virus has unfortunately prevented me from enjoying my college life, as the entire Spring quarter has been online, and more than likely the fall quarter in 2020 will also just remain online.

Even though the Covid-19 Pandemic, has destroyed so many families, and has messed up the current livelihood for millions of people. It has also brought us as people closer at the same time. People are more compassionate and careful for each other, they wear masks to protect themselves and others. We try to stay home so it does not spread and kill more people. We hope to work together as a community to get through this difficult time and move on to a better and cleaner world in the near future.

Los Angeles county has already lost over 1,000 souls from this virus. As a community we continue to grieve and pray for a vaccine or cure to come out; so, it does not keep spreading resulting in additional deaths. The city will reopen soon again, as the lockdown restrictions have been in place for over two months will come to an end. We must work together to keep each other safe and protected so that the virus does not get out of hand once everything opens again, and life tries to go back to normal. People will be going back to work, going out with friends, and being in more contact with more people than usual, which could result in many more deaths to come.

The country as a whole is at different stages, because as one state starts to show signs of improvements, and less deaths; another state could be seeing a drastic increase in cases and deaths. New York seems to be the in the worst state, as thousands of cases and deaths have occurred in that state. We must work together as a country to restore the economy and attempt to bring back our country to how it used to be. Even after this all of this is over, the country and the world will probably not go back to how it was for at least another year in my speculation. I think the future will be a lot different because of this pandemic. Different states will probably all have different regulations and restrictions, as they differ in population. Some states like Arizona have already reopened most of the economy; restaurants, gyms, stores are all open to public now in that state, but there are obviously still restrictions. Restaurants will make sure to have separated dining, where the customers do not sit too close to one another, and probably require the employees to wear masks as well. Eventually all states will reunite, and we can be a whole United States once again.

But we can also learn from other countries that have already gone through the process of flattening the curve and getting the cases lower and down. For example, Italy at some point had

the most amount of deaths about a month and a half ago before the United States began to spread the virus across the nation. Today Italy has basically flattened the curve and does not nearly have as many deaths or cases as it did towards the end of March. They went from having close to 1,000 deaths daily to less than a hundred deaths today. With social distancing and working together as a community we can fight this virus and get rid of it. It will take a longer time in the United States however, because it has millions of more people than Italy; but we can learn with social distancing and lockdown guidelines we should be able to get over the hurdle in our lives right now.

The future is uncertain, but there is hope for a cure or a vaccine to end this horrible virus. The future will never be the same, as people will now begin to fear of spreading or receiving the virus from touch or just presence. I think people will avoid shaking hands and giving high fives, for the foreseeable future; even after the lowering of cases. I think a lot of places will require masks, and sanitation in the future, and will look a lot different than how we are used to it being. I don't know how gyms will reopen as the virus could spread easily from equipment, and with so many people in one room. Will there ever be sports events with fans, in the near future? I really don't know how they will resolve all these issues that will come up due to this pandemic. We can just hope and pray for vaccine or cure to end it all soon.

In conclusion, I hope to one day tell my children about the time where I could not go outside my house or could not see my friends for a long period of time . It makes us realize how grateful we should really be for the lives we had before the virus. It puts everything in perspective as we learn how to appreciate going outside and breathing freely outside our homes. The Covid-19 pandemic is a battle that we must get through and we will get through. We can learn from History that humankind goes through these pandemics every once in a while. Similar

to the smallpox pandemic that killed thousands of people and made life difficult for a period of time; but we moved on from that and still live on. We must work together during these difficult times and unite as human to beat this battle, as we did in the past. It's only a matter of time, but hopefully soon.