

8/30/2020

Dear mom,

It's been a few days since you dropped me off at college and I can't say that it's been easy. I certainly never expected to be starting college during a pandemic. Trying to remain calm and comfortable has been hard. I'm still shocked schools opened in the first place. The scariest part so far is having to use the communal bathrooms. It's so hard because you don't know who has been in there last, what the person next to you is carrying, or who has touched the door handle/faucet before you. I constantly find myself using hand sanitizer even after I've washed my hands. I haven't felt comfortable and clean since I've left the house. Making friends has been difficult. It feels like I'm afraid of everyone and everything. I have to be honest; I don't think we'll be here much longer.

Love,

Your daughter

9/5/2020

Dear mom,

I had my first week of classes this week. The thing that was the hardest for me was the social distancing in the classroom and the lack of interaction with other students. I would like to make friends with my peers, but I know that it's going to be difficult. So far there haven't been many reported cases, but then again, it's only been about a week or so. I feel like I have to be so cautious all the time. It's really frustrating because I feel like I'm missing out on a normal college experience due to the pandemic. I'm so afraid of getting COVID that I feel like I need to stay away from people all the time which makes it very hard to make friends. I'm hoping this will end soon.

Love,

Your daughter

9/25/2020

Dear mom,

Cases seem to be rolling in rapidly lately. It makes me feel even more scared to go out and hang out with anyone. I miss the safety of home and the comfort of knowing I am safe in my home. I'm surprised that we're still on campus even with the rising cases. It makes me feel frustrated knowing that at any moment I could be exposed to it and have no idea. I'm still sitting and waiting for the email telling us

that classes are going completely remote, but I'm still unsure as to when that will happen. It doesn't feel like much is being done to take precautions about COVID on campus. We do get antigen tests every two weeks, but it seems like there's no social distancing anywhere. It's concerning to see and like I've said so many times before, I am surprised that we are still here.

Love,

Your daughter

10/15/2020

Dear mom,

Things have been going much better. I feel like I've gotten a routine down that makes me feel safer and more comfortable. I keep my hands clean; I keep my mask on of course, I don't go into the bathroom if other people are there, I eat and study alone and I try to keep 6ft of space between me and anyone I talk to. I really like my classes and my professors are very nice. Like I said in a previous letter, I do miss being able to interact with other students around me. Online learning is definitely not easy, but I've been pushing myself to get stuff in on time and do my best with the resources I have. I've found that it's harder to focus and actually

collect information when trying to learn online. I miss in person classes and I hope things will begin to change. Until then I'm just going to continue to do as much as I can to keep myself and others healthy.

10/29/2020

Dear mom,

This weekend is Halloween. I have to admit, I am quite afraid of what the aftermath will be. I've heard of many parties going on and I can only imagine how much cases will rise after this weekend. It's disappointing to know that there are still people going to parties and being in large gatherings despite the fact that we are in the middle of a pandemic. There are dorm halls that are specifically for quarantined students this year and I can't imagine how full it will be after this weekend. It's quite nerve racking to think about

Love,

Your daughter

11/ 13/2020

Dear mom,

I recently found out that we will be doing 100% remote learning from after Thanksgiving break until the end of the semester. I'm actually really disappointed about this because that just means less interaction and more disconnection from professors and peers. I'm going to miss being able to go on campus for school. I'm hoping that campus will reopen for Spring semester but it's hard to know because everything is so different right now. While I was on campus this week, it just seemed dead. I hardly saw anyone outside, and the ambiance was just sad. I'm really hoping for a change this winter so things can be normal, but nothing is for sure. Remote learning is so hard. I understand why it needs to be done, and it is for the best because of the situation we are in, but I know that it's going to be very difficult for me and my peers. I've decided that I'll be coming home for Thanksgiving and staying rather than going back into the dorms between break and the end of the semester. I'll miss it, but I'm trying to stay optimistic about it.

See you soon

Your daughter