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## Documenting my Pandemic Experience

### Journal entry

In early March of 2020 the idea of COVID-19 coming to America wasn't a threat least of all me getting it. On March 16th the first inclination of fear in the US came with the stock market dropping significantly and this was my first realization that the virus was affecting the people on a global scale. That same night I had an intramural basketball game where me and my teammates discussed the events going down in the US then I got an email from a professor saying that class tomorrow was optional that was when it really hit me that this virus had not only come to America but it was already impacting me. The next big event happened the next day when 3 NBA players tested positive for coronavirus and the NBA completely shut down their entire season suspending it. That's when I realized the severity of this virus coming to America. Over the next few days the university announced that they will add two weeks to our spring break and that attendance in class for the next 5 days was not mandatory. My reaction to this came with a little excitement. What! No school for 4 weeks over spring break! This sounded like a dream come true to an 18 year old college student. In everyone's heads we thought 2 week quarantine to stop the spread and then spring break travels. Then 2 weeks turned to 2 months of quarantine and with no direction from the US government it seemed like there wasn't any trustworthy information going around. Every Wednesday

me and my family would tune into the local news to watch our governor speak about the virus and he seemed to have some sort of plan about what to do. Luckily i was able to start a job that wasn't closed because of the virus because it was essential. I knew small businesses were suffering from this pandemic. After the 3rd month of lockdown i was still only hanging around my family and close friends who i happened to work with too, we had become somewhat skeptical of this virus because we didn't know a single person who had the virus only stuff on the news. This didn't mean that we went around in public because we still kept our distance, but we didn't fear getting it too much especially because the survival rate was so high and young people like us were gonna be fine if we got it, it was more for the sake of others. After about the 5th month of lockdown i finally heard of someone i knew that got the virus and he had been in close contact with someone i worked with and he was directly exposed. And now I came into contact with him. I was angry because my friends and I had planned a trip up north to camp quarantine by ourselves for a week but now it looked like I couldn't join them to go.

They ended up going without me while I waited for my covid test to come back which took me 9 days to receive. That's when I realized even the testing for the virus was a mess. Of course my test came back negative so i really could have gone the whole time.

Around this time we knew school was starting back up again and in person classes were gonna be tricky. After the first week four of my six classes had been changed to online only. Two weeks later my roommate contracted the virus and quarantined upstairs for 14 days. We didn't have much contact with him at all but he said that for two

days he was very sick but after then was fine. A week later another one of my roommates felt sick and got tested and found out he was positive. This was a bigger deal because i had been with him for the last several days including a two hour car ride that day so i knew that i was exposed the most. I got tested and found out I was positive along with the rest of my roommates. We were kinda glad to just get it done with so we cannot get it for 4 months. The biggest upside of having the virus meant that I could donate plasma and receive \$250 per donation for my antibodies. I know this virus is tearing the country apart because somehow some way America found a way to politicize it. The future of the virus seems quite uncertain to this day and nobody knows how long it will last, we are told vaccines are coming soon but who knows. Hopefully we can move and the world can come out of this crisis patiently better off.