

Noah Kunze

Hist 125

11/20/20

COVID affected me in many ways starting about a week before we got sent home from the dorms. With my mom working in a hospital and working directly with COVID patients, I was not seeing anybody other than my family until the end of May. With my mom being a cancer survivor she was at high risk of COVID, making this whole experience much scarier for me, and made me do everything I can to not contract COVID when living with her.

When we moved home in March, I did not imagine we would still be struggling with COVID by fall semester, I always imagined we would be back at school in two weeks. As I began to hear about my moms experiences at work and seeing the reaction to COVID around the country I began to lose hope of America beating COVID quickly and getting back to school. For the first few months I spent a majority of my time playing video games with friends and playing board games with my family. I would look forward to the days I had to go to the grocery store to get essential items, as that was my only time outside the house other than walks with my family and dogs.

In June my mom got knee replacement surgery and was out of work for about six months, after that I was allowed to see a select few of my friends as long as they were being careful as well. I started working landscaping during the summer which was especially hard due to the fact that we had to wear a mask even outside in the summer heat. I spent a lot of my time golfing

with three of my friends and only those three, I did not want to see any more than those people, as that would just further increase my odds of contracting COVID.

When the protests for Black Lives Matter started in Minneapolis, about 20 minutes from my house, I felt strongly about this issue and wanted to do what I can to help safely. I went and participated in peaceful protests and helped clean up in Minneapolis, I believe that because of COVID these protests were more powerful, because each and every person was risking getting COVID just to help promote a more safe and friendly society. I witnessed blatant brutality from the police at many of the protests, making me more passionate about this issue. While both of these issues are very political and can divide people, I was doing my best to be understanding of other points of view and firmly believe the only way we can beat COVID and racism is ending the sharp divide in our country and uniting to create positive change. I do believe we are more than capable of coming out of this stronger than ever as a country, but it will take each and every person to do their part. I believe people will eventually set aside their differences and realize we are all in the same boat and if we are not working together will never make progress and continue to suffer through these times.



IMG\_8829.mov