

## COVID-19 Quarantine Journal entries

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March 13, 2020

Today was my last day of school before spring break along with 2 extra weeks because of this new COVID-19 virus. I haven't heard much about it, and I didn't even know it was near us until the governor announced all schools to be closed. To be honest, it doesn't really seem like a big deal. I'm assuming things will be under control within two weeks and we'll be back at school. I'm hoping that's the case, but I've heard a lot of people say that we probably won't be back. I guess we'll have to wait and see.

March 20, 2020

An email was just sent out today letting all of us students know that we will not be returning to in-person classes at all for the rest of the year. When I first read that email, my heart broke a little bit because it's my senior year and it seems like I have to miss out on half of it because of some sudden pandemic. I have to keep reminding myself that there are worse things that could happen, but it's very hard to not be frustrated right now.

April 13, 2020

Governor Evers announced a state-wide lockdown just recently. I was shocked to hear this because no one has ever experienced such a thing like this since the influenza outbreak about 100 years ago. It's so crazy how fast the virus just exploded all over the world. Only essential businesses are open, so it feels like there is practically nothing to do, and it's not safe to do anything either. I really miss my friends and teachers. Online learning is not easy, and it doesn't feel like I've learned anything. I'm just really hoping that this gets under control soon.

May 23, 2020

Today is my 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday and I'm celebrating it in quarantine. On top of that, I'm officially done with my senior year of high school. My graduation ceremony was supposed to be a couple days ago, but of course that never happened. To be honest, I'm pretty glad that I'm done with school but I'm still pretty sad about the fact that I missed out on so much. I was really looking forward to a real graduation ceremony and now I don't even know if I'll get that. There has been a lot of talk about a "virtual" graduation, but I'm not a huge fan of that idea. It doesn't seem like things will be settling down anytime soon, so I'm unsure about what this summer is going to look like.

June 9, 2020

I haven't been doing much lately. It's hard to find things to do during a pandemic. I'm scared to go anywhere or touch anything. I've never felt this way and it's so strange to think about the fact that I used to stand right next to strangers and think nothing of it, but now I'm terrified to come in close contact with anyone. It doesn't seem like very many people in my town are taking this pandemic seriously, which is very disappointing because at this point, you'd think that people would understand how dangerous it really is.

July 31, 2020

I ended up having a somewhat real graduation ceremony today. We had to do it outside at the football stadium, social distanced of course, but it was really nice to be able to have that experience. Some things were different of course. Like I said we were outside rather than in the gym, there was no band, choir, or guest speaker, and we had to walk in a single file line in alphabetical order rather than with someone of our choosing. Even though there were some modifications, I'm still really glad that my peers and I were able to have a ceremony after all.

August 21, 2020

I move into college in about 6 days. I'm very nervous about it, especially since the number of COVID-19 cases are continuously rising. I'm still not sure if I

understand why we're being sent back, but I'm assuming we're not going to stay long anyway. I'm really nervous to move in. I don't think I'd be nearly as nervous had COVID-19 not existed. I just hope I stay safe and everything goes well.

September 20, 2020

I've been in classes for close to a month now. The temperatures are finally dropping a little bit which makes staying in the dorms much more comfortable. I get an antigen test regularly and I've been staying away from people who may be making poor choices as best as I can. Everything is going okay right now and I'm pretty satisfied with all of my classes. I've stayed healthy so far, and I'm really hoping it will stay that way.

October 31, 2020

It's Halloween today and I've heard a lot about parties going on around town. I have a feeling that cases are going to skyrocket after this weekend, which is very scary. I'm going to try my best to stay away from people and hide out in my room all weekend, just in case.

November 20, 2020

An announcement has been made that we will be going fully online after Thanksgiving break. We were given the option to stay home or come back and stay in the dorms. I decided that I was going to go home and stay home. I'm getting my antigen test done right before I leave, and I'll be heading back home after that. To be honest, I'm actually okay with staying home. I feel so much safer there and being in the dorms would often get pretty lonely. I do hope that we go back for second semester, but I guess we'll just have to see how this winter goes.