

JOURNAL ENTRY: COVID-19

May 6th, 2020

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14:38

The current world pandemic, COVID-19, has been taking over everybody's lives. Even the people who don't have the disease have to follow strict rules to keep it from spreading. According to "Google: Coronavirus Disease," there have been 3.68 million cases worldwide, 16,907 in Colorado, and 1,466 in Jefferson County.. Imagine 88 people, just in the area where you live, dying. Though the people who actually contract the disease have to live in quarantine, ordinary people who haven't had it have to follow strict rules that are affecting both the school, social lives, and travelling of everybody living through this.

School for us is challenging. We are currently doing what is called remote learning. Everything we do is online. We are no longer making posters or presenting a slide show in front of the class. It all started one week before spring break. On March 13th, 2020, we were notified that the next week of school would be completed remotely. It will only be for a week, they said. On March 17th, the following Tuesday, we began our schoolwork. It was interesting and cool, I thought, to be learning from home. It was only for a week, right? Nope. The week after spring break, the week of March 30th, we continued remote learning. Then the week after that, and the week after that. Then we learned we would not be going back to school as we had known for the remainder of the year. The majority of other schools in the United States are doing the same thing. I only hope we can return to the classroom by the beginning of next year.

The social lives of everybody now are compromised as well. People are told to only leave their house for essential things, like grocery shopping, and even then to go as little as possible. My own family gets groceries once a week. Additionally, when people do go out they need to stay six feet apart, and the majority of people out in public are wearing masks. The worst part for people my age is not being able to see our friends in person. People can talk to each other on the app Zoom, whose number of users has grown 21% since 2019 (CNBC.com.) Almost all people miss their friends and just want for this nightmare to be over.

Travel has been restricted too. Around March 20th or so, President Donald Trump announced an international travel ban, meaning nobody can enter or leave the United States. Sadly, my own family was planning on going to Maui to visit family. Had we gone, we would have found 14 days in quarantine and closed beaches. My dad, who is a commercial airline pilot, has been saying he has had as few as one passenger on a plane. Airlines are struggling, many cutting down the number of flights and the number of employees they have so that they don't go bankrupt. Traveling is just one of the many things that have changed.

In general, living through COVID-19 has been incredibly challenging. Millions of people have contracted a nasty disease, and hundreds of thousands have died. For ordinary people who have not had any contact with it, pieces of our lives, such as school, friends, and traveling, are different.