**COVID-19**

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Stressed, scared and uncertain were some of the feelings I felt during my first semester on campus this year. I was very aware that this virus spreads easily and being at a big University made me have many doubts that we would not be here long. Living in a dorm made me realize my chances of getting the virus were high as I share elevators, bathrooms and stairs with hundreds of other students within my building. Not only was I exposed in those ways, I always had in-person classes that multiple students a day visit which is very hard to keep sanitized. It was hard to not come in contact with things that hundreds of other people have also touched.

After receiving the news that students would be sent home, I was devastated. I knew it was for our own good, but it still was heartbreaking as new friendships were developing as well as the college experience of living away from home. I had many emotions like anger, sadness and relief all at the same time. I was angry that I wouldn’t get to experience college and attend sporting events and parties, I was sad because I had to leave all my new friends and I was relieved because I knew now, I no longer would have to worry about getting covid from school. Packing up all of my belongings in less than two days was hard, especially with no help. I was very nervous as to how online classes would go and how I would perform by doing all my schoolwork from home.

Back in March when the virus just started to come around, I was a senior in high school with one semester left. This semester was supposed to be my best one yet as I had my last prom, last season of sports and my last time around with my best friends. Due to our school year being cut short that meant some new rules would have to be made. Graduation this year was nothing that I thought it would be, but my high school did a great job at doing what they could. My graduation was hosted in a community college parking lot that had a giant stage at the front. Families drove in their cars and were not allowed out during the ceremony. As cars were parked in rows a staff member would escort you from your car and to the stage. Students were only allowed in groups of five at the stage and when it was time to walk a mask was required.

I have taken many online classes before college so online learning for me is nothing new. Although it is nothing new this year has been very difficult for me. Due to being sent home so early I wasn’t very familiar with the layout so finding what I need has been a struggle. College is very different than high school so not getting to understand the new rules of learning hasn’t been easy. I am the type of student who likes to be involved and know what is going on with confidence. Having every class online it makes it difficult to ask questions and fully understand what needs to be done and if it is being done correctly.

High spirits are how I have tried to be during this time because it is something that is affecting everyone. This pandemic has been very unpredictable and is something we have had to adjust to quick. I am hoping for a vaccine to come out so life can get back to normal.