**COVID-19**

March of 2020 changed my life. I never thought a pandemic would affect me. Boy I learned quick! Every day of my life changed. I went from my busy routine of school, high school and club soccer, hanging out with friends and school activities to being trapped at home with my family. I wasn’t allowed to go back to school, soccer was cancelled, I couldn’t see my friends, everyone was getting sick, and plans to see out of state family were cancelled. Covid19 came into my life and changed everything. It was a big shock to have school at home, sitting in my bed. My teachers didn’t even know how to make google meets work at first. I really feel like the last year and a half of high school my fellow classmates and I missed out on sports, fun, hanging out and equally important, learning. I wonder if I am as well prepared for college as I would have been if school was normal.

It does make me nervous to go to college. I am worried about academics. Also, it’s a little nerve wracking to go to in person classes now with strangers and be social after I haven’t been allowed to do that for so long. I want to get back to normal so I do look forward to this, but I can’t help but feel hesitant. Covid frustrated me a lot. It ruined my junior year of soccer and school and my entire senior year. I had a little bit of normalcy; I did get to play soccer. However, it was very difficult due to having to wear masks for all practices and games. Another frustration I had was going to school. I was finally allowed to go back, but it was nothing like normal. I had to go one week out of every three and was separated from my friends who went on different weeks, it was not fun. At lunch I had to sit across a table six feet from someone and we couldn’t talk and were only allowed to take masks off to eat. I only got to go to school two times and then senior year was over.

Vaccines became available earlier this year. At first, I felt unsure about getting one because of the side effects talked about. I talked to my mom about it and we did some research which made us all feel better about receiving the shot. I chose to get it a little bit for me but mainly for my grandparents. I didn’t want to come to college and not be able to fully participate in things such as sporting events. At the same time, I had one Grandma with cancer and another that was sick and needing a surgery. I knew that if I were to get sick and be around them, it might be devastating to their health. I would never want to be the one to get someone else sick let alone my grandparents.

Covid has affected my life in many ways, it has taught me a few lessons. It taught me that everything can change quickly. Life this week may not be the same as life next week. I didn’t know that day in March of 2020 would be my last real day of high school. From this I have learned that I need to value the people in my life and everyday things such as seeing friends and family. Even though life can change and be dramatically, the health of my family and friends is the most important thing to me.