

## A College Students Perspective on Covid-19

Being a student in this pandemic was the last thing I expected. March 2020, we all went home for spring break. I went on a trip to California and I remember there being talks of a pandemic but no one fully understood what exactly this meant. I was born in 2000 so I have lived through a few significant events in the world. Many of these events occurred when I was younger, however they still remain relevant. The Covid-19 pandemic is the most memorable to me because of the direct impact it had on my life. Being a regular civilian in a pandemic is hard enough. Being a student during the pandemic however has been one of the most challenging things I have had to do. I was in my second semester of sophomore year here when the pandemic hit. What started out as a 2 week extended break quickly turned into a semester long break of not being able to step foot back on campus. Zoom, Webex meetings, and Microsoft teams was something that I had never even heard of before this pandemic. These apps quickly became familiar as that became the new normal. Going from living on campus and walking to your classes to not being able to step on campus was one of the most difficult things. This pandemic made everyone adapt in a new way of living which was extremely difficult to do. As a hands on learner who lacks motivation, I have struggled so much. Getting out of bed only to grab my laptop to attend class was a very big contributor to my lack of motivation. My brain rewired and thought that because I did not have to physically go to class, I would be able to skip the zoom meetings and just get some more rest. For the most part, the lectures would be recorded for my classes which made me believe I did not have to attend them. This mentality has reflected on my grades and shown throughout the coursework I have completed since the pandemic hit. Not being able to be held accountable for my actions is something that is so scary. I felt myself slipping into a bad habit the second semester that we were in the pandemic. I felt that because I

was not in the classroom and physically learning, I did not have enough understanding for the assignments and I did not want to add onto my teachers stress by emailing them and asking for help. Not feeling like you have the available resources to learn was something that was so difficult for me to accept. When we had in person classes, we had so many resources at our fingertips. The type of learner I am, I really need one on one in person guidance if I am struggling with something for a class. Because of Covid, this obviously could not happen. My mental health has also been a big factor since covid has hit. Having to be in isolation while trying to juggle all of my classes was something I really struggled with. I am a very social person, so going on campus and being in classrooms was a big way I stayed happy and mentally well. I am really hopeful and looking forward to the day that we can all come back to campus and life can resume to normal. Although we have vaccinations going around, I know that we are not completely there yet. Unfortunately, I did get covid but I was lucky enough to fully recover. It pains me thinking about the thousands of lives that were lost since this pandemic has hit. Although being a student during a pandemic was extremely difficult, I do count my blessings and remain grateful for everyone who is working to put an end to this pandemic. I truly look forward to the day where I can feel like a real college student again and get back into the classrooms.