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My Life With Covid

On March 11th of 2020, my high school announced that there was going to be one week off of school due to the hype surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. On that day, I recorded a video of myself explaining my feelings about the situation. I explained that I was not concerned and that I thought it would all blow over within the week and everything would go back to normal. As days went by, I continued to discredit the severity of the situation. Eventually my hopes of a quick turn diminished and the reality of the situation set in. The next few months of my life were going to be like no other I had ever experienced.

It was officially my last day of highschool. I didn't want to be in that place ever, but that day I just couldn't believe that I didn't have the decision to come back on Monday. I had to start an online class which for me, wasn't all that bad. The final project every senior has to do, I didn't. Every assignment that they said was going to be graded, I didn't do. My highschool only took the grades of my first three quarters of the year so I was very nonchalant towards school when we started remote learning. In my highschool career it wasn't that I liked school, however I liked being there. Seeing my friends and messing around all day was something that I loved and when I left school it was the start of me missing out on things because of this absurd pandemic. I realized that the kids who I saw in school but didn't usually hangout with, I would probably never see again. Thoughts like these plagued my brain over the coming months and this was the first of many I would have to overcome. No more school also meant no prom, no graduation and

most importantly for me no senior season of high school baseball. Instead, I would be sitting in my mom's basement eating Cool Ranch Doritos and binge watching the Netflix Original show, *Outer Banks*.

Quarantine. The act of isolating yourself from society in order to prevent the spread of a disease. Something that became a regular thing for the inhabitants of planet Earth in the year 2020. Everybody and their mother was hunkered down in their house, leaving only for essential activities such as grocery shopping for months on end. Non-essential activities were monitored and shut down. One thing I will never forget was when me and a few of my friends began to start playing pickup basketball at a local outdoor court. Eventually we were reported to the police and kicked off the court as well as being threatened with fines and detainment if we did not comply with the officers. We were stuck. Even something as seemingly harmless as playing 3v3 basketball was almost considered criminal. All there was left to do was go back to our houses and drown ourselves in our Xbox's and iPhones. This kind of containment also caused lots of stress on my family. Four college aged men, along with 2 parents in the process of a divorce and a preadolescent, annoying 12 year old, all trapped under one roof. 2020 was also the first year in my entire life that we did not travel to my Grandparents house or go to church for Easter festivities. It was chaos and everyone drove everyone insane.

To make every and all matters worse, face masks became a requirement any time one was to leave their house. Not only are the masks uncomfortable but there is extreme question on how worth it, it even is to wear them. Sometimes, you would forget to grab a mask before leaving the house and not realize until you arrive at your destination. Next thing you know, you are walking

around the local walmart with a dirty pair of sweatpants that you found in the trunk of your car tied around your head. When establishments and activities finally did start to open back up to the public, the requirement of masks made it difficult to breathe. My biggest struggle with the masks was during my high level soccer practices. As a college level athlete, I participated in high intensity and cardiovascularly strenuous activities. My abilities were limited considerably due to the masks despite my relatively strong conditioning.

When I departed for college at the end of the summer, I was expecting for things to get better but I was met with a rude awakening. It may even be worse. I am now required to wear a mask on my way to the bathroom, while doing my laundry, while attending classes and just about any time that I am not in my 10x15 foot dorm room. I have also racked up 150\$ worth of Covid-19 related fines and multiple reflection and apology papers since my arrival to the Campus of Springfield College. I also find myself doing some sort of assignment related to Covid-19 at a rate of what seems like every day. This document is proof of that. As mentioned earlier, I am an athlete at college but you might not even be able to tell due to the fact that practice gets cancelled every other week due to the most recent outbreak of active cases on campus. The college experience has been completely altered due to the Covid-19 Virus.

It is now October and my original hopes of the virus scare blowing over quickly have completely and utterly diminished. I have no idea what the future holds in terms of the virus and at this current point in time but I am very unhopeful. I am yet to contract the virus but it has still affected almost every aspect of my life including my mental, social, and physical health as well as my family life, my religion, my personal life, my comfort and much more.