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ENGL 1100

27 April 2020

### COVID-19 Outbreak Changed the World

It feels like yesterday when I had to come home early from Columbus State because I had taken sleeping medication that hadn't quite worn off for me to be able to focus throughout the day. Spring break was the following week and started off with a water pipe breaking in the bathroom of my home. As if things couldn't get any more chaotic, I received an email from my school informing us that the coronavirus has broken out near us and school needed to continue to be closed while they figured out the next steps to take to keep everyone safe. This was the start of watching everything in my life change. Due dates for assignments were being pushed back, and we learned that school will inevitably be virtual for the rest of the semester. This was ironic for me specifically, because I had been recommended to physically go to school for college since I finished out high school online. Plans I had that were outdoors were now cancelled, and I could no longer leave my home. The coronavirus changed the course for what looked like months to come.

Life since the outbreak of the coronavirus, better known as COVID-19, has been difficult for the entire world to cope with. States and countries had to go on a 2-month (longer for some) in-house lockdown to keep their people safe and healthy. Most people who aren't essential workers are forced out of their jobs, and schools are switching to virtual learning. Families that aren't prepared for such a pandemic are struggling. An article in the *New York Times* touches on this by explaining that children being out of school is "more burdensome – if not impossible –

for families with just one working parent on in which both parents work outside the home” (“How Coronavirus”). Mothers and fathers are having to take unpaid leave from work, or worse, having to quit their job completely. Expanding on this crisis, the article also states, “According to the Pew Research Center, nearly one-quarter of U.S, workers are not given paid sick leave” (“How Coronavirus”). Paying bills amongst other expenses has become nearly impossible with states adjusting to social distancing. Some jobs outside of essential workers are still open, but we have to wonder, are the companies really making sure their employees are safe during this time?

Essential workers are putting their own health on the line to help people, and I’m not hearing many stories of them receiving any raises. This, of all time, is a need for extra cash for everyone, but especially them. My mother, because she works at the OSU cancer hospital, is directly affected by the coronavirus. Watching her come home to tell me that her billion dollar-making company of a job can’t provide their employees with the necessary protective material is heart aching. They have to reuse their masks and don’t even get to wear gloves. They are putting their own people at risk without rewarding them for their hard work. Then on top of these companies not boosting their pay, we have to hear about the president giving out \$1,500 checks to those who filed their taxes. Do they realize that majority of the world is out of work right now? What is that money going to do for people with children or those who have someone depending on them? With more than 1.6 million people being infected and 100,000 that have died from it according to *ABC News*, hospitals across the globe are in a panic working overtime (Torres). They have to make sure they’re healthy enough to be able to work these long hours. Americans are stress buying hygiene supplies: “hand sanitizer sales spiked 73%, according to data from Nielsen covering a four-week period that ended Feb. 22, while sales of thermometers

rose 47% and aerosol disinfectant purchases climbed 32%.” Hand sanitizer won’t do much for the people that are exposed to this virus on the day to day basis.

Some people in America are seeming to have an extremely hard time coping with not being able to have gatherings of more than ten people at a time. On social media I see people throwing corona parties or just simply parties in general. What do they not understand about the severity of this airborne virus? People are dropping like flies left and right, and people can’t seem to just stay in their homes to make sure everyone is safe and that it doesn’t spread further. I’ve also been thinking a lot about the homeless, or people that are forced to stay inside with their abusers. There are children being abused in homes that have lost their escape of school. How will they manage during all of this? Some organizations are doing their absolute best to provide for the homeless, but they can’t really give them shelter at this time. Universities have been kind as to let some students who have nowhere else to go, stay on campus until everything blows over. I also think about the people who had to drop out of college because they didn’t have the resources to complete it virtually. Although our first priority is making sure everyone is healthy, this virus has created major setbacks for the people of the world.

COVID-19 isn’t a new virus surprisingly. There’s been reports of it since 2019, but the outbreak just occurred for the world in early 2020. Since this outbreak, fear has been placed into the hearts of just about everyone. I hear from many people, “The world is going to end this year. It’s happening!” Everybody isn’t adjusting smoothly, especially people possessing mental illnesses. I, having clinical anxiety and depression, have adjusted pretty well since I love being in my house away from the outside world. But it is difficult when you’re required to go outside, and you can’t go to the places you actually want to go for some vitamin D. Certain places such as clubs, salons, and bars are opening up for some reason. I’m not really sure who that essentially

helps, but I guess we need a sense of being *normal* during a pandemic, and what better way than to get drunk after getting your hair done? Here's a statement from Joe DeSimone featured in the *New York Times*: "The way I see it, either things will normalize and prices will return to a rate that makes it difficult for me to travel, or the world is going to end and I might as well enjoy it while it lasts" ("How Coronavirus"). Mr. DeSimone has a good point depending on who you ask. We all can make a pretty great guess that after this lock down lets up, we will be forced to pay more for products, so why not make the most of it and live it up before the world ends! Just, you know, as long as you're not infecting other people while boarding a plane full of them.

Works Cited

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