

Call for Response and Reflection: Life Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

Before I start to share my story, I want to give a round of applause and respect to medical staff members and others on the front lines of coronavirus. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe changes in many ways we live. A representative example is social distancing for everyone. Since social distancing was required for everyone, the schools, including kindergarten to college, decided to close for a while and to do distance learning, which is online classes. As an international college student in the United States, there weren't a lot of options for me because it either to stay in the dorm or to go back to my country. I booked a flight to go back to my country for several reasons. First of all, I didn't feel the necessity of staying on campus because every course changed my online base. In addition, I didn't feel safe with school safety police for campus students. This was because, during that time, students were not taking this situation seriously, so they were still having parties and group meetings. Lastly, the plane ticket price was getting more expensive. Thus, I think it was timing to leave the campus.

Online classes were not a big deal for me because I had already tried online courses last semester. However, some course instructors decided to do live lectures. In other words, I have to wake up at midnight to listen to the lecture and to do some assignments. Due to the different time zone, it took a while for me to get used to the system. During my two weeks of self-quarantine and social distancing, I usually stayed at home, and I canceled all of the schedules that I planned with my friends. Instead of meeting face to face, we decided to use skype to see each other's faces. Lots of doctors and statistic experts conclude that this pandemic will happen again, so I want to say that we still have to stay tight; we need to keep on track with hygiene and social distancing. By washing your hands for more than 30 seconds can prevent the second infection from about 50 to 70 percent. Additionally, I think sterilizing clothes are very important. We can't use the laundry every single day to wash our clothes, so using alcohol sprays can help to sterilize your clothes. As a result, this will prevent second-hand infection from your family.

After this pandemic, I saw racism toward Asians, and biases toward Asian become a big issue for world wide. I didn't experience any discrimination from my country, but I did when I was in the United States. During spring break, a couple of Americans were calling me a virus while they were riding a bike. I just ignored them, but I was very angry and embarrassed. I think that it's not the right timing to find the start of this virus. We have to focus more on the vaccine and supports people who need help.