

Coronavirus and the Lives Around it

Before spring break the idea of COVID19 impacting the United States was looked at as a joke. Many people continuously said, “the US has it under control, we will never get hit like China did”. Fast forward a week later, and the US is under lockdown. Of course many states in the US have not been hit as hard as others, but I am one of the out of state students who is in a location that has been greatly impacted. I live in a small town in New Jersey which is 45 minutes from New York City. For weeks, New York City has been getting crushed from the virus, and commuters from my town have been suffering with the virus as well.

Over the past few months I have had an internship lined up with Mace Group, a construction company. During the past few weeks they have told us there were possibilities the internship would change depending on the status of the virus. About a week ago I received an email explaining the harm the virus has done to the company economically as well as how it has impacted the employees. The email also stated that rather than going virtually, like we have done with school, the program is cancelled as a whole.

Personally for me, this virus has been an impact to my education as well as life experiences. I am now entering my senior year with only an internship behind me from last summer, and still clueless as to what I want to do in the years to come. In addition to myself, I have been surrounded in a town that is on total lockdown. I've watched cops pull over those driving as well as walking. I've watched beaches and parks be completely closed down. I've watched friends and family lose their jobs due to the economic crisis.

But, this virus has not only impacted me, it has also deeply impacted one of my best friends who is immunocompromised. My friend Elle had a liver transplant in the 7th grade and has gone through other complications in the past. This virus is directly impacting the people who are similar to Elle. Which every person in her family leaves the house to buy groceries has to

completely isolate themselves from Elle for two full weeks, no matter how safe they were when going out in public. People like Elle have been in full lockdown since this pandemic occurred. That is over two months long of not leaving the house.

Over the past few weeks, many people have started to give up on the lockdown and met up with friends. Many people have said it was needed, while many people call them out for being selfish. I feel that for these people who are choosing to see others, it is important to stop and think about the people like Elle. I feel that had the US ordered a strict lockdown for 3 weeks, and people fully followed it, the pandemic would not be as large as it is now.

Many people don't understand that their decisions to not follow the rules have impacted others they don't even know. Families have been separated and seniors lost the most memorable experiences, graduation. I feel that this experience is extremely important for our kids to understand, if this ever happens again. I feel that they will be able to learn from it and understand that it is truly necessary to actually social distance and stay inside to keep others safe.

Now is not the time to be selfish and do as you please, now is the time to stay inside, social distance and save your loved ones and other peoples loved ones.