

## Life Amid COVID-19

I moved out of the residence hall to an apartment on March 31st and lived alone. Since I am an introvert and do not like to socialize, I quite enjoy living alone. I finish my homework and read books or watch dramas to kill time every day. However, one thing I must admit is that my efficiency in doing my homework has been greatly reduced during this time, and my friends also have this feeling. We all consider that home is not the best place to study. I also celebrated my birthday during this period. I went to my friend's apartment, watched two movies together, and ordered some food to eat. One of my friends also bought a birthday cake for me. I was really happy on that day.

Some of my friends went back to China for different reasons. I use WeChat to contact with them and my family. My family was really worried about me because the situation is getting worse in America, and thus they sent me a lot of masks and other necessities from China. Besides, some of my friends also decided to stay here like me. We chat with each other every day and share our life. It is a good way to release pressure.

The thing I want other people to know is not to be arrogant. In China, a lot of old people did not think this virus was a big deal at first, and then they had to stay at home for several weeks when the virus broke out. In the United States, I know lots of people considered coronavirus as flu. I even heard a classmate said, "I will not let this virus mess up my plans." in class. I could not understand this idea because coronavirus would not ask anyone's permission before infecting. I believe that arrogance and neglect are the biggest reasons for the outbreak of the virus. If people can learn enough lessons from this incident, we can have better measures to deal with similar incidents in the future.

I did not suffer from any attacks in real life during this time, but I saw some hate crimes and discriminations in social media. A man poured sulfuric acid on a Chinese lady's head in Brooklyn. An Asian journalist Jiayang Fan shared her experience that a man yelled and cursed on her because of her Chinese appearance. Some people also called "coronavirus" as "Chinese virus". Similarly, some Chinese also attack foreigners in social media and real life because of hatred. I was mad at first when I read those news and comments, but then sadness and confusion occupied it because I do not why people like to speculate on others with the worst ideas. I used to think people would have time to read books, study or take a good break when they stay at home, but the truth is that they had more time to attack others in different ways. Some media would also exaggerate hatred and incite people to attack others. All in all, I think human nature may be worse than I thought.