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Life During Covid-19

It is December thirty first, two thousand and nineteen, I find myself in my friends house with a bunch of people in the living room counting down. It begins five, four, three, two and just right before it hits one all I can think about in my head is how at the beginning of the decade I was only eight years old. This was the start of a whole new decade and with the new decade came many more new experiences as I am just a freshman in college. The clock hits twelve, and the place goes wild yelling HAPPY NEW YEAR! As I fast forward two months it is now February nineteenth, the year of course two thousand and twenty or as everyone says twenty-twenty. It is a regular saturday morning as I lock the door of my dorm room to catch breakfast at eleven in the morning. After breakfast i usually end up going back to my room, but it is Saturday meaning my roommate is not on campus. I usually stay in my room till about two thirty cleaning up and studying for my classes. Usually after I finish doing those things I decide to hang around, eat a snack, watch a movie or play video games. The school begins serving dinner at four thirty but since I mostly go to dinner to eat as a light meal because there usually isn't anything I like during weekends. Sic thirty comes around and as I do everyday I decide to grab my bag and head to the gym with all my friends. I spend about three to four hours playing basketball and working out. After about five to eight of us decide to go to the grille where I actually have what I consider which is usually a bacon cheese burger with a side of fries and a

water bottle. I stroll back into my room at around eleven to twelve at night where i shower and call it a night. This is what most of my weekends look like and even some weekdays just with the added class times and study times. The semester ends early May so it was starting to look like this would be my routine for the rest of the year cause it had been for most of the year.

The day is now March tenth, the talk all around the world for about a week now has been about a worldwide virus called Covid-19 or as what everyone calls it CoronaVirus. It has been spreading very fast, and is all around us. There has been breaking news about it all week and it is said that a person has tested positive for it in thow town next to Framingham, Natick and can spread very fast to Framingham. Going to the dinning hall has been chaotic because in almost every conversation you hear the three words ``coronavirus” and “going home”. Earlier in the day the governor has just issued a state lockdown which lets everyone know just how dangerous this has become. I can't let this have an affect on what I do with school because even the university doesn't know what they're going to do, so I'm just going to focus on my midterms and study for a good grade in each one of my classes. As i am saying this to myself the notification sound goes off on my phone that i have received an email from the school. As i read the email it states “Out of an abundance of caution, Framingham State will be canceling classes the week following Spring Break, with courses resuming on Monday, March 30. Students will need to leave residence halls as previously planned by 6 p.m. on Friday, March 13 and may return to campus beginning at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 29. (Students who were previously scheduled to remain on campus in Linsley Hall through Spring Break are still able to stay). Yes, I was very excited for the past month school had been kicking my butt with all the studying and work I had been doing. This wasn't just spring break, this was spring break plus an extra week. Framingham State

University wasn't the only school doing this, all schools in the state and even in the country because of the serious events that were happening.

March twenty eighth is the date of today. Tomorrow I should be getting ready to go back to school but the virus has gotten much more serious than we thought. But about a week ago I got the email from the school stating "Dear Students,

As you are aware, the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve quickly in the U.S. and abroad, with new information and new cases confirmed daily. Below are several important updates on substantial learning changes being made to protect our community. Following the guidance issued Sunday by Gov. Charlie Baker, Framingham State University is joining the rest of the State University System in moving entirely to remote methods of instruction starting on Monday, March 30th, and continuing through the end of finals on Friday, May 15th." Monday all classes begin again and this time it won't be in the classroom, it will be in my own room on my laptop. Things have really changed. I am able to sleep in my own king sized bed and not a little twin bed, I am able to have home cooked breakfast and dinner while also being able to go to each class. This is a major change to what life has been like for the year of school or even any year of school in the past. The world has changed drastically in the past 3 months, people are in quarantine meaning almost everyone is inside unless you have to go out and buy food or you have to work. Places like the mall and theatres have been closed now and will not be opening until May fourth and people have been losing their jobs all around the country. Sadly I have not been out of my house for almost a month now which means I haven't had a haircut in a month, i haven't seen my friends in a month and most importantly i haven't been able to play basketball in a month. All schools around me have also been closed meaning

my little brother and sister have been home with me and my parents both have offices at home where they have also been working from. It seems like this is sort of a vacation for my younger siblings but for me it is not because i know that while they're sleeping in and playing in the backyard I will have to be attending class as if I was attending class at the university but just home.

The date is now April tenth, and things are just about the same, as I sit here writing this paper I still have no clue whether or not this pandemic will be gone in a week, a month or even a year. There is not much to do as I have been in the house for a month now and have not left besides going out to throw the trash away or clean my car. I have spent my days sitting in my room couch writing essays and doing work from school which I have been bombarded with. The worst thing is that I have been struggling with my internet because of power outages that have also been happening around my house. The days are starting to get shorter and shorter when you wake up late and go to sleep early. Something that has also been bothering me is the fact that i haven't been able to go outside when the weather has been getting hotter and the sun is out. I do sometimes go outside and play catch with my brother when I am able to and even play with my sister on the trampoline out back. The thing that has been keeping me happy is the fact that I am able to eat my moms cooking which to me is the best food in the world. Something killing me is the fact that I have not been able to get a haircut in over a month, which on a regular basis I get haircuts every other week. I know it is a bit humorous but that is just what I do. School is coming to an end in about three weeks which is helping me be fine with everything going on in the world. My house has always been a place that I have fun in and can relax but at this time I am just bored. At times it feels as if I am repeating the same day because nothing changes about my

day. I wake up any time from ten in the morning to one in the afternoon, after showering I get to doing my homework, once that is all set and done I usually play video games for the night or throw on a movie to watch.

People say the virus is very dangerous and talk about how it's damaging the world and all people in it, but to this I have a slight disagreement. I believe this virus is a blessing in disguise, even though it is hurting many people. The past decade has been really rough on not just humans but earth itself. Air pollution is one of the world's leading risk factors for death, attributed to 5 million deaths each year, pollution in the ocean has not only been deadly to us but to all sea animals. What most people are not realizing during this pandemic with some of these companies shutting down and less cars on the road, less air planes in the sky, less boats in the ocean is that the air that we are breathing in is becoming better for us. The skies have been getting clearer, there are no smoke clouds in the air. I mainly have five hopes to get out of this whole pandemic, one being that people become much more clean in their hygiene. You rarely see people nowadays clean their hands much after touching all these things with germs in them, you also rarely see people carry around things like small hand sanitizer bottles to keep clean. You don't see things like people cleaning the door knobs on all these building doors that people touch all day. I am hoping that with all this we can see things like this more often not only to stop the spread of the virus but to overall keep the world safe and clean for each other. Another thing I hope to get out of this experience is to take advantage of all opportunities. You never know when it is the last time you will do something like go to a party or to the movies with your friends and you don't know when is the last time you will be doing sharing experiences with people until it is really taken away from you. When you spend a bunch of time isolated from things you begin to

miss things you think you would never miss, even the smallest of things like grabbing a bite at a fast food restaurant with your friends or just to be able to have a fun conversation with your friends. Another thing I want to gain from the experience is to communicate with my family much more. For most of my life my best friend was basically my mom because I was able to connect with her much more than anybody else in my family or even in my life. But someone who i am not as close with is my little brother and the main reason being that we never spent any time together. We have always been separated because of our age gap and because of the fact that sports took a bunch of our time, an example being me having practice at four thirty in the afternoon to seven and him having practice from six thirty to eight thirty. So I used to play video games with him or just go outside and play with him. I want to also be able to get used to reading books as a takeaway from the pandemic. You can only play video games and watch movies for so long before you begin to get bored with what you're doing. I recently took an interest in podcasts. With these podcasts I got to really understand the topics of what they were talking about, an example being a podcast with Andre Iguadala who is a current NBA basketball player and him talking about what his life has been. What the podcast did for me was introduce me into his book and what he did as an author, with introducing him to me as an author I have been able to learn about all these other NBA players or even ex NBA players and all of their stories. I want to keep reading after all of this is done because it is another way to gain knowledge and be interested at the same time.

When I first heard about the virus and how it was spreading I had doubts of it being real . I thought it was some type of government scheme and that it was all false. As time has passed I don't have any fears of the coronavirus because I believe me and my loved ones are capable of

protecting ourselves in order to keep away from catching it. I do however have fears of what the pandemic could do to our futures and other things, an example being school taken away from me like it has been now. I am a heavy believer in having what people call “the college experience” and I have the fear that the experience will be taken away from me not for all four years but even two years is a lot because of everything I will be missing out on. I am also in fear of not being able to work and provide myself with the money I need to be able to buy things I am essentially in need of such as food, and gas. I'm hoping to look back at all the things I was able to talk about in this paper in years to come, to get a look at how my life has changed and even how the world has changed.