

How I Perceived COVID-19 In My 2020

This school year felt like we were off to a great start and my 4th year here at San Jose State University seemed to be as smooth as any. I did not perform my best in the Fall semester of 2019, as a matter of fact that was actually my worst semester both academically and personally. Spring 2020 was supposed to be my comeback semester as I wanted to bounce back strong and get things together. I was on track, I got a job that I really liked related to my field at a company called Orange Theory and my grades were off to a much better start than last semester. I was keeping pace to graduate and was with a company that I loved and that I could potentially transition to a bigger role once I get my degree. My work also had great personal training facilities that employees had free access to so I was able to get into the best shape I have been in in years, probably since high school. The first two weeks of March might have been my two of my best weeks of the year so far, I was able to set up my internship, I was gaining better status in my company and hitting consistent workouts about 3-4 times a week. I remember first hearing about COVID-19 in the early stages in about mid-February, people often made remarks that showed they didn't really take it serious. The name "coronavirus" was almost laughable to some people, I remember a lot of my coworkers and clients at work would joke around and call it the "modelovirus". The virus slowly started to gain momentum as more cases were identified in the United States and people were starting to talk about it more. Then, the unthinkable happened when classes at SJSU were cancelled from March 13-16, I remember seeing that and initially and being relieved because I already had a lot going on that week. My work stayed open, and I had more time to cover some extra shifts actually. I felt that we would for sure go back to school the following Monday, but I was very very wrong. What really shook the country and put everyone on edge was famous NBA basketball All-Star Rudy Gobert who plays for the Utah Jazz was diagnosed with COVID-19. This sparked the NBA, NCAA Men's and Women's basketball, Baseball, NHL, and many more sports to SHUT DOWN THEIR RESPECTIVE SEASONS. This was unprecedented, never have pro sports in America been shut down, sports as we know it are extremely popular in our culture and a huge part of the economy. Once that happened I was officially worried, I knew this was bad since I had never seen something like that before and I knew the rest of the country would follow suit and businesses would soon shut their doors. Sure enough, my work closed and I was out of a job, a job that I really loved and was helping lead the life I wanted. Shortly after in-person classes were cancelled for the rest of the semester as well. Malls closed, local businesses, and pretty any non-grocery store closed as well. It was insane, I could not believe what was happening around me. I did not adjust particularly well to Zoom sessions, or "Zoom University" as a lot of people like to call it. My grades started to slip, I was not making as much money anymore since I was unemployed, and I was getting out of shape once again without workout facilities being available since all gyms were closed. I was really excited for the new school gym as well as this was the first year we had the renovated Rec center available to us which was also closed. I could not leave my house to do anything I wanted to do, and the virus really just put a thorn in a lot of things I had going well for me. Today is the last day of the semester and I am doing everything I can to get these grades in and try to finish strong. I feel I would have done much better with in-person sessions rather than online sessions but that's out of my control. I am still turning a lot of work today to do everything I can to finish strong. My work still has not opened up and it has now been a little over two months, we closed on 3/16/20. I bought an Apple Watch and have been going for a lot of runs outside now.

Businesses are slowly opening up but stores are doing curbside service and you have to order online, and we are not allowed to eat at any restaurant only take out or delivery. Sports also still are not back and there is not much a timetable for a return. I still cannot get over the fact that everywhere you go everyone is wearing facemask. I do not see myself ever getting used to that image. The world around us is changed as we know it. "Social Distancing" meaning everyone remain at least six feet apart from each other is being heavily enforced. Restaurants and stores have marks on the floors to stand on that are six feet apart. Everything is very different and strange right now and I cannot wait for things to hopefully go back to normal eventually. I wanted to go to class and have a real graduation, I wanted to go back to work in person sooner rather than later. I would love to go to Dodger game or be able to sit down and eat at In n out burger. I want the world to go back to normal but for now we are just hanging in there doing what we can. Hoping for the best. It was a tough year to be a college or high school senior, had to deal with a lot of things out of the ordinary. But at least we were a part of history. Zoom University (ZOOM U) and class of COVID-19 are two things that I will remember for the rest of my life.