

Personal Reflection

The COVID19 pandemic dates back to December 2019 and the outbreak started in Wuhan, China. During this time, all of us in the world were nonchalant as we thought that this would not reach us. However, within months, the majority of the world has been infected. In Santa Clara County, the news of reported cases started off with one or two within a day and the number of cases started to increase as testing kits were available in certain areas. In the last week of February 2020, I remember talking to my friends about the outbreak and how frightened we all were that it was so close to us. A couple days later, the school announced that class will be switching from in-person to online. This worsen our fears.

On March 16th, 2020, I started my first internship at Merrill Lynch as an admin assistant. Shockingly, that was my first and last day in the office as the firm sent a mass email stating that all employees are granted remote access and will be working from home until further notice. Working at home became stressful for me as a new intern because I had no training and had to figure out everything on my own. On top of having a full-time internship, I was also taking 20 units in order to graduate. I struggled. I am a visual learner and learning in a classroom setting is more efficient to me rather than learning through zoom meetings. I felt that the quality of my education has decreased and so did my productivity. It was hard to properly manage my internship and also putting in a lot of effort for my classes. I also felt that my professors were not equipped to teach the classes online, which made it more difficult to learn in classes. Certain professor would struggle with zoom, by having technological issues.

I am a person that is active and loves to be outdoors, and I rarely stay home for a long period of time. Since the shelter in place order started, I only saw my immediate family but even then, I was scared to be near them as my parents are immunocompromised. My task in the family is to do all the essential task of grocery shopping, filling up gas tanks for my parents, and any other tasks that they were not able to do. In this time, I noticed how my hygiene has definitely changed. I've become more accustomed to continuously washing my hands, sanitizing my house on the daily (about 4 times a week), and wearing PPE everywhere I go, and staying at least 6 feet away from everyone. This is the new norm and my new lifestyle. I feel that even when the pandemic is over, this is something that I would continue to practice in order to ensure the safety of my family.

It is shocking to me to know that I am living through a pandemic that is affecting me, my family, and everyone around me. Most of us has lived with the opioid epidemic, but it never felt as scary as this pandemic because it was never this close to home. I find it extremely frustrating when I see people walking into grocery stores without any PPE, especially a mask. I do not fear that they will get me sick, however, I fear that they will become sick. It is also frustrating to see that there are people who are protesting to have restaurants and jobs open up when the numbers are still increasing. I feel that they are entitled people, who disregard the safety of everyone around them. However, I am extremely grateful for essential and health care workers. These people are in the front line and risking their health every day in order to provide us our essential needs. I aspire to become a nurse, and I have never been more proud to have chosen that as my future career because what the healthcare workers have done during this pandemic is truly heroic.