

Living during the COVID-19 pandemic was nothing short of infuriating. If there is anything I have learned about America, it is that some people are extremely selfish. Coming from a teenager living with multiple chronic and invisible autoimmune diseases, I have been easily undercover to watch people I considered 'friends' acting selfishly, ignoring the largest pandemic in centuries. America is the only country who cannot get this pandemic under control, and it is because we have a government trying to convince us that science and this pandemic are not real. We have impressionable citizens who will watch our own president refuse to wear a mask, and will then follow suit to put many people at an even greater risk for this deadly disease. I am a college freshman with an immune system that functions at half the capacity of someone normal my age. Yet, people do not take COVID seriously around me because they cannot physically see me sick. They do not believe I actually am. They do not wear their masks, get too close to me, and go out in public when they are sick. I work in the food service industry, and have found myself on multiple occasions telling a customer that if they refuse to wear their mask appropriately, my boss has given me full permission to kick them out of my store-- and I have not hesitated to use that privilege. My parents work in hospitals, where they have intubated patients, still cursing them out and claiming this virus is a hoax. It is absolutely incredible, that we can be this scientifically advanced, yet this morally behind. I wish I could say that at least I know I will make it out alive. The truth is, that even though our country is opening up again, this virus is not going away. We lost 200,00 lives, and yet it still has not hit people that they need to take this virus seriously. If they do not wake up soon, I do not know if I will make it to the other side. I hope that I do, but I honestly do not have much faith in my country anymore.