

Primary Source Reflection 1:
COVID-19 Pandemic Personal Experience

Kaitlyn Hartmann

Professor Kelly Marino

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Never in my wildest dreams would I imagine living through a global pandemic. I obviously learned about them in school like the Bubonic Plague and the Spanish flu, but that could never happen in such a scientifically and technologically advanced world now, right? That was such a foolish thought to have.

It was late January, I was 17, sitting in my economics class, when I first remember hearing my classmates discussing that there was a virus infecting almost 2,000 people in Wuhan, China. They brought up the matter to our teacher who helped to give us more insight. At first, we all thought this wasn't too important. It wouldn't even leave China and influence us; China will get back up on their feet in no time. After then, all that was on any news outlet was updates on how fast this new strain of Coronavirus, COVID-19, was spreading from country to country and the total death tolls. Of course, the virus reached the U.S. in Washington, where it was first confirmed at the end of February. My friend and I pushed aside the fact that this was a serious pandemic. She was an essential worker and did not get the benefits of quarantine that our governor put in place, yet I saw her. Due to our still incredulous behavior in which we refused to consider the actual circumstances around us, we both

contracted COVID-19 in mid-April. I was not able to taste and smell for 15 days, as my friend landed at the hospital in crippling pain and the fear that she would die.

If there's one thing I want future generations to know about what life was like during COVID-19 is that it wasn't all bad. I won't deny, this is the most unforgettably scariest time in my life and, at the time I'm writing this, nearly one million people have died. But, because of COVID-19, we now are much more aware of germs and cleanliness. Washing hands as often as possible has become a ritual to everyone, and you'll never go anywhere without finding hand sanitizer. Today we're more aware of the impact a global pandemic can have, even in a modern society.

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