

Quarantine, But in Florida

In late February, my classmates were sitting in the back of our AP Government class when our teacher gave us international news updates. He mentioned some 'Chinese virus' named Coronavirus that was causing China to go into a nationwide lockdown. We found it more interesting that a virus was named after a beer instead of the actual occurrences.

The week of March 8th, 2020 was a week like any other. My lacrosse season had just begun, school was in session, and everything was normal. By Friday March 13, my school held an assembly for spring sports teams, telling us that practice and games were suspended for two weeks. When I got home, the school had called us to tell us that school would go to online learning for two weeks. On Saturday, the hospital my mom worked at began to get worried and warned hospital employees about the possible threat. By Sunday, I was on a plane flying down to southern Florida to escape the mysterious virus. It all just happened so fast. Everything shut down and I was isolated from my family due to this crazy thing called COVID-19.

Quarantine in Florida was not a vacation by any means. All beaches, pools, and public spaces such as parks had been shut down to stop congregation and the only time I would leave my house was for groceries. My mental health deteriorated as I had minimal human contact and was separated from all my friends.

Although I was in Florida, my family was still in New York where the virus was running rampant. My mother was called to work on COVID floors (although that was not her jurisdiction) and the governor of New York was publicly asking the president for supplies. I was scared for my mom because no one knew how the virus was affecting the body and even if you survived what the long term effects may be.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not a 'break from society' or a time of trendy 'face mask' fashion statements. People are dying everyday from a virus that has yet to be contained. There is hope however, as vaccines have been discovered and they begin to be administered.