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Primary Source Reflection 1

The Coronavirus Disease, also known as COVID-19, is an infectious virus first discovered in 2019. It can range from being very mild to extremely severe. Since being discovered this disease has caused millions of deaths over the world as well as leaving those who have survived with long lasting health problems. The virus is airborne, and to prevent it's spread practices such as social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, and self-quarantining are strongly recommended.

The first time the coronavirus affected me personally was not until March of 2020. It was Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>, and I was sitting in my pre-calc class taking a quiz, when I heard the loudspeaker come on. The principal announced we would be extending spring break by two weeks due to the coronavirus. At the time, no one was thinking about coronavirus, instead we were thinking about how excited we were to have a 3-week vacation. During this 3-week vacation I quickly realized this was a more serious issue than I thought. The first sign was the school asking us to clear out all books we needed from our lockers in – case we didn't return after the 3 weeks. Shortly after this, masks started to be required everywhere. Next restaurants, nail salons, movies theatres, and so much more shut down. Finally, it was announced classes would be held over zoom for the remainder of the year.

Fast forward to my senior year of high school, this is when I felt as though Covid had the biggest impact on my life. Things I had looked forward to my whole life were being ripped away from me. I was unable to tour colleges and had to settle for watching a video online. Friday night football games no longer allowed fans in the stands. I couldn't go support my boyfriend at his soccer games because they were limited to two guests a person. Our school didn't allow us to have a homecoming dance or even a senior prom. I couldn't walk across the stage at

graduation Infront of my whole family because only my parents were allowed to come.

Although the Coronavirus impacted so many people's lives, including my own, in negative ways, life finally feels like it is returning to normal, and I am very grateful for that.

Although the Coronavirus is the first pandemic I have experienced, there have many other pandemics in the past. Some examples of other pandemics are "the black death" and "the plague". There are many similarities between these pandemics and the coronavirus pandemic. An article written by Franciscan monk Michele de Piazza explains how "The Black Death" could be spread by simply talking to a person who was infected with the disease. It was also spread by touching items which an infected person had previously touched. Both of these are ways the Coronavirus can also be spread. Another similarity is the concept of self-quarantining. In the same article by Michele de Piazza it is written that if a person was found to have had this disease they would be sent out of the city. Similarly, if someone tests positive for covid, they would need to isolate themselves for at least 5 days until the disease is not contagious any longer. An article written by Simone Buonacorsi explains how travel was forbidden in Pistoia upon the arrival of the plague. Buonacorsi writes, "these wise men provided and ordered that no citizen of Pistoia or dweller in the district or the county of Pistoia . . . shall in any way dare or presume to go to Pisa or Lucca or to the county or district of either. And that no one can or ought to come from either of them or their districts." (Buonacorsi)<sup>i</sup>. This situation is very similar to how many countries enforced a travel ban to decrease the cases of the Coronavirus. Lastly, an article written by Giovanni Boccaccio, talks about the Plague of Florence and how it was incurable. Boccaccio writes, "Neither a doctor's advice nor the strength

of medicine could do anything to cure this illness.” (Boccaccio). Likewise, although the several companies have come out with vaccines to help lighten the symptoms of the Coronavirus, there is still no cure to the disease.

In conclusion, the Coronavirus is very similar to both “The Plague” and “The Black Death” in numerous ways. The spread of infection, self-quarantine, travel bans, and lack of a cure, are all qualities that these diseases share.

<https://www.docme.ru/doc/1731364/-manchester-medieval-sources--rosemary-horrox--the-black...>

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/med/pistoia.asp>

"The Black Death, 1348," EyeWitness to History, [www.eyewitnesstohistory.com](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com) (2001).