

The Coronavirus was a global pandemic that spread from China to the United States in March 2020. In March, it was announced to us that the United States had to go into lockdown for two weeks. Little did we know that this two-week lockdown was going to turn into almost a year. This news was found to be very surprising by everyone because it has been so many years since we had a pandemic that affected everyone. During this time, people were forced to isolate in their homes and quarantine for 14 days when sick. Two years later I was still going strong without contracting the virus. Until one day I woke up with a fever and chills, instantly knowing I had covid. By this time, the quarantine time was set to 5 days instead of the original 14. Throughout these five days I missed dance, school, my prom dress fitting appointment, and my last Catholic school's week at my school. It was not until a year and a half later when the world was finally able to go back to complete normalcy. These two years of my life made me realize how much could not happen because of covid. This time period is just a memory that will be talked about forever. I would like future generations to know that during the pandemic, life felt as though time had stopped. Though I enjoyed this time off from school with my family, others were not as fortunate because they got covid often. Many people also died from this virus. People lost friends, family, opportunities, and time from their lives that they will never get back. Overall, from this experience, I learned to not take life for granted because you never know when a pandemic like this could happen again.

When Covid-19 first reached America, everyone was reminded of the Black Death Plague that had occurred centuries before. Covid-19 was a deadly virus that started in 2020 and continues today. The plague was a global epidemic from 1346-1352. Many consider these viruses to be very similar because of the effect they had on

our world. According to the documentary *The Epidemic of Plague That Ravaged London*,ⁱ during the plague there were almost 7,000 deaths a week at one time. Similarly to Covid-19, the sick were isolated, improving the number of people infected. During the plague, if one person from a family was ill, the whole family was locked up while during covid, the whole family was told to stay isolated. Nurses cared for those who were sick but were not appreciated nor valued like they were during the Covid-19 pandemic. Symptoms of those with the plague were found to have dark splotches on the skin, swollen lymph nodes, headaches, fever and vomiting, while symptoms of Covid were found to be fever, chills, shortness of breath, rashes and loss of smell and taste. Some differences between the Plague and covid-19 were that the plague was a physical illness while covid was internal, the plague was spread faster and was deadlier than covid, and there were better medical options during covid. Some similarities between the plague and covid-19 that were found in this documentary were that there were many deaths, highly contagious, and were nationwide pandemics. Ironically, both were also thought to be originated in China. In the article titled "*What were women's lives like during the 17th century plague?*"ⁱⁱ, we are told what women's roles and lives were like during this time. The roles of housekeepers or nurses automatically fell to women during the plague. During covid, men and women could be nurses and take home of their homes. Women who were set with the task of being a nurse were usually elderly or widowed. Women during the plague were easily expected of more and were not valued for their work. Some were seen as too "old", "weak", "drunken", "stupid" or "too bad to do anything else". Another difference between the plague and covid was that woman were traditionally taken charge of the deceased. Women had to inspect dead corpses and reported how they were killed. Women were also manipulated and bribed

with money to report other things they saw. Women were not seen as being capable like they are today. During COVID no one in specific was assigned to this job. Men and women can do any job in which they have a degree in. All these examples show how life during the plague was different from COVID because of the circumstances during the time of each pandemic.