

## Covid-19 archive template

### February 2020

All of February- February, and early March are the last normal days that most of the citizens of the United States remember living in. Everyone's job remained the same as it always had, and the idea of online school rarely, if ever, crossed the minds of students and their families. Sick days taken from work or school were often frowned upon and it was seen as almost weak to stay home from these duties due to an illness unless it was very serious with very serious symptoms. Little did all of these people living in the United States know that this was all about to change and their lives were going to be flipped upside down.

### March 2020

March 5 - first two reported covid cases in CO, uncertainty began to arise among the citizens living in Colorado, they began to fear for their jobs and their lives. This also marked the beginning of ensuing chaos as people began flocking to every store they could find in order to get goods that they thought were necessary, this included food but also it introduced the infamous issue and running joke of the lack of toilet paper in stores and other places throughout the country.

March 12- Last real day of school, I went to school and there was a buzz throughout the school as all spring sports had been cancelled as they had just started. Many of the students, including myself were confused as to exactly what the virus was and even at times stated as to the concern of schools continuing to stay open if the virus was so dangerous and life changing. My mother asked me that night if I wanted to stay home from school the next day because of all the uncertainty and so I could get an extra day to my already extended spring break. I took up the offer and have not been back to normal in person school since.

March 13, PRA closes for Spring Break a week early

March 18, Gov Polis closes schools until April 17 and limits gathering size.

“Stay at home”

March 18 through the end of March- All schools were closed or at least still in the extended spring break as they continued to try and find a solution or figure out what was going on, the virus was still uncertain and leaders and people in positions of authority all across the country and even the world

### April 2020

School resumed from home and I was mostly working off of Google Classroom, and life felt like it was repeating over and over again. It began to feel like every day was the same as I would wake up, walk out to my computer, check Google Classroom, and then go downstairs and talk to my friends while playing video games. I would then eat dinner, go back downstairs, talk to my friends some more and then I would go to bed and do the whole thing over again. It was a major change in my life as I had always been very social and have always thrived being around people, but now since it was “Safer at home,” that whole dynamic changed for me and the only interactions I would have with people was my family or with my friends over the phone or other electronics and social media. My one goal was just to finish the school year strong but it was very difficult to focus and not

constantly get distracted by the what seemed endless possibilities while being stuck at home. I could now get up and go get food, a drink, use the bathroom, check my phone, and even just move around the house whenever I wanted to. I continued to try to adjust and slowly but steadily made it towards the end of the school year.

### May 2020

The same cycle continued as school was still all remote and people were told to stay inside their houses. This meant that my entire family was doing school and work from home, and although that does not sound too horrible it was very hard to do with the small house space that my family had. We had just a two floor house, and I understand that there were worse situations we could have been in but it was still difficult to find places where both of my parents could work with confidentiality and me and my siblings could find quiet places to concentrate on our work. The end of the school year was finally approaching and I could not have been happier about it., but many things had changed. I no longer had normal finals as teachers did not have any preparation and they definitely did not expect an event like this to occur almost three months away from the end of school. This change in finals also included my AP World History exam, which we had focused on and prepared for all year. The class was based around preparing the students for the exam which should have included around 55 multiple choice questions, 9 parts to the short answer questions, one Long essay questions, and a Document Based question. This was going to be the case before the events with Covid-19, but this plan was quickly altered to be an online exam. They had very little time to adjust the exam and did not have a full online exam prepared, so instead of a full exam to show what we had learned throughout the whole school year, there was an exam with just one Document Based question. Although thus relieved a little bit of stress about the exam it also added more stress knowing that everything that I had learned and studied for all year all came down to one essay type question. At the end of May school was finally finished but this also meant that the kids who had what felt like such a long and out of the ordinary year, wanted a normal summer where they could relax and hang out with their friends. They were still telling people to remain inside but people were tired of being inside and just wanted to interact with each other. The citizens were already uneasy because of this and so it felt like anything was going to set them off and then something finally did. George Floyd was killed by the cop and this set the people off. People began protesting and even rioting and they called for the police involved to be punished and arrested for their actions. There was extreme tension between the police force and the rest of the citizens after this point and it only continued to get worse with the ongoing protests and riots.

### June 2020

With it now being the summer I was itching to be out hanging out and doing things with my friends. And although I did get the chance to do so, the interactions had to open very slowly. I only got to hang out with them every so often and when we did it had to be in smaller groups unless we did it outside then we could get bigger groups of people. Around this time my grandmother also came down with Covid and this was my first

experience with seeing someone I knew and someone close to me getting the virus. My family was very concerned for her as she had also had her recurring skin cancer come back around the same time and so we were all concerned as to whether or not she would make it out alive. And as she was battling through the virus and the disease, her husband who was in very poor health due to his diabetes and lack self care, passed away. She continued to battle and eventually made it out alive but unfortunately she lost her husband in the process. This was very sad for the whole family but it also meant there was an opportunity for the whole family to meet in person for the first time in many months.

### July 2020

The summer was continuing to pass by and things were getting semi normal. My family was able to attend my grandfather's funeral with my entire family. It was a sad experience but it was also good to see family members that I had not interacted with in many months. Along with this there was a mask mandate put in place which required people to wear masks entering into establishments such as stores and other shops that required you to wear them. This upset some people who felt masks did not help as much but there was nothing they could do about it now that it was a mandate. My family also celebrated a makeshift 4th of July but the city cancelled fireworks as they did not want to spend the money for them. For these reasons tension between the local government and the citizens was at an all time high and it felt like it was going to explode at any moment.

### August 2020

School was back in session but started from home yet again, the only difference this time was there were now zoom classes. It was hard enough to focus with the classes before but now with these zoom calls that were lasting all day. It was very hard to focus now and the teachers were no longer teaching to students right in front of them which was a huge change for them so they were still learning how to deal with the change. This was a huge learning experience for everyone involved and there was no way to keep everyone happy in the scenario as everyone felt they were at a disadvantage which is fair considering the degree of difficulty that the learning had gotten to. At the same time as the beginning of the school year there were also many forest fires that were devastating many peoples houses and lives in the mountains, so along with the difficult start to the school year people were having their lives deeply hurt or affected by these fires. At this time is when I switched schools and it was a very big learning experience as I continued to try and learn and deal with the change.

### September 2020

The school year continued to be online and it was still very difficult to focus and actually learn when doing it through a computer screen. I continued to work hard to try and learn and do the best school work that I could. Along with the learning change, I also began to adjust to the modified sports season as we began practice and training camp for the shortened football season. Instead of the usual 10 weeks in the season there were only 6 with an optional 7th game that the teams could schedule within themselves. The adjusted learning plus this different football season took up all of my focus and it was often difficult to find the motivation to do things. I

turned to the football field to help me get through these things but it was even difficult to find motivation through this.

#### October 2020

The football season continued and we were not allowed fans for many of the games so it felt different as I had been used to fan noise in the past. I continued with school and there were many discussions of doing a hybrid version of class where there would be two days in person, two days at home with everyone having the asynchronous Wednesdays. I was prepared to go back in person for school and I had not had a normal day of in person school since March 12 and I believed it would help my focus and drive me to do better in school. As the football season finished up it was time to find something else to do with all of my time and I began to spend more time on my school work and kind of got myself into a bit of a groove going into the end of the year.

#### November 2020

November 2020 was an eventful month seeing as it was time to elect the president of the United States. This was causing much controversy amongst the people as no one could seem to agree on any of the stances and it was causing more and more disagreements and arguments throughout the people. The election happened and Joe Biden was voted into office and this caused a lot more controversy as people from other sides said that he cheated and the election was rigged and should be recounted. The school had now decided to go back in person for a hybrid type learning and they decided to hold an orientation to prepare people for the change. I went in person and was split into four different groups for my grade and all three of the other groups got Covid and so they shut down the idea of doing a hybrid and we remained online for the rest of the semester.

#### December 2020

I limped into winter break just needing a break from what felt like years of schooling that I had done even though it was only a single semester. The tension between the citizens and the government remained at an all time high and more and more people decided they were going to go back to hanging out and interacting with their friends.

#### January 2021

They started to administer the vaccine to workers who they felt needed it the most and this included people such as healthcare workers. The school returned to being hybrid but I remained at home. It had been so unsuccessful and had led to people getting Covid that I wanted to stay away instead and preferred that I just stay at home and try to gut out the rest of the school year after getting a much needed break. I also began basketball season and I wanted to avoid going in person and getting Covid and not being able to play the season.

#### February 2021

The school year felt so very long and students were trying to gut it out and find the motivation to finish what had been such a crazy and chaotic year, restrictions were also starting to lift little by little.

### March 2021

The school went 4 days a week in person after spring break and this allowed for teachers to get almost a full feel of what it was like before all of the events of Covid began to occur. The teachers also began to receive the vaccines and this allowed them to feel more safe teaching all of these kids on a daily basis. The school year was in the home stretch and it was the one year anniversary of when the world went into lockdown due to the virus so many people took the time to reminisce on how their lives were different as a result.

### April 2021

The month started off with heavy weather with things such as huge snowstorms and huge lightning storms, people were very upset by the fact that instead of getting snow days it was just a remote learning day instead. The juniors began looking towards college with the SAT and ACT as well as preparing for AP exams. It was very important for them that they did well on these tests so they prepared for many hours and took the test. I was unable to take the SAT on the test date as I was out of town.

### May 2021

It was finally the end of the school year as the AP exams and finals were starting to wrap up. The mask mandate was now lifted to those who were vaccinated and it had been a whole 14 months since all of the events with covid had occurred. What a year. It was very difficult to find motivation and it was even harder to stay focused in general. The AP exams occurred with the option to stay online for those as well and now that the school year was finally over the students could relax knowing that they tried their best in a very difficult situation and environment. In March of 2020 I was a Sophomore trying to get through the semester while maintaining good grades. Now in May 2021, I am finishing my junior year and will be a senior, time really flies when you are in crazy situations. It was not even close to the ideal school year but there were still many good moments. Although it was very difficult there were many lessons that could be learned from going to school during a pandemic. I hope those lessons prove useful as I continue throughout my life. Everyone came through in order to give me an opportunity like that and in order to let me finish school so I would like to thank everyone involved but man, what a ride it's been.