

# The Effects of Covid-19 Through The Eyes of A Pre-Med Undergraduate Student.

I never could have imagined that in my first year of college, my whole life would change. Before, the idea of a pandemic was merely a part of a chapter in my Biology book to discuss in class. It would have never occurred to me that I would be subject to living a first hand experience of one. Now, It has been over one year of isolation, strict lockdown procedures, online-classes, and participation in following community health rules in order to prevent the spread of this deadly virus, Covid-19. Personally for me, life throughout the pandemic has been discouraging when reflecting on how our country has handled Covid-19, and the social issues brought along with it.

For instance, there has been a power struggle between maintaining personal liberties and social welfare. Our country prides itself on values of freedom and liberty, but to what extent are we willing to protect these constitutional rights if it comes at the cost of other lives? In my community, I have experienced shaming over the decision of wearing a mask. It is disheartening that situations like this exist, as our country has allowed for politics to cloud the judgement of sound science. My hope is for those in the future to reflect upon what is truly important, and to realize that some sacrifices are worth the saving of others.

The pandemic has also brought the issues of racial-inequalities to light. Due to isolation, there has been an extreme shift of the use of social media platforms to spread awareness of social and racial inequalities. The positives of this has been the successful outreach and support provided by many people around the world. Although, the presence of this issue has contributed to our political divide. Along with the fragile state of the country due to the pandemic, the talk around racial inequality has become an outlet for many to hide behind a screen and express their hateful opinions. It is discouraging to witness the prevalence of this in our modern-day society. My hope is that in the future, our country will be able to come to a consensus on the importance of how we handle racial inequality and the welfare of others during a time of crisis.