#REL101

The word that comes to my mind when I think about the covid-19 pandemic is change. The world and us as humans have gone through immense change both willingly and not. When the pandemic hit in February I was living in the heart of Detroit Michigan, working as a barista, and studying anthropology and philosophy at Wayne State University. By the end of May school was shut down, I was no longer studying anymore, almost everyone I knew, knew someone who had covid and the number of cases in Detroit had skyrocketed.

The world was changing around me rapidly. There were new mandates on masks, isolation, store hours, limits on the goods you were allowed to buy, and more. The way people treated each other changed too. The most memorable changed in the way people treated each other in my opinion would be the BLM movement coming to a head and the anti-mask/anti-vaccination vs. the pro-mask/pro-vaccination. Through these two issues alone allowed you to see and feel a clear divide among the American people. It was everywhere.

The BLM movement came to a head on May 25th, 2020, with the murder of George Floyd. Riots broke out, protests, signs, rallies, petitions, etc. were everywhere bringing to light that racism still exists today in America. This brought on a division of people who agreed or disagreed or as some would say, "those who stand with us and those who don't." As a mixed women experiencing this, I felt saddened, I felt enraged, and I felt betrayed, along with most people of color. With all of this going on I think a lot of people expected to see change and to have support but that wasn't the case. Family, friends, and coworkers often did not agree with the message and meaning behind the Black Lives Matter movement and felt nothing was wrong with the way people of color were and are being treated.

The pro-mask and anti-mask debate was a huge divide among people as well. This debate became political very quickly and the mask became a symbol of your political orientation. There was also a debate on whether people should get vaccinated or not.

There were many changes that took place during the covid-19 pandemic and these changes lead to a divide among the American people. Even with the number of cases going down and with people trying to move past covid, these changes will echo for years and if you look close enough the divide is still there.