

Sudden change

Spring break with a hint of Covid-19 awareness starting to rise. I thought at that time “ eh it’s got nothing to do with me.” Parents panicking and all of a sudden, my dad is home all day. He tells me to quit work. I just gave him the confused look. He fills me in on what’s happening outside because he knows I don’t follow the news. First time I’ve ever seen him worried. All I could tell him is that I’ll find out if my company is making any changes. With my preplanning of travel time to work I head out for work only to find out that I get there 40 mins early. I’m driving on the freeway thinking did I leave at the wrong time? There are no traces of afternoon traffic. All I can think of where did all the people go? How come the roads so empty. I get to work and have both my coworkers in two extreme opposite opinion on the disease. One just trying to stock up on food and chemicals and saying he couldn’t get any paper towels or hand sanitizers. My other coworkers just said, “ well this virus better be gone by April cuz I’m going to back home!” My Facebook started exploding with news about the virus and people trying to figure out where it originated. While scrolling through it, bummed about being in quarantine over spring break and noticing things closing down, my best friend text me saying my birthday present is cancelled because of the virus. She also says we can’t meet up until this thing blows over and talks about how she’s scared because of how it hit New York. Me being oblivious to the world I call her, and we talk over the phone about what’s happening. After 2 hours on the phone we say good bye and I find a notification on my WhatsApp notifying that my church is being closed until further notice and no services will be conducted in person, but they are trying to find alternative solutions. Over a week, my busy schedule suddenly began to relax and breathe. Just pondering over how things are changing so fast, my University declared classes be held online after spring break. The seriousness of the change just started hitting me. All of a sudden, I felt like there was a sudden availability in my time. I got nothing to do at home! A sense of isolation hit me making me ponder over what I should be doing with this moment. The group home company I work for stated that the kids are not allowed to be going to public locations for their activities and temperatures of each client should be taken three times a day. It became more nerve racking because by the third day those boys became cranky and out come creative indoor activities for them to be entertained. Next thing I know, virtual reality plays a big role to make up for people being under lock down. It started with meetings, options for work from home, online sermon, to virtual doctor’s meeting and more. Weeks pass and we wait and wait for more information about the lock down. Before we knew it, we got into a month of lock down. People complaining about their kids being homeschooled was the laugh of the century, but a lot of hidden problems began to rise. Families not being about to meet financial and physical needs like putting food on the table started to rise. A lot of the fields began to close down, and the rates of unemployment began to rise. Being in Arizona, one thing that didn’t hit us as much is the deaths of people compared to New York. But it brought to light, a lot of people trying to put foods on their table for themselves and their children. Opened the eyes of the oblivious and ignorant during this time of crisis what it’s like to go through different economic situation. Unfortunately, adjustments are not being made fast enough for the people that are struggling. Seniors are being affects greatly by not being able to get supplies that are essential for daily living. From the looks of it, it sounds like things are being done as the problem arises and there isn’t a preplan despite the past pandemics. Sudden change. Where will it stop? Will it ever go back to what once was? Or is this the new norm.