

## Archival Record for the Pandemic

Hello! My name is Porter Cather and I am a second semester freshman student at Marymount University. I was really excited for college and (to my surprise) made a lot of close friends that I enjoyed spending time with. My roommate and I became especially close friends, and I had hoped to spend a lot of time with her during the semester. Unfortunately, we were informed during our spring break that we would not be coming back to school for in-person classes. Instead, we would be transitioning to online courses for the duration of the semester. This was pretty disappointing, and also kind of scary, as the virus was infecting thousands of people and my state and started to have a large number of cases (especially in the area that my school is in). While I was quite sad that I wouldn't get to see my roommate and friends anymore, I was also kind of relieved that my school was making serious precautions in regards to the virus. However, I do think that online learning is more difficult and draining than regular school, and the new setting (I'm home now) makes it challenging to concentrate on my work.

Additionally, it was scary when companies started to place restrictions on "non-essential" workers. My dad works for the government as a contractor and, when Virginia started to become more concerned about the virus, he was deemed non-essential and was laid off. This was really upsetting for me and I actually cried when he told me because I was so uncertain about what we would be able to do if he couldn't work. For a few days, I was stressed and nervous about the future, telling all of my close friends about what had happened and freaking out a lot. Luckily, the company realized that they needed my dad on the project and they gave him his job back, but the period of uncertainty was practically unbearable. I know that my family is extremely lucky, because there are so many people who have lost their jobs during this time, and I am grateful that my dad's job was given back to him. That being said, my dad still has to go into work and there have been cases of the virus in his building, so I feel conflicted over wanting him to stay home and being happy that he still has a job.