

One of the biggest things I noticed in the pandemic is the different ways people react to it depending on the city and its population. I go to school in Sacramento and was there when quarantine started. I was then moved to Merced due to complications with my roommates, as mentioned in my post "Moving While Quarantined." Lastly, I am from Long Beach and spend most of my time during school holidays and breaks in the city and have a direct line of communication to my family who lives in the city. In Sacramento when the virus first started, I noticed a lot of people and college students, I lived right next to the school and near other college off campus dorms, didn't care about the warnings and would still travel all the time. My roommates themselves took this as an early summer vacation and still tried to plan trips and invited people over constantly even though I asked them not to and the building had advised against it. I decided the best action for myself was to quarantine to one room in my apartment and one small office area in the building no one really used. Even then I could still hear college students enter and exit the building often and hear people partying on different floors. Usually I'm not the type of person to complain about noise but with everything that was happening I was shocked people didn't care. It scared me since I grew up in a house with a sickly grandmother with a weak immune system, and grandfather who was a cancer survivor and a diabetic, and a diabetic father. My whole life has been about being aware of the dangers of illnesses so I took this pandemic very seriously. I quarantined myself in Sacramento for weeks not seeing anybody at all until I had to leave in which I met with one friend who was graduating this year and who I knew I was unlikely to see next semester. Even in this case we didn't stay too close together and were both very precautious with what we did. When I moved to Merced, I noticed a drastic shift in behavior of citizens. In Merced people were more aware of the dangers and often wore face masks. There were some who couldn't but they usually wore their hoodies and sweaters up above their mouths and had gloves on. In Sacramento there was also a limit put on what you could buy and the toilet paper was completely out of stock everywhere. In Merced, toilet paper was still available and the limits on essential items were a lot larger than in Sacramento. For example, in Sacramento you could only buy one pack of milk, toilet paper, paper towels, water bottles, and eggs from Costco. In Merced you could buy up to 3 cases of water, two packs of milk, and one pack of eggs, paper towels and toilet paper. A lot of local shops stayed open as well and even a taco truck was practicing safe distancing while continuing operation though some locals did call the cops on them to complain about it. All in all, Merced was a lot safer than Sacramento and I had an easier time getting stuff done since most of the time no one came near other apartments that weren't on the way to their own. In Long Beach however it seemed to be a mix of the two. Since the city is highly populated and a port city the virus was very strong and it was hard to get tested, treated, and cared for if you did not have the virus or wanted to make sure. This also meant that a lot of emergency rooms and hospitals were closed for visitation unless it was an extreme emergency. This hit my family hard since my aunt was dying of cancer at the time and no one in my family could visit her anymore since the hospitals refused visitation rights to anyone to prevent the spread further. My aunt sadly passed away during this time but due to the virus, her body is not allowed to leave the mortuary until quarantine is lifted, thus we can not have a proper funeral. Though this is difficult for everyone in hospitals it is important to remember that there are reasons for the no visitation rights and sometimes its better to just say goodbye from afar, even though it is immensely harder, instead of putting others and yourself in harms way. However, Long Beach is also suffering a lot from the lack of supplies. Most stores in Long Beach now have major shortages on bread, toilet paper, paper towels, and other essentials during this time and most stores have waiting periods of hours just to be able to enter and try to find what you were looking for. Most local businesses in Long Beach have now started selling custom made masks, deliver

food, and provide other forms of support that people can participate in to keep them open. Long Beach is mostly cautious about this quarantine because a large portion of the residents in the areas I grew up in were middle aged to retired citizens who relied on local businesses to keep themselves fed and cared for. This is drastically different from the college town area of Sacramento I lived in and the low populated area in Merced where I stayed. I've noticed that when it comes to younger citizens, they are more likely to ignore the quarantine if there is no adults to warn them and remind them of the dangers of the disease and areas that are less populated or have higher levels of older citizens mostly try to avoid contact at all cost and are more precautious about what's happening around them.