

## COVID-19, Staying Together While Socially Distanced

When this whole pandemic started, and the lockdown from school began, I noticed a lot of things about my neighborhood. I live in Bay Ridge, where there is a wide variety of cultures to learn from and meet. I did notice, however, that my neighbors began looking at my other neighbors, who happened to be of Asian descent, in quite the harsh way. One of my neighbors even said horrible things to them one night from across the street, which I thought was horrible. Another group of kids in my neighborhood were walking in front of me harassing an Asian woman, saying things like “thanks for the virus” or “stop eating bats,” to which I had told them off and stopped immediately. As someone pursuing the medical field, I think the worst thing we can do during a pandemic is stay farther apart socially, even though physically it is required we are distanced. I would like to use this as a reminder to reach out to friends and family members that you have not talked to since the lockdown, or reach out to a neighbor just to see how their day was. Again, I urge you to socially distance, but I think that giving harsh looks and calling people names only makes more problems for us.