

I am a 19 year old freshman college student at Arizona State University. I am originally from a rural town in Northeastern Colorado, the beautiful (depends on who you ask) Eastern Plains. Mine, as well as everyone else's in the world, life was recently turned upside down. I was eating at the restaurant I worked at in my hometown, on March 12th, with my grandma, mom, and cousin during my spring break when suddenly I got notification that ASU was going online for two weeks. Of course I had heard about COVID-19 at this point, but the severity of it was unknown until our world got flipped upside down. At first I was like cool, I get to spend a couple extra days with my family and hometown friends. Slowly things got more serious. Toilet paper was disappearing, cleaning supplies were gone, and grocery stores had empty shelves. It felt like an apocalypse had hit. When it felt really real was my flight from Colorado back to Arizona. I needed my books so I headed back to school just a few days later. When entering the airport I was shocked by the lack of traffic upon entering. Then as I entered the airport and headed towards security I realized I was the only person in line. Denver International Airport (DIA) is known for being a huge, busy airport. Seeing the airport I have flown out of many many times empty was extremely shocking and slightly emotional, "this is not how it is supposed to be" was constantly running through my head. I landed in Phoenix and headed to the condo my parents had bought, the place where I would bunker down for the next, what I thought, week and a few days before returning to my normal college routine. Soon after arriving I had found out school was online for the rest of the semester. I was devastated but knew it was for the best. Now comes the worse part for me personally. All my college friends were back in their hometowns and I was alone in a city I hardly knew. My parents, both essential workers, did not have time for a few weeks to fly out to Arizona and help me make the 14 hour drive back to Colorado with all my

stuff. I spent three weeks holed up in a condo with hardly any human interaction. Never did I think going grocery shopping would be so appealing. I was constantly FaceTiming my friends and family trying to fill the void of social interaction, but it just was not the same. I needed my friends and family. Left alone with my thoughts and school work I spent three weeks, which felt like three years, social distancing and praying for the safety of everyone around the world and watching the craziness unfold before my eyes. I am not one who deals with emotions easily, so the constant wondering of when and if things would ever return to normal almost broke me down. I am extremely thankful no one close to me has been diagnosed with COVID-19. I am extremely sorry for everyone affected, I am praying for healing and peace for everyone.