



Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19

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Name Anonymous

Affiliation Student

Story contribution

In the early days of the pandemic, I was still on campus. Life was incredibly hectic, I was super-focused on my MGMT271 final, it was cumulative, and the professor had a rep for being a very hard grader. I had done well so far in his class, but so many were struggling. I don't think the virus became real for me until that last week in February, and then it came down like a hammer, in what seemed like just a few days.

I remember that last class before school was cancelled, I had never worn a face mask before, outside of a hospital, and social distancing was not a thing. I just remember thinking there were so many people sick, with what seemed like a cold, but I didn't know what Covid was, much less how to protect myself. Two days later, campus was closed, and we didn't take our final exams. No stress for me, my A grade stood, but I think there were many others who didn't have a chance to overcome poor grades incurred during the quarter.

I'm a natural introvert, so, except for my anxiety about being out in public, I really didn't mind being at home for school. I followed my schedule, just as I had previously. I think my greatest stress at the time was for my Rotary club- I was the sitting President, and when I made the decision to cancel in person meetings, I faced a lot of backlash. Fortunately, Rotary International sided with me a few weeks later, so I had a chance to save political face.

I've spent much of the last eighteen months worried about others- simply because I realized that I was coming from a position of privilege and freedom. My family got vaccinated early and vehemently, the only outlier was my son's now-ex fiancée, and that is why she's now an ex. My sister, who works Critical Care at Harborview, and my son who ended up in the hospital sick, those are the people that I have worried about.

The politics of the previous administration and the inefficacy of the BLM movements to achieve structural change have been the most worrisome. Like many, I felt as though I was tilting at windmills during 45's time, but I'm really not convinced that the milquetoast replacement was an adequate solution for such a pivotal moment in history. I have never missed a vote in two decades, but I'm not sure that it counts for much.

End of contributed text from Story ID: 66 - Anonymous