

Ella - Age 16

March 31, 2020

There have been some crazy things during my lifetime but up until now, there has not been anything this insane. When the Corona-quarantine first started, I thought to myself, “this is nuts”, but it didn’t really affect me personally. Although I thought about and felt bad for the people struggling in China and throughout the world, I kept living my normal life and doing my everyday things. I didn't really follow the news so much and I was pretty unaware and unprepared for the impact of the virus.

However, when I woke up one day to hear that it was becoming widespread in New York, I got really scared. I have family and friends in New York. Now this was so much closer to home. Although I continued my routine, the thought that it could inflict Los Angeles and possibly my friends and family here, really stuck with me. Then I began to hear about people that I knew getting sick, including my cousin who was in the hospital as well as my aunt and uncle, I became really fearful. All of the schools around me (including mine) shut down and it began to hit me hard. This was no longer something happening far away across the world, this was happening in my own state and to people I love.

From that point, I began to understand how this pandemic would really impact my personal community and my life. I was told I was unable to see my friends, non-immediate family and anyone else without being at least 6 feet apart. Public and social events were all cancelled, including the homeless project I had organized for my 16th birthday. Oh, and my 16th birthday was spent only with my family and my dogs. Even going to a restaurant, a movie or to see my grandmother became off limits. People are afraid about getting sick and about not being able to work. We have tried to get creative with connections with zoom calls and we have

visited my grandmother and her dog outside of her facility on the sidewalk at a safe 6 feet distance (she argued with us about this, but we made sure to stay firm). Everyone has started to self quarantine, which I really hope will slow the spread. I pray that it slows down. There have been rumors that the peak of the outbreak isn't even upon us and might not hit until possibly May and that we could be social distancing for months. The thought of that scares me so much. So much of this scares me. Hopefully, this all ends soon and those who are sick can recover quickly and life can resume. Although, I sometimes wonder if life will ever be the same as it was before...