

Nicholas - Age 18

April 3, 2020

### Thoughts on COVID-19

It seems like things are getting increasingly more chaotic as the days go on. Ironically, I have never been more bored in my entire life. I am on day 20 or so of quarantine and thankfully the days for the most part have been going by a bit faster. My day begins with me waking up five minutes before online class starts and going to “school” until 2:45. At around 3:30, I take my two dogs for a walk around my neighborhood for about an hour. Oftentimes I’ll pick up a friend or two and we’ll walk together six feet apart, catching up on the time missed. As I walk my dogs I see people around my neighborhood taking a stroll or going for a run, basically doing anything to get out of the house for a bit. I can see the now familiar expression of concern on their faces as they walk with caution. They do not wish to socialize or put themselves in any sort of precarious situation. Some have even thrown basic manners out the window. On three separate occasions people have rudely told me that my dogs take up too much space on the sidewalk, forcing them to walk in the street. The most recent time that happened, I was with a friend of mine who responded to the man saying there was nothing we could do, which prompted the man to threaten to “smack” my friend in the face. Honestly, I understand the frustration. Never have we experienced anything like this before and it’s clearly taking a toll on many of us, including myself. This hasn’t been easy for me at all. I want to go out, hang out my friends, go have dinner at a restaurant, go to the beach, but I can’t. I wish I could but I can’t because right now the world

needs all of us to put our lives on hold for a bit so this can be taken care of. The whole thing frankly came at an inconvenient time. It's the end of my senior year and this is not how I planned on spending it. I was supposed to go on two trips in the month of March which of course were both cancelled. I have a trip planned in May which will most likely also be cancelled. My summer plans are now in jeopardy because of the pandemic. People tell me one of two things to make me feel better. One is that people have had it worse before, and two is that it will all be over soon, which I understand but it still does not change the fact that I am missing out on a lot because of the virus. There really isn't much people can say except "This sucks." Those people are right. It does suck. All I can do now is look on the bright side of things and try to keep moving forward. Hopefully this will all be over soon and I can get back to some element of normalcy, but until then I'll keep my head above water and take it one day at a time.