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2020-05-11

COVID19 Journal

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Katie Doll

April 22, 2020

The past month has been insane and has changed my life in more ways than I ever could have imagined. When COVID19 became and colleges across the country closed, my brother and I drove seven hours in a day to move me out, and I returned to my parents' house. Driving to Cincinnati to move out of my dorm in March was surreal. That wasn't supposed to be how the semester ended, that wasn't supposed to be how my first year at college ended. I had to move out of my first college dorm two months early and I didn't even have the chance to say goodbye to my roommates that I had lived with for a year. We had to fill out a sign-up sheet for the times we would be in the building to move out to limit the number of people that are in the building at one time. I had left campus believing to only be gone a week and next thing I know; I'm completely moved out and back at my parents' house.

April 24

Living my parents again has been an interesting experience, but luckily I only had to stay there for a few weeks before I was able to move to my brothers' apartment. My mom is a teacher at a trade school, so she is home all day every day. My dad works at a mining site with less than ten people, so luckily, he has been able to continue working. While I am grateful for everything my parents have done for me but living with your parents when you were supposed to be at college four hours away is disappointing. I know longer feels like I'm a college student, it felt as if I was stuck as a high school student again. Even more, I feel as if I'm missing out on the experiences, I was supposed to have during my first year. I'm grateful to have a place to quarantine in with food and internet connection, but I can feel my mental health declining.

April 28, 2020

As much as I appreciate my parents, I was thankfully able to come to stay at my brothers' apartment about two weeks ago and have been here ever since. Staying with my two brothers in Akron has definitely been one of the best decisions I have made recently. Being with them allows me to feel comfortable and relaxed even despite everything that is happening. With my brother being a college student too, we have been able to motivate each other to do our work and have been able to better enjoy our downtime. However, that doesn't mean it doesn't have its downfalls. Due to everything, I haven't been able to officially move in, so I've been sleeping in an air mattress in an empty room that has no lights. Despite missing Xavier, having to move back, and having to quarantine has been a difficult transition, but being with my brothers has definitely made it easier and has allowed me to feel some sense of normalcy.

May 1, 2020

Today I walked into a computer store to pick something up and by the front door a man was very strictly giving hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks for people to wear in the store. It was startling to see his urgency in his position. However, I was surprised to see the store's stockpile of medical masks and gloves. I understand the store's want to protect the workers and customers, but I was even more surprised that they had not donated those supplies to a hospital or doctor's office. It felt wasteful for the three of us to put on a mask and gloves for fifteen minutes only to throw it away right after when it could have been used for people on the front lines. Furthermore, while masks and gloves help protect yourself and those around you, wearing them can induce my anxiety.

May 5, 2020

I've been feeling a lot of the effects of COVID19 economically. I was claimed as a dependent on my taxes because it made the most sense for my parents to claim me, and because I

am older than 17, I did not qualify for a stimulus check or the smaller check that is given for dependents under 17. However, since I am staying with my brothers I have been helping pay for groceries and food and I have had to rely on my savings. The effects of COVID19 will continue to follow me for years to come as I have to spend money meant to pay for my tuition on food. Furthermore, I feel guilty that I'm not giving them money for rent, but my brothers understand my situation. The refund from the school has helped a little and I continue to get paychecks from the school since I am a work study student, but that money has been redirected to pay towards my loans. It's been difficult to balance the stress of school and money at the same time, but hopefully, I will be able to get a job once the semester ends.

May 7, 2020

The end of the semester is coming soon and studying for finals has been a challenge. Many of my friends and my brother have already ended their semesters, so it's been difficult to stay motivated to continue studying. In my time in school, I have always studied with the goal to get an A in my classes, but recently I have only been able to study in hopes of passing my classes. It's been difficult to study and work on assignments because of this I have only been able to get myself to do the bare minimum. Furthermore, I worry about whether next semester is going to be online or in person. I don't think I'll be able to handle another semester online and it scares me to think of the long-term effects of the pandemic and that it will still have a direct affect for months to come.