

Xavier University

## Exhibit

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COVID-19 & Xavier: Documents

COVID-19 & Xavier: A Digital Collection

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2020-05-14

### What's going on in 2020

Alex Masferrer

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To whoever may be reading this,

My name is Alex Masferrer and this is an open letter about what life is like in the year 2020 during the COVID-19 or Coronavirus pandemic. I am writing this on May 14th 2020 and I just finished my Freshman year at Xavier. I want to start off by saying that I, like many others, did not take this virus seriously when I first heard about it. Late 2019/ Early 2020 I had seen on social media that there was a bad virus in China and it was spreading like crazy, but I thought nothing of it. Then as the virus kept spreading and spreading I still thought nothing of it because it had not gotten to the United States. I then vividly remember my friend Conor telling me at the beginning of the second semester that the virus had been detected in Washington State, still even then I didn't pay much attention and just told myself that I had nothing to worry about because it wouldn't make it out of the west coast. Fast forward to spring break, I spent the first half in Miami and had a great time, (nothing was shut down at this point), and then I went back to my home in Boston for the second half of spring break. At this point multiple schools specifically on the west coast had sent their students home and were doing remote learning. Then while I was in Boston, I got an email from Xavier saying due to the pandemic and by the governor's recommendation, we would be doing remote learning until Easter, and that after Easter we would go back to normal. Not even two days later, I got another email for Xavier but this time it said that Xavier was closing its campus and the rest of the semester would be remote and we had to move all of our items out within a week. I was absolutely shook to say the least. Just like that my freshman year of college was over socially. I was crushed and sad but, as life goes on you adjust. My family hired a crew of people to move my stuff out of my dorm and send it back to me so I didn't have to fly back to Xavier like many students.

In regards to day to day life its complete isolation. I haven't seen my friends from college, or even my friends here in Boston in months. Both my parents are diabetic so they are considered at risk. So I being the oldest of my four siblings is driving to groceries stores and stores getting food and supplies. As of right now neither I nor anyone I know has or had the virus. As of today there are a lot of people protesting for the county to “open up” and allow people to leave their houses while still social distancing (staying 6 feet apart), most of those protests are coming from rebulican leaning states. Recently some states have begun to open up slowly like Arizona and Florida but almost all states are remaining closed. Like I mentioned before I just finished my freshman year on “zoom” which is like video chatting classes and such. I miss Xavier dearly and really hope I will be able to return in the fall with my friends, but that, as well as everything else going on with this virus right now is... unclear.

- Alex Masferrer - Freshman - May 14th 2020