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One of the Lucky Ones in a Pandemic

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One of The Lucky Ones in A Pandemic

Colby Daniels

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English 400

I am one that keeps up with current events in the news I saw the news when the first outbreak started in China in February. I saw coronavirus on the news again when we had the first confirmed case in the United States on January 20th, 2020 in Washington state according to NYT. On March 13th, 2020 Longwood University decided to switch to online classes until March 27th, 2020. They would end up never switching back from online classes for the rest of the semester. For most of the students including me this was the first time we had ever been personally affect by this virus that came from across the world to our small southern Virginia town. I never would have thought how much my life and the world would have been put on pause and changed forever in just 7 weeks. Since Longwood switched to online classes due to coronavirus I have been laid off from my job, unable to work for health purposes, and not able to leave my apartment in Farmville.

The week of March 16th,2020 Restaurants and other business were still unaffected, I was a server at Macado's and was unable to work my normally scheduled shifts that week because I had an ear infection. After that week, businesses were no longer allowed to serve customers inside. With this new law caused by the coronavirus Macado's decided that only salary

employees could work because I am a server I was not aloud to be scheduled until businesses were aloud to reopen. Since March 16th I have only had one opportunity to receive income mulching a lawn to help a friend. Although it was a great opportunity it was not the same amount, I would have made had coronavirus not caused me to be laid off.

My parents are hard-working middle-class people, my mother is a first-grade teacher and my father is a maintenance technician. I am not complaining about my parents or their finances by any mines I consider myself lucky but due to my parents finances I must pay my own rent. This is fare considering they put a roof over my head and fed me for 18 years and they pay for my cell phone. Paying my rent has become very difficult since the coronavirus shut down forced me to be laid off. So being the overthinking motivated person I am, I told my mother I was going to get a job as an essential worker such as a cashier or stocking shelves. My mother about smacked me through the phone telling me that I was not allowed to work and increase my chances of getting coronavirus because I am considered at higher risk from coronavirus due to preexisting respiratory issues.

On the day I was born I underwent a TE Fistula repair, A surgery to connect my esophagus to my trachea so I could breathe and swallow food. As a result of this surgery I now have a funny laugh, a cool scare, and compromised lungs a small price to pay for a normal life. As I mentioned earlier, I am at higher risk of coronavirus and its because of the TE Fistula repair and my compromised lungs. I have never been affected by these respiratory issues, I have lived a normal life playing contact sports and playing outside as a kid. With schools being closed because of coronavirus my mother no longer has to work but my father being a maintenance technician for a gas stations company, he is considered an essential worker which increases his chances of getting coronavirus and the chances he will bring it home and give it to my mother

and anyone else living in the house. Considering Longwood switched to online classes and I don't have a job there is no reason for me to stay in Farmville, however due to my preexisting respiratory issues and my father being an essential worker my mother decided it would be safer for me to stay in Farmville on the off chance that I am a carrier and give it to them or my father brings in home from work and gives it to me.

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected everyone across the world, most of them have been affected a million times worse than me. Some of the largest affects coronavirus is having on people is hunger, depression, overdoses, and lost of wages and potentially no job when they can return to work. The affects coronavirus has had on me is I was laid-off from my servers' job, unable to get a new job due to preexisting respiratory issues, and I am unable to live with or see my parents because of preexisting respiratory issues and my father being an essential worker. I consider myself as one of the lucky ones being affected by coronavirus and in these difficult times, we all need to be looking for the bright side of things and the little victories during the pandemic.