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Longwood: Life during COVID-19

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Student Essay During Pandemic

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On March 11th, 2020 the Longwood community received an email from President Reveley that one of our fellow students had been tested positive for COVID-19 and that classes were cancelled for the next week. Little did we know at the time that classes would be moved online for the remainder of the semester and that this was just the beginning of a world-wide, life changing pandemic.

At first, I don't think many people, especially at our age, took this virus very seriously. We all thought that since we are young and healthy, our bodies would be able to fight this virus off, just like the flu. Therefore, there were lots of people still hanging out in big groups and acting as if this virus was not a big deal. However, as the days and weeks went by, we were all informed of the new cases that were forming with not just older adults or the elderly, but with young and healthy adults, teenagers, children, and even babies. And while most cases have resulted in recovery, there are many that have ended in death.

Personally, I knew to take this virus seriously from the beginning because I have a few people in my family that are at a high-risk for illnesses. I have a cousin who has Cystic Fibrosis, a grandfather who is receiving cancer treatment, and a two-month-old nephew who has Down Syndrome. So out of respect for these three very special people in my life, and for every other high-risk person out there, my family has been quarantining and social distancing since day 1 of this pandemic. To visit my nephew, we do "porch visits", where we are social distancing by standing six feet apart from one another, but it allows us to see each other and socialize. While quarantining isn't an ideal way to spend our pretty spring days, it is necessary in order to fight this virus off and protect our loved ones. It has become the new "normal" to stay at home and only leave the house when absolutely necessary.

During quarantine I have spent my days doing homework, exercising in the backyard, doing yard work, watching movies, and crafting. It has given me plenty of time to reflect on the important things in life and realize how important our health is. I truly feel that COVID-19 has taught me to be grateful for everything in my life, including the privilege of attending in-person classes at Longwood University. Completing classes online for the last couple months of the semester has been challenging and sad, because we are not able to have that face-to-face connection and time with our classmates and professors. Nothing beats being on campus with fellow classmates and friends.

While this COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the scariest times of my life, I also believe that our world will come out stronger than ever on the other side of this. We will learn to appreciate the simplest things in life the most, including a hug from a friend. I think I can speak for all of my fellow Lancers when I say that I have never been more excited to return to campus in the fall and reunite with the entire Longwood family.