
The Covid-19 Diaries

Journal Entries of Anna Sutton

March-December 2020

March 15, 2020

We just got an email telling us that the University is sending us home for two weeks due to the spreading of this new virus. To be honest, I think we will be home for longer than two weeks; it seems like this virus is already controlling us even though it just got here. I really do not know what to think of the whole situation and am very overwhelmed with it. Sports games and events are getting canceled, families are stocking up on food like the apocalypse is coming, and we are being told to stay in our houses for two weeks and only leave if necessary. I am getting picked up tomorrow morning to head back home, and I honestly do not know what to bring since it is likely that this virus will last longer than two weeks.

March 20, 2020

Wow, am I bored! I thought these two weeks would be enjoyable and relaxing, but I do not have anything to do. I am definitely not used to living with my parents anymore, and we quickly get annoyed with each other. The virus is getting worse as I expected, and many are instructed to stay at home. I am somewhat confused with it, to be honest, because you have some people saying do not worry about it, it will go away soon, but then you see the people in hospitals suffering from it. This whole "quarantine"/ staying at home gives me severe anxiety because I do not know what to expect at all. I turn on the news, and there are more cases, more people dying, and more information of what the virus is, and it all changes within minutes. All we can do is hope that this virus goes away quickly without doing too much damage.

March 26, 2020

This is getting really bad! The U.S. just confirmed that they have the most cases in the whole world, resulting in 1,000 deaths and hospitals need supplies that they are running out of. On top of people dying, many are filling for unemployment because businesses have to shut down. To support these individuals, congress a relief package to help those who are unemployed. The chances of me going back to college are very slim, but I don't know how else I would do my classes; some are talking about going entirely online. I do not know how the online classes would work for me since I am currently in a teaching placement in an elementary school. Once again, everything is truly still up in the air, and people do not know what is happening, so we just have to take it one day at a time.

April 5, 2020

The CDC has instructed us to start wearing face masks. All of the factories are voluntarily giving their N95 masks to the healthcare workers because they are the most protective of the masks. My mom and I are going to go to Joann fabrics later today to get supplies to make homemade masks. We are planning on making some for ourselves and then some family friends. The University has moved classes fully online and has shut down the campus, resulting in students living at home. My classes start back up next week Monday, and they will be entirely online without scheduled times; and instead, they are all asynchronous. My professors have warned us that it will be somewhat unorganized since they have not taught entirely online in their career before. Let's hope that I can make it through this semester.

April 19, 2020

The first week of online classes is complete, and the professors were correct; it is unorganized, but I do not blame them because I would not be able to switch a class entirely online within two weeks either. More and more people are getting infected with the virus and dying. Hospitals and first responders are getting overwhelmed with the situation and cannot check a break. The majority of hospitals are at total capacity all for treating Covid-19 patients making it hard for other individuals with different illnesses to seek treatment. I have not been out of the house yet because I am scared and anxious to go out in public, and I do not know when this anxiety will go away. My mom and I have already made 100 masks and have tried many different patterns but have not found one that is completely comfortable yet. The whole world is basically collapsing, and no one knows what to do.

May 1, 2020

Businesses are starting to struggle, and many are closing due to the quarantine and stay-at-home orders. Many individuals are getting laid off or completely losing their jobs. Some government officials are starting to talk about re-opening, but how are we supposed to re-open and keep everyone safe at the same time. How can we get these jobs back but keep everyone safe at the same time? My mom and I have continued to make face masks for people we know and have finally found a comfortable pattern. I have started to have weekly zoom movie nights with my college friends, and I feel like it is really helping me mentally because there is little joy in this pandemic world we are living in.

May 25, 2020

Umm, I do not know how to put this. As I am writing this entry, I have tears in my eyes. This afternoon in Minneapolis, a Black man by the name of George Floyd was killed by a police officer. The officer knelt on his neck until George Floyd died because he could not breathe. Our country and system are messed up; there is no reason why a human should do that or suffer through that. Protests are already starting due to the killing. The officers involved have yet been arrested or charged for the murder of George Floyd. Look up the day and incident, study it, and remember his name! We need answers, and the system needs to be reformed!

May 31, 2020

There are protests going on around the world because of the killing of George Floyd. Protestors are being tear-gassed and beat by law enforcement because they want answers, reform, and to see the officers involved arrested. Some of the protests are getting violent with burning buildings, robbing, and fighting. The incident has put a divide in between my parents and me, I want reform, and they are saying that there is no need for protests, and if people can protest, we should be able to go to church?!? Like going to church is more important than asking for equality and defending someone's life. Let's just say my mental is pretty bad, and I currently in a very toxic environment, but I cannot go anywhere. Therefore, I will be staying in the basement for the majority of the time.

June 6, 2020

Black Lives Matter protests continue and now are global. The country is seeing a second wave of Covid-19 cases and is likely to have another shutdown. All summer events are either being canceled or post-pounded for a later date. Since the gyms and workout areas are still closed, I have been getting into running a lot and usually do 3-4 miles a day. In the midst of the protests and demand for social change, I have decided to switch my major from elementary education to social work in hopes of bringing a change to the world. If restaurants continue to stay open, I think I am going to go back to work at Culvers since I have started to become more comfortable with going out in public and am getting used to the new normal.

July 5, 2020

As we get deeper into the summer months, the virus is not going away. Since everything is canceled, I just worked yesterday since there was not anything to do. This is not going to be a normal summer, and I just have to get used to that. I am just thankful that my family remains healthy and safe. Citizens may care about the virus, but Trump sure does not. He held a rally at Mount Rushmore on the 3rd, which did not require any face masks or social distancing. On top of the two members of his administrative team tested positive for Covid-19 while they were at the rally. I cannot wait for a chance to vote him out of office.

July 20, 2020

The summer just keeps on going by surprisingly fast. I finally got to see my brothers at a cabin that my parents had rented for the week. The cabin was in the Northwoods, and a lot of the businesses in the town were open. It was really nice to have a break from everything that is going on and just relax and enjoy summer. All of the shops were following proper Covid guidelines, but in the next town, they had an outdoor music festival with only older people in attendance, but no one was socially distancing or wearing a mask. I do not know why one would think it is smart to gather in a large group if they are at high risk of getting infected with the virus. This is what makes it a "political" pandemic, you have individuals who still believe the whole thing is fake and that they are better than it because of the news that they are watching, and then you have those who are cautious and listening to guidelines watching the other side of the news.

August 8, 2020

I just got word that I will be able to go back to campus in the fall, which is super exciting for many reasons. For one, I miss my friends so much, and I do not think I can stand living at home anymore. My mom is starting to believe everything that the right-wing extremist are saying about the virus, that it is not as serious as people are making it out to be, and that masks do not really do anything. She is also starting to become extremely racist with the BLM movement taking place. I am also thankful to be going back to campus because I do not know if I could do another full semester of online classes. Last semester was really weird, and I struggled a lot mentally because I like to be in control of what is going in my life, and with the setup we had, I could not do that at all. I think it is going to be extremely healthy for me to move back to Eau Claire, and I cannot wait to see my friends.

August 18, 2020

Biden just announced Kamala Harris will be his running mate, which is so exciting. We would finally have a woman in the office, and on top of that, we would see changes for equality, social justice, women's rights, human rights, and so much more. While that is some good news, there is some bad news. This week the U.S. surpassed 170,000 covid deaths, and though they are trying to create a vaccine, nothing has come to the public yet. Some colleges have already gone back to school, and Covid cases at these colleges have developed rapidly. I was not scared to go back to school before this news, but I am kind of hesitant after hearing it. I want to be in person or at least somewhat in person, but I do not want to put my own health at risk for it. I think the university is still planning on doing hybrid classes, and I hope they have a safe plan to perform them.

August 26, 2020

A lot has happened! On August 23, a black man by the name of Jacob Blake was shot seven times by police officers in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He was pulled over and asked to step out of the car (mainly because he was black). As he opened up his door to step out, the officers shot him seven times. That is not even the worst of it. While this was all happening, Blake's three young sons were in the back seat watching the whole thing happen. Blake somehow survived those seven shots. Those three little children are going to fear law enforcement for the rest of their life because officers literally almost killed their father right in front of them. Protests broke out across the nation due to the event, and massive protests occurred in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where the incident took place. Yesterday on August 25, a white man carried an AR-15 to the protest that was happening in Kenosha. He was never stopped by law enforcement for having a weapon at the protest. He was there to spread peace or ask for social justice; instead, he was there to cause harm. His name was Kyle Rittenhouse, and he shot and killed two protestors, went back home and was later called a hero by government leaders and thanked by law enforcement for protecting everyone even though he killed two people. How can people think that is okay? My parents are some of those people that think it is okay. I brought the incident up, and they defended the actions of Kyle Rittenhouse, the officers who didn't stop Rittenhouse, and the officers who shot Jacob Blake. I need to get out of this house; it is way too toxic for me.

August 29, 2020

It is move-in day today! I am writing this on our way up to Eau Claire and have a lot of mixed emotions. I feel excited, thankful, scared, happy, and optimistic all at the same time. To follow Covid protocols, I had to sign up for a specific time slot to move in and only have about 15 minutes to do so; I do not have that much stuff, so I do not think that will be a problem. Though I have a lot of mixed emotions, I am finally excited to live with my friends and not home anymore; the conversations with my parents were getting pretty divided and toxic. Classes start back up on Tuesday on all but one of my classes hybrid meaning one day I will attend in person, and the other day I will log in online. I would rather do this hybrid format than go fully online since I didn't really like learning that way.

September 10, 2020

I have been in classes for a little over a week, and I am actually liking the hybrid format that the university has put in place. For Covid protocols, we are instructed to wear face masks at all times when one campus and study areas are restricted to a certain number of students. Since I am living in a university apartment building, I have to get antigen tested bi-weekly to make sure that the university does not have an outbreak of cases. There continue to be BLM protests across the nation as police brutality, and injustice treatment, and killings are still occurring. Just as I thought Trump could not get any worse, he did. On September 5, he placed a ban on racial sensitivity training in federal agencies claiming that it was "diverse anti-American propaganda," which is white supremacy to the T long with having Nazi values. He also wants to form history courses to be "pro-American," meaning that it will make people look up to, value, and see the good in the founders and creators of the United States. Once again, I cannot wait to vote him out.

September 29, 2020

Covid cases are rising globally as the world surpassed 1 million deaths by Covid-19 yesterday. Even though there are many cases and deaths, there is hope as three vaccines have made to the third and final trial having CDC confirm that we will have vaccines by 2021. As 2020 moves on, we receive bad news, on September 18th Ruth Bader Ginsburg Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, had passed away from Cancer. The soulless person that Trump is, he has already planned to nominate Amy Coney Barret, a far-right extremist. This nomination came only seven days after Ruth Bader Ginsburg had passed. If the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett goes through, the Republicans will have a 6-3 advantage in the Supreme Court. The country would also have an indivual who wants to ban all cases of abortion overturning Roe v. Wade, is extremely against the LGBTQ+ community, supports the death penalty, and is against gun laws. So basically, if she gets sworn in, we are screwed.

October 20, 2020

The pandemic keeps on getting worse and worse! There have been more than 40 million cases and 1.1 million deaths worldwide. The U.S. has the most Covid related deaths with 220,000. At the beginning of the month, Trump and the First Lady had tested positive, and Trump was sent to a hospital to get advanced treatment. While he was sick, he gave the virus to ten of the individuals that were working for him. At the end of the treatment, he claimed that the virus was not even that bad and that the country can get through it. As a result of this, Trump halted all Covid relief talks until the election. While October was quite difficult and the country faced many challenges, early voting using an absentee ballot is taking place. I sent in my ballot two days ago, and obviously, I voted for Biden. Many others are doing early voting as well in order to stay. The ballots that have been sent in have already broke records for the number of absentee ballots for an election. At this point, all we can do is hope for change and for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to win.

November 7, 2020

I was going to journal on election night (November 3), but I was way too nervous and overwhelmed. Due to all of the mail-in absentee ballots, it took a while for the numbers to come in. Today is a good day. Joe Biden and Kamala have finally been certified and as President and Vice President-elect winning 279-214. This election set many records for the amount individuals that voted. Today I can say that I proud to be an American, something that I could not say for the past four years. My vote mattered, which means so much to me; I helped turn Wisconsin blue. I have not been this happy in a while, and I just have a feeling of relief, peace, and hope. I know change is coming finally, and I could not be more joyous about it.

November 18, 2020

Even though Joe Biden won the presidential election and Homeland security had declared it was the safest election to take place, Trump, for some reason, still thinks he won. Trump is practically suing every purple state (states that were close) for election fraud. Every state re-counted their votes and turned down the cases, but Trump still keeps on trying to overturn the election and claim that it was stolen from him, which is just pathetic. As for Covid-19, the vaccines are coming close to being introduced to the public. Though vaccines are coming, cases are still rising, and the nation has surpassed 11 million cases, and it is expected that we will soon surpass 250,000 million deaths and 12 million cases. I am going home for Thanksgiving and my Birthday, and hopefully, no political conversations come up, but I bet they will.

November 30, 2020

I can confirm that covid birthday are I face not fun and quite depressing. It just felt super lonely and not special even though I had my parents and my older brother. My mom got a call on the 28th that my Grandma who lives in a nursing home has been infected with Covid. Since she is older and has other underlying conditions the chances of her are making are pretty slim. As I am writing this I am headed back to EC and have come to the realization that I will probably have to go back home in the next week to attend a funeral. I have heard so many people losing their loved ones to the virus but I did not think it would happen to me.

December 5, 2020

My grandma passed away on the second in the afternoon. My mom was able to go inside the nursing home to say goodbye, and she had put on a full has-mask suit in order to protect herself. The funeral is on Monday the 7th, right at the beginning of finals week. The funeral is also at 10:00 am so my brothers are going to have to pick me up at 4:30 am in order for us to make it on time. Strangely enough, I am not that saddened by the loss; I wasn't really close to her and hardly ever saw her. But I feel so bad for my mother. It is crazy how much this pandemic is affecting our lives.

December 9, 2020

A lot has happened since I last journaled! I attended my grandma's funeral, and not everyone was wearing a mask or social distancing, which extremely rude and inconsiderate. How are you going to attend the funeral of a loved one who died from covid but not participate in Covid-19 guidelines? This scenario of people not following did not really affect me until this morning when I came back from a 5-mile run and had gotten my weekly antigen test done, and you guessed it right, it came back positive. I had to then get the actual covid test that goes all the way up to your nose and move out of my apartment and into a quarantine facility. That all happened before noon. I then had to log on to two final exams while my mind was running thoughts of having covid and realization that I might not even be able to go home for Christmas. So, I would have to spend Christmas by myself in a studio quarantine apartment. I am going to receive the test results of my Covid-19 test on Friday, and hopefully, I do not have it. And I thought I thought my anxiety and depression could not get worse, and boy, was I wrong.

December 11, 2020

I had been waiting around all day for my Covid-19 results to come in; I packed up my quarantine apartment because I have a feeling that I do not have the virus. It was around 3:00, and the student health services still had not contacted me, so I decided to reach out to them. I had received the good news that I do not have the virus and could go home; the annoying thing is that the health services said that they had my results ready on Wednesday evening but forgot to call me. Now I am just waiting to get approved by housing to leave the facility and go back home. If housing does not get back to me soon, I am going to be getting home after 10:00 pm tonight, so that is also super annoying. I have decided to wear a mask when I go home because my parents have not been following Covid-19 guidelines at all, which again does not make sense because how are you going to watch someone die from the virus but not prevent it from spreading.