

How has the COVID Pandemic affected me?

Honestly, COVID hasn't affected me that much. Then again, as a relatively healthy male in his early 20s with no underlying health issues, I really haven't had a lot to worry about, statistically speaking.

That being said, I'm not stupid. I know that COVID is real, it does kill, and there are ways to prevent it.

Lockdown didn't have too much of an effect on me. I got out to exercise outside for about an hour most days of the week, keeping away from other people. Staying indoors for most of the day wasn't much of an issue. I tend to be a homebody in the first place, and lazy/ prefer being alone on top of that. The closing of a lot of stores was definitely inconvenient, but again, that was understandable due to the mass spread of COVID. Having a job where I could telework and chug coffee did a lot to take my mind off of things.

I never begrudged having to wear a mask where mandatory; it was necessary, and if it was the price to pay to open up again, that was something that I was willing to pay.

The same line of thinking applied to where I go to college. When the pandemic kicked off in America, all students were sent home. That did make school a little more difficult, figuring out Zoom with a number of older teachers who were not technologically competent. Additionally, it required me to re-adjust my mindset, as I normally equate relaxing with being at home. The thing that hurt the most was not seeing a lot of my classmates and friends. That was a bit more difficult, but there was enough communication on groupchats and the like to make it tolerable.

As soon as restaurants started to re-open, I began to go to them to get work done and get out of the house. Masks were not an issue; if I had to wear something in order to get out of the house, then so be it.

The same happened when university opened up in the fall of that year. It was annoying having to wear the masks, but if I could see my friends again, that would be worth it. The in-person classes were a lot more enjoyable than watching some video lecture as well, and I learned a lot more during the in-person classes than online lectures. When the vaccines were initially available for most college-age students, I tried to get an appointment, but was unable to because the waitlist was completely full. I was eventually able to get both doses of the vaccine. I tried to get the booster initially when it became available, but wasn't able to because of the same issue in getting the first two doses of the vaccine; the line was long, and I didn't really need due to because I'm not in a vulnerable demographic.

I am getting tired of COVID, and am glad that masks aren't required at this point. Most of my friends have either been fully vaccinated or have already had COVID, making it a lot more difficult for transmission in our friend group. I think that it's not likely that COVID will go away any time soon, but it can at least be managed competently by the public and the government.