

Saturday, 7 March 2020

Around the world there has been a new virus outbreak, a pandemic actually, of the coronavirus. It started in China and spread to the rest of the globe, as it is very contagious. Unfortunately, there are many cases in the United States as well, and there's even a case here in my town! However, the death rate is only 2% and 80% of cases are mild. The only people really at risk are the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. For my age group (I am a junior in high school), the death rate is 0.2% and the cases are very mild. So we shall see what happens! Although people are completely freaking out and acting like the apocalypse is coming, there have been so many worse world disasters than this. Everyone needs to calm down.

Wednesday, 11 March 2020

School is closed tomorrow. Apparently a student at the high school had symptoms and didn't tell anyone, but was quarantined when his parents got sick first. So now I don't know what's going to happen.

Thursday, 12 March 2020

No school today or tomorrow either. Or for the next two weeks, actually. That's right, school is canceled for the next two weeks because of the coronavirus. There were no new student or teacher cases, the closing is just an extreme precaution. However, this has now caused everyone's panic, including mine, to increase to the next level.

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

The boondoggling continues! Boondoggling is a term that comes from the Great Depression and means to do useless work just to pass the time. Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency two days ago, and closed literally everything in the state for three weeks. So now no school until April 6, which is twenty days away (I'm keeping track). I have a little schoolwork to do, but not much, and I've been trying to work on my Hebrew, but the whole entire world is practically shut down, and I wish things would return to normal. The outbreak has subsided in China, but that took three months. I think this is the biggest world catastrophe I've ever experienced. I keep trying to remind myself it could be so much worse, but this life is all I've ever known.

Wednesday, 25 March 2020

Today there was more news from the governor. School is closed until May 4. At this rate we might not go back for the whole rest of the year. My teachers started doing more online learning, which is good, because I've been so bored with the optional, so-called "enrichment" activities. I'm also making a schedule for myself each day so I stop wasting so much time. I had a virtual meeting with one of my friends today, which was nice but made me realize how much I miss seeing everyone in person. I can't believe I have to wait for over a month before I see anyone again.

Thursday, 2 April 2020

I'm so glad it's finally spring! Although it's hardly any warmer here than it was in March. Anyway, now for the coronavirus update. There are eleven cases in Bedford, and now one million globally. But the death rate for people my age is still extremely low; I have a 99.8% chance of surviving if I get sick. The majority of the countries in Asia have recovered, though I don't know when the peak for America is. I'm less worried about getting sick now than I am of not going back to school for the remainder of the year. We've started real online learning this week, but it's not the same. Today my history teacher encouraged us all to keep a daily log of events during this time to have a record of it afterwards. I'm not going to write everyday accounts, because that would be boring and waste paper. However I will describe a bit of quarantine life here. It has been pretty difficult spending every hour of every day in my house with only my parents and thirteen-year-old brother for company. I wake up around 7 each morning, have breakfast, and then start my morning classes. After the zoom meetings are over, I get to work immediately on school assignments. After finishing a set amount of work each day, I go out for a walk around my neighborhood if it's nice out, or I read downstairs. And that repeats every day.

Tuesday, 21 April 2020

Today I got the news that school is canceled for the rest of the year. Which means that I won't go back until September, when I'm a senior. It's crazy that I'm not going to return to my classes in real life, but I've kind of been expecting this since the first day of quarantine, so I'm not surprised.

Monday, 18 May 2020

Today Governor Baker lifted a small part of the quarantine and we are now in Phase 1 (out of four) of the reopening process. Both cases and hospitalizations have decreased enough to slowly reopen parts of the economy. Everyone desperately wants a vaccine, and I've been hopeful that one will be available sometime next year. The whole world is holding its breath, waiting to see who will be the first to develop a successful vaccine. It's so funny to think that people in the future know exactly how this ends, and I am stuck in the middle of it, clueless. I can't believe that I'm living through a historical event, that I will look back on this in many years, among archived photos and newspaper articles, and have a first-person account of it. "I remember that," I will say. Although I don't think I will have much to show for my time in quarantine. After all, all I've really been doing is schoolwork, going for walks, and practicing Hebrew. But I might try to write something and submit it to an online collection of coronavirus memories. I've always thought it would be cool to be a primary source.