

Robert Tiwari

“COVID-19: A new personal struggle”

We're all going through a trying time in our lives. It is both emotionally and physically exhausting. The COVID-19 Pandemic, commonly known as the Coronavirus Pandemic, is now occurring and is expected to continue. I had no understanding what was going on when COVID first appeared. In the Spring 2020 semester, while sitting on the Brooklyn College campus, I received an email announcing that all of my classes are changing to totally distant online programs. All of my classes have been online since then. Since then, everything has changed for the worst. While wrapping up my Spring 2020 semester, I was also laid off from my retail job because all of the businesses were closed. Days passed when I began to hear that multiple former employees, with whom I had worked in a retail business, was rapidly dying. It was such a scary point in my life that increased so much anxiety, that lead to sadness. With days going on, COVID got progressively worst. Months passed, and all that was on the news was COVID deaths, hospitalizations, a lack of hospital space, and even hearing that if someone was in the hospital for a reason other than COVID, they would have to wait it out, even if it was an emergency.

One day, I was fortunate to find a job immediately as a Medical Scribe for an urgent care center when the pandemic began to worsen in the Fall of 2020 term. What I thought would be a fantastic opportunity has turned out to be demanding and draining. When I first started, I was thrown into a profession where I had to deal with hundreds of patients with high-risk covid exposure or symptoms. I was getting a majority of covid testing individuals, with around half of them testing positive. Working in an urgent care center, we were ordered to wear N-95 masks, gowns, and, if necessary, protective eyewear. Our hours continued to extend while putting our health on the line. We took time away with our loved ones to focus on the betterment of individuals while fighting the pandemic one patient at the time.

Now coming to terms almost two years later with the pandemic, I think every individual had come to terms with the pandemic. But there is a new war that we have to fight. It is the battle between vaccinations. Many people are questioning their freedom with the topic of vaccinations. Many individuals believe that their freedom is being take away as now many states are enforcing the vaccinations in order to do daily activities such as using the gym and eating in restaurants. Who knows when the battle of covid will be over?

Overall this pandemic has changed daily lives of everyone, including medical providers, teachers, students, and overall everyone in general. We are all suffering in one aspect or the other, mentally, physically, and emotionally givcen this pandemic. We all lost our true selves at

one point, and we are all completely different people. This pandemic has thought us to be completely different from our old self. We are thought to grow up and be more independent, but also to be more self aware and protective of ourselves and our loved ones.