

As with many individuals globally, the COVID-19 pandemic hitting in such a sudden and large mannerism definitely affected my life in a way I had never experienced before. As many people I know have said, the sudden large changes that took place around March 14 were very shocking. It first started to sink in when I went to work at my job at a movie theater on the 13th of March, and management was actively changing the ways in which we were dealing with concessions refills and more constant sanitizing throughout my actual shift. On March 15th, ASU announced their plan to move classes to online only for two weeks. Then on about March 17, my place of work announced that they were going to close down all of their locations in the state of Arizona as well as the other states which they have locations in, with no real idea of when they would be reopening. Over the next few weeks, I had to adjust to the new methods of virtual classes, and learn how to adapt to my biology and chemistry labs being completely online. As time went on, I eventually finished all of my classes for the spring semester, despite the strange changes that had take place, and having to work around both my brother who is also a student as well as my mom working from home, and my dad not being able to work as he is a contractor, and at the time it was the height of the virus, in which his job was not necessarily safe to do as it involves seeing multiple different people a day. During all of this, the case numbers in Arizona only increased, and I had to deal with not seeing any of my friends for nearly six months, and having to be in a long distance relationship due to my boyfriend being from a different state and only living in campus housing last year since we were freshman, and therefore he had to go back to his home state when campus housing was evacuated as a precautionary measure. I spent weeks unsure of when I was going to return from work, as they had no clue, and in the meantime as cases surged the expected date of return only got pushed back further and further. Since I was not going to be working, I ended up taking Anatomy and Physiology for the entire summer, which proved to be both very time consuming and very difficult to complete all the work for when struggling mentally with all that was going on. Almost as soon as that class ended, the Fall semester started back up, in which I am much better adapted to online and remote classes. However, only a few weeks into the semester, my work decided that they were going to be reopening, which presented as a difficult decision for me. I live with a high risk family member, and the environment of the movie theaters is very high risk. Given that I already had given up seeing friends, going on vacation, and going to any classes at all in person, I had to decline the offer to return, as it was just too much of a risk to take. For now, am I trying to just focus on the positives and work extra hard in school to do as well as possible and stay happy. This pandemic has consisted of a lot of giving up everyday commonalities for everyone, and is something unlike anything the entire current population of the world has experienced before. However, by working together, we are making our way through this. Although this pandemic has impacted my life in a large way, I have learned to cope with it.