

In March the quarantine had been growing in Sacramento but not everyone was listening to the new rules. Some of the people who were ignoring these rules were my roommates who insisted on going out almost every night and bringing friends over often. I told my parents about this and how annoying it was since I wanted to keep my grades up even during the pandemic and I had to move around the apartment constantly to avoid the chaos they brought every day. One of these moments came when I was in the middle of a math class and one of my roommates who was a foreign exchange student who was going home that weekend planned a sudden birthday party with another roommate since she would be traveling on her actual birthday. This led to them all walking into the apartment with 4 friends and sitting across from me talking loudly and yelling for my third roommate to join them all while I was in a zoom class meeting. When I asked them to quiet down since I needed the space to take notes and I wanted to pass this class, I was met with dirty looks from one of my roommates who proceeded to walk into another room and complain about my "selfishness" with another roommate. The foreign exchange student and her friends instead sat and spoke quietly until my class ended 15 minutes later and we all could celebrate. I eventually told my parents about this and they began to realize the conditions I was under and how now I had to work outside my own apartment to get some sense of peace. My parents became nervous and after a few weeks they asked my sister, whose roommates had just moved out, to let me live with her. However, my sister is a student at UC Merced and I go to Sacramento State University. My sister agreed and I was told to pack my things and get ready to leave. I was given anywhere between one and three weeks to pack while in the middle of a semester. I was told to pack enough for at most a month, expecting that I would either be moving back after a few weeks or moving to Long Beach, where I'm from, soon after. The problem was that I would be moving from a highly populated city in an apartment where people didn't care about the virus to a small town that had barely been affected so far. This means I had to be extremely careful with what I packed, how I packed, and anything that would come into contact with my things. To prepare first, I had to clean everything I would use with antibacterial soap. Next, I had to clean anything I wanted to bring. This meant doing all of my laundry in one day and packing it so if I packed too early, I would lose access to most of my clothes and would have to wash the same articles of clothing every few days. Lastly, I had to find a way to transport everything down to an area where my sister could pick me up and load into her car as quickly as possible. Not to mention I also had to pack any non-perishable food I had to help supply my sister's apartment so we would have fewer shopping trips. I couldn't properly pack everything until I knew the exact date she would come and get me. Eventually we settled on April 4<sup>th</sup>, giving me 5 days to pack. Luckily, I was able to complete packing and left to Merced with my sister only 30 minutes behind schedule due to traffic of more city people ignoring the quarantine. The first thing I noticed during this move was how difficult it was to plan out how I could pack. Usually when packing people just decide the clothes and put it in a suitcase with any toiletries they might need and anything else they deem important. The most preparation they have to do is pack clean clothes and wash dirty ones if they will be gone for a while. In this case I had to make lists of everything necessary and shorten the list further as I planned more and more of what I could take and what was unreasonable. I also had to be aware of how clean everything I used was, not wanting to bring any traces of the virus with me to Merced since the town is so small and there is one hospital. I've noticed that things that seem so minuscule in everyday life like putting a shirt in a suitcase changes drastically in a pandemic when trying to decide what is worth the risk and what someone can live without.