



5-1-2020

COVID-19 Journal | Madison Fortney

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Recommended Citation

Fortney, Madison, "COVID-19 Journal | Madison Fortney" (2020). *COVID-19 Student Journal Project*. 12.
https://digitalcommons.jsu.edu/lib_ac_covidjournal/12

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A College Freshman's Perspective on COVID-19

March 30, 2020-

It has been just a few days since the U.S. topped the charts in confirmed COVID-19 cases. It hasn't really sunk in that this thing is real, and I don't think it really affects you until it affects someone you know, or it disrupts your routine. People are insane about this thing seriously. I went to go buy toilet paper because I was on my last roll, Walmart was COMPLETELY sold out. So I kid you not I bought paper towels. Also, a lot of the shelves were out of food, people were throwing their nasty gloves on the ground. Very tacky. We still don't know the decision of the university to decide if residence halls were staying open or not. Or if anything was going back to normal. But I still recorded my boyfriend's SGA video just in case they still had elections.

April 2nd, 2020-

Today the number of cases in the world topped one billion. The CDC is trying to keep us informed and educated by telling us to practice social distancing and staying 6 feet apart from other people. Now places are selling out of masks and gloves because people are being stingy and hoarding things that aren't even going out of stock. Why? Because they're ignorant. All of my teachers are being so helpful and understanding seeing as instruction is a lot different with classes not being in person. Except for my english teacher. Prayers if you ever get her. I won't name drop but if you know you know. Back home in GA, the GA Department of Labor has processed the most unemployment claims ever in a week period.

April 4th, 2020-

Today I didn't have motivation to do anything so I just laid in bed and watched TikToks for probably 3 hours straight. It is an addiction. But I ended up finishing up

my Biology Lab and class, because what else is there to do? I moved back home yesterday so my room is overflowing with all of my dorm stuff. I didn't realize that I had so much stuff. Tennessee was in the news a lot today, because they now have 43 deaths and over 3,000 cases confirmed.

April 6th, 2020-

Today was not a good day AT ALL. I've cried 5 times today because I miss JSU and all of my friends. I feel that it's unfair. It's not fair that this is the last time I will see most of my sorority sisters that are graduating. It's not fair that I won't get to see my boyfriend for God knows how long. It's not fair that last week may have been the last time I see my friends that are transferring schools. I get that this is a pandemic, it just blows my mind how fast things change. Alabama has just under 2,000 confirmed cases, and only 32 confirmed deaths.

April 8th, 2020-

Today was the first day I went back to work. I work at Texas Roadhouse, and even though my family and I's health is very important, I have to pay my summer tuition somehow. I find it fascinating how society changes interaction due to the influence of the media. I have people trying to hand me money by slipping it through a 2 inch gap in their car window because they are so scared to contract it. The number of cases in Alabama has jumped to 2,499. There are 48 confirmed deaths, and over 18,000 have gotten tested.

April 10th, 2020-

Today is my 19th birthday. I've honestly dreaded this day for so long. For the first time probably ever, I've never been surrounded by friends and the people I love the most, other than my family of course. But my friends did everything they could to make me feel loved the best they could. They sent me tons of sweet messages and

posted really cute pictures all day. I made myself grilled pork chops, macaroni and cheese, and baby red potatoes with olive oil. It was 10/10. It was said that there were 3,00 confirmed cases and 58 deaths.

April 12th, 2020-

Today I went online shopping and I keep spending all of the money I'm making which is not good. But it's really the only way I can relieve stress between school and work. I don't adjust well with change and I feel like it's still hard to function not being in a classroom setting. I can't even imagine how hard this is affecting other people. Super super thankful for my sisters reaching out to each other in anyway they can. There are now 4,500 confirmed cases in the state of Alabama, mainly because people will not stay at home!! That order was put in place about 2 weeks ago and people are still failing to realize that going to hang out with friends isn't defined as essential work. The death toll has risen to 96.

April 14th, 2020-

Today was my boyfriend and I's anniversary and we didn't get to see each other because this stuff is still going on. It makes me very very sad but I know that it's for the best. I also went to work allll day today and it was very exhausting and people are very rude to essential employees like somehow it's our fault that the Coronavirus exists. Girl bye. The governor and scientists have now officially released data that shows statistics of who is most affected by this virus.

April 16th, 2020-

I worked all day again. Nothing really exciting or different happened today. All of the days at this point feel the same. Send help honestly. Unemployment in the US has jumped to 22 million. Also, in the US the death toll has jumped to 33,000.

April 18th, 2020-

Once again I worked this morning, but because of my online shopping I came home to 2 packages. And then as soon as I opened them I ordered more stuff. Oops. I also painted some more stuff today. I'm redoing a bunch of sorority canvases that I didn't like originally, needed to make them more visually appealing. More than 42,000 people have now been tested in the state of Alabama, but believe it or not that's not even 1% of the state's population. But it is very difficult to even be considered for testing. There are 113 confirmed deaths.

April 20th, 2020-

Today I drove back to Jacksonville to help one of my best friends move out of his house. My boyfriend and brother came along to help. We ended the night making dinner and celebrating the beginning of our friend's new chapter! Our friend ended the night getting blackout drunk, needless to say, we were all in bed before midnight. Coronavirus has infected more than 2.4 million people worldwide, and over 40,000 people in the US have died from it.

April 22th, 2020-

Went to work again all day. I finished my Sociology final when I got off and ended the class with a B. If you have to take SY 221 I highly recommend Erin Ryder, she's amazing!! People get more rude every single day. They need to go home and stay home because I am not making enough money to be treated like that. Today was the first day that the numbers have gone down at all. The governors are talking about reopening things soon.

April 24th, 2020-

This was the first day since this quarantine started that I did my hair and makeup for work. I got a new hair scrunchie in the mail so I curled my hair and did my makeup and I was looking cutteeee. Look good feel good. Work still sucked with

rude people though. The state thought the decline was a few days ago but cases spiked over a 24 hour period because people thought a slight decline meant ignore social distancing.

April 26th, 2020-

Today I actually got to go spend the day at my boyfriend's house and it was amazing. His family is literally amazing. We went fishing later on in the day and it was the perfect date!! We ended up catching 9 fish which his grandfather ended up cooking so I guess it was a win-win for everyone. They said today that 908 healthcare workers in the state of Alabama have been affected, so people need to be more cautious and considerate of the people putting their lives at risk everyday.