



5-1-2020

COVID-19 Journal | Jesalyn Pettit

Jesalyn Pettit
Jacksonville State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.jsu.edu/lib_ac_covidjournal



Part of the [Epidemiology Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Pettit, Jesalyn, "COVID-19 Journal | Jesalyn Pettit" (2020). *COVID-19 Student Journal Project*. 18.
https://digitalcommons.jsu.edu/lib_ac_covidjournal/18

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the COVID-19 Archive at JSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in COVID-19 Student Journal Project by an authorized administrator of JSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@jsu.edu.

March 30,

Hello, my name is Jesalyn Pettit. The date is March 30, 2020, and is currently the beginning of what I feel like will be a long quarantine. So far people are saying that it is a mandatory two week shut down, but who knows if that is the end. Not to be dramatic but this pandemic has ruined a lot of lives. I know that “social distancing” is what is best for the prevention of spreading this newfound disease, but it really has ruined a lot of things. For me, it is not that bad because I am only a college Freshman. However, I can not imagine the pain of the graduating seniors, both high school and college. This is a moment that they have been waiting for their entire lives and it has just been ripped away from them. There have also been significant moments in my life that have been taken away as well. I did not get the first-year college experience that I deserve. My first year as a college student was cut short and forced to be moved online (this is something no one was happy about). All of my end of the year events and ceremonies were canceled and my induction for Lambda Sigma Honor Society was also canceled. This was something I worked very hard for and deserved the recognition for, but that was also taken.

Now I am currently back in my hometown of Guntersville, Alabama stuck inside my house. In the beginning when I came home I was excited to see my family and be home. However, I soon realized that I could not even see my friends that I have missed for so long because of the COVID virus. Whether it was their parents that would not let them go out, or my parents that eventually told me I could no longer have friends over because “this wasn’t a playtime”. So, now me and my younger sister get to sit in the house all day. Yes, we get to spend time together and we can still go outside, but we are children that like to keep going and not sit still for very long. I guess that is about it for today. I just have to remember that this is what is best for the world. We are doing our part to “flatten the curve” but our day to day lives are also getting crushed in the process.

April 1,

Today is April 1st, my mother’s birthday to be exact. This is definitely not how I wanted to spend this day. Her work is taking precautions as advised, so there is no telling how much longer she will be able to work. They are working on a “day to day basis”. So, while she was at work I got some school work done and cleaned the house for her. We usually have a party for her, but this year we just gathered as a family for dinner. One thing about this virus that really scares me is the health of my great grandmother. She is 77 years old and not in the greatest health. This is terrifying to think about because one family member could come in contact with someone that has the virus and that could be it. Just thinking about putting her health in jeopardy scares me so much.

Not only am I worried about my grandmother, but I am also worried about my older sister. She is currently seven months pregnant with my already beautiful niece, Addi. This is supposed to be the best time of her life, but instead she is now terrified because no one knows the effects of this virus on a pregnant woman and the baby. This virus has also taken away the special moment of her 4-D ultrasound. Not only can she not even leave her house now, she can not even have her family there with her on the day she gives birth. The hospital is allowing one person in the delivery room with her, which will be her husband. No one else is allowed to even come to the hospital. I know that these precautions are necessary and will protect the lives of my sister and my niece, but just thinking about her being there without the support of her mother and family breaks my heart. This is supposed to be the happiest moment of her life, but it has been ruined by this pandemic.

April 3,

Today is April 3, 2020, and I have just arrived back at my house from moving out of my dorm at JSU. Today was a really sad and stressful day for me because in the beginning we were able to stay on campus, but now all students have to be moved out by April 7th. Having to move out early breaks my heart because I was expecting at least another month in the dorms. I know that many people hate living on campus, but for me it was an escape and a place to focus. It has also been my home for the past entire school year. I got the luxury of living in an upperclassman dorm, so to me I loved being on campus.

Starting tomorrow April 4th at 5 pm we are in a stay-at-home order. This meaning unless you are “essential” then you cannot be out of your house unless it is for a specific reason that is deemed “necessary”. To me, this is a little extreme. I know that social distancing is a very big deal and that most people don't do it, but people cannot stop their lives for this pandemic. I mean life goes on! And quite frankly, what gives the government the right to tell me what to do with my life? People should take precautions and make sure to keep themselves safe, and yes they should avoid going out into public places, but come on. The government is telling us that we can not leave our homes. This is crazy.

April 5,

Today is April 5, 2020 and guess what I found out today? “Engaging in outdoor activity” is deemed essential and is on the list as an excuse to leave your homes. So, guess what I did today? I went hiking at the state park! This was a great way to get away from all of the stress that is going on in the world at the moment. My sister and I decided we wanted to get away and go get some exercise in the fresh air. Today was perfect weather (we did break a sweat at times however), sunny and 70. We got to spend the day enjoying Mother Nature. I also realized today that there are so many beautiful things that we as humans take for granted every day. Once you

are stuck in a house for so long, you long to go outside and explore and enjoy the beauty of the earth. This is definitely something that I will forever appreciate now and will no longer take for granted.

On another note, I want to talk about something that really bothers me about this pandemic, PEOPLE BEING DRAMATIC. Yes, I understand that it is a very big deal, but you can still live your life! There were so many people that told me I did not need to be out of my house today, but why? I was maintaining my distance from people I didn't know and I was getting fresh air! It is scientifically proven that people who get fresh air are less likely to get sick. So please, don't listen to all of these negative and dramatic people that say not to step foot out of your house. Go outside and enjoy nature!

April 7,

Today is April 7, 2020 and for the most part it has been a normal day. I have been working on schoolwork at my sister's house because we are still waiting on our WiFi to come. Shoutout to Charter because they are doing a promotion for college and high school kids to get two months of free WiFi during this pandemic for kids to finish school. This is very helpful for me because we live in the middle of nowhere and had no WiFi prior to this. My source for the internet came from the school and my dorm room.

Starting today they are having a testing site in Boaz, AL for the COVID virus. Whether this is a good or bad thing I am not very sure. There are many conspiracy theories that are going around, but I will not get into those. All I know is that I am ready for this to die down so I can see my friends again. My family is going crazy over it and they will barely even let me out of the house.

April 9,

Today is April 9, 2020 and it feels like day number 1000 trapped in this house. One good thing about this pandemic is that gas is currently \$1.49 a gallon which is pretty amazing. Too bad that I have nowhere to go. I am absolutely going stir crazy having nothing to do. And the bad thing is that I have a lot of school work that I could be doing but I keep procrastinating on that. It is so much harder to work from home because I feel like it is summertime, so I have no motivation at all. I know that I should not lose track of my work, and I am getting it done, just not as quickly as I would if I were still in Jacksonville.

One new thing in my life is that we have a new dog now. My sister found him on the side of the road and decided that she wanted to keep him. She named him Barney, and honestly he is kind of annoying, but he is sweet. That leaves us with a total of three dogs, three cats, one guinea pig, and three fish. I honestly feel like I live on a farm. Oh, and there is a horse in our backyard.

So, there is a little insight into how my quarantine is going so far, basically me and a bunch of animals.

April 11,

Today is April 11, 2020 and it was a very productive Saturday. I have not been leaving my house, but today felt good, so I decided to work outside. My mom and I decided that we needed some fresh air. We worked outside in the backyard and the flower beds. This was a great way to get everything off of your mind. However, it is still a struggle when I come back in. There is not much to do. I swear I have watched every movie that is in our house and played every board game that my little sister owns.

One good thing about today was that I did get to spend time with my mom. I have also been cooking a lot, this was definitely something that makes her happy. As far as the world goes, it is still complete chaos. Walmart is always packed, and every drive-thru is always filled with so many cars. I am so ready to be able to go to the movies or bowling again. I want to be able to go on a date with my boyfriend, or out with my girls. I am just ready for the world to go back to normal.

April 13,

Today is April 13, 2020 and all I can say is that it has definitely been a Monday. Between school work and babysitting my little cousin, I may go crazy. I also found out today that Rock The South has been canceled due to the coronavirus. I mean at this point what hasn't? The virus has finally gotten to Guntersville. There have been many cases reported throughout Marshall County, there are a few that have hit very close to home. I am doing everything I can to keep myself safe. I keep my distance(I do not really go anywhere), wash my hands, and keep from touching my face. I just hope that no one in my family contracts it because if one gets it, I am sure we will all get it. We have all been confined to this house, or my grandmother's house.

I am hoping that this will all end soon. The weather has been very nice recently and that makes me so ready for summer. I just want to be able to have a pool part with my friends and not have to worry about keeping six feet apart. I know that I am not the only one tired of this confinement, but I am sorry for the rant. I just hope this is all over soon.

April 15,

Today is April 15, 2020 and I actually got to get out of the house! It has been a beautiful day, so as soon as I woke up I did the house chores I needed to do and then me and my boyfriend went for a walk around the block. I live in the country, so it was very peaceful and beautiful. The fresh air and scenery was much needed. After we had our fun outside we decided that we wanted

to go get some food. Worst decision ever! We went to three different places before we found one. All of the drive thru's were completely packed with cars wrapped around the buildings. This being a perk of the coronavirus, because all insides are shut down. However, gas is currently \$1.38 and that is the cheapest I have ever seen it.

Yesterday was also a pretty good day. I got to see my friends that I haven't seen in a while. We met up at the park and watched the sunset. All while being six feet apart, I got to practice that social distancing. I know it is bad to say, but one thing I miss about not being in quarantine is getting to eat out. I just want to be able to stick my feet under a table again.

April 17,

Today is April 17, 2020 and it was such a good day. Today is the day that we got to go shopping for my oldest sister's baby shower. The first place we went to is the Dollar Tree and because of the virus you can only have 20 people in the store at a time. Well, me and my family roll up there with seven of us. This was our first mistake. However, we went in and were shopping for a good 30 minutes until we heard the loudspeaker say, " We have reached our max amount of people. Any large group needs to have everyone leave except for two people". So, there's the story of how my family got called out for breaking the quarantine rules.

On another note, I made my first diaper cake today. It turned out super good and my sister loved it. My family all came over after we got done shopping and we made the decorations for the shower. We made super cute "bootie" gift bags for all of the guests. All in all it was a very good day. Even coronavirus could not have ruined this day.

April 19,

Today is April 19, 2020 and it has been a very quiet and peaceful Sunday. It has rained most of the day, so I have been lazy and worked on some school work. I also got to sleep in which has not happened in a while, so that was good. I am so stressed out about school. The closer it gets to the end of the semester, the worse it gets. I have so many things due, not including my finals. It is so hard to stay focused while I have been at home. But, I am getting through it and hopefully everything works out for the best.

Yesterday was an amazing day. We had my sister a drive through a baby shower and it was the cutest thing ever! We set up decorations in front of our volunteer fire department. We had multiple tables for food, decorations, presents, and more. People could pull in, drop their gifts off, and take a to-go plate. It was such a great and beautiful day to shower baby Addi!

April 21,

Today is April 21, 2020 and the end of the semester is so close but so far away. I am wrapping up everything for my classes. I have currently finished my English and human development classes. I have my math final on Monday and my history final on Thursday. I am so glad to finally be at the end of this semester. It has been very difficult to adjust to the online classes, but I have done it. This quarantine and online class experience is one that I will never forget. It will definitely be a story that I tell my kids.

I am so ready for summer to get here so that I can be stress-free for a little while. I absolutely love school, but I am so ready for a break. I want to be able to sleep in as long as I want then go swimming for the rest of the day. I am also ready to see my friends. I miss all of them very much. I will be so happy and grateful when quarantine is over so that I can see them. However, I know that we will still be on shaky ground and must still protect ourselves. The second wave is always worse because people think that they can go back to their normal routines and no longer take precautions to keep themselves from getting sick.

April 23,

Today is April 23, 2020 and I took my final for history today. This means that I am completely done with history, except for these journals of course. As far as the rest of my day, it has been very boring. It has been storming all day today, so I am trapped in the house. My family and I have been watching movies and playing cards. However, I am now in my room because there is only so long that I can handle my entire family at once.

I complain a lot, but I am so thankful. I am surrounded by the people that I love, and this is more than some can say. During this quarantine, we are the ones that have to keep each other sane. I am very thankful that I have them to socialize with because I would become very bored without them. I never thought that I would long for the day the world would go back to normal. I know that we are protecting ourselves and doing our part to flatten the curve, but I am ready to feel normal again.

April 25,

Today is April 25, 2020, and it was a beautiful Saturday. I slept in till about lunchtime, which was the greatest decision ever. Once I got up I made my family breakfast. They were very appreciative. I also got some very great news. My partner and I made a 100 on our creative storytelling project for history! This came as a very big shock to me, but we worked very hard on it. As far as the COVID goes it is still about the same. I am still at home, but the hype has about died down.

We are supposed to be released from quarantine on May 1st. This means that everything is going to open back up. However, I am not sure if the “6 feet apart” rule is still intact. There are

a few beaches in Florida that have already opened back up. So, I guess we will just sit quietly and wait to see if the number of cases goes up or stays about the same.

April 27,

Today is April 27, 2020, and this is my last journal entry. This process has been very enlightening and it is a great way to keep up with what is going on with my life and the world. The world is slowly going back to normal. Today I went to Walmart (which was crazy as normal), but there was not much of a difference. They have the entrances and exits separated now, and there are a lot of people wearing masks, but that was it.

If you all would like to know. I broke the rules because I only bought a pair of Friends pajama pants (which were not essential). But, oh well, I went shopping for food as well, so that makes it okay, right? Anyways, this whole pandemic has changed my life drastically. I went from being in my second semester of college living in a dorm to living back at home with my parents and doing classes online. Not to mention that I have to do all of my classes online. This is not a change that I wanted, but if this break was needed for the world, then I am here to help.

My name is Jesalyn Pettit and I am currently a Freshman at Jacksonville State University, with a major in nursing. I live in Guntersville, AL, and my journals are for every other day from March 30th-April 27th. Over the course of this month I have talked about my life, the COVID virus, and how the virus has impacted my life as well as others around me.