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## "Pandemic Personal Reflection"

Anonymous

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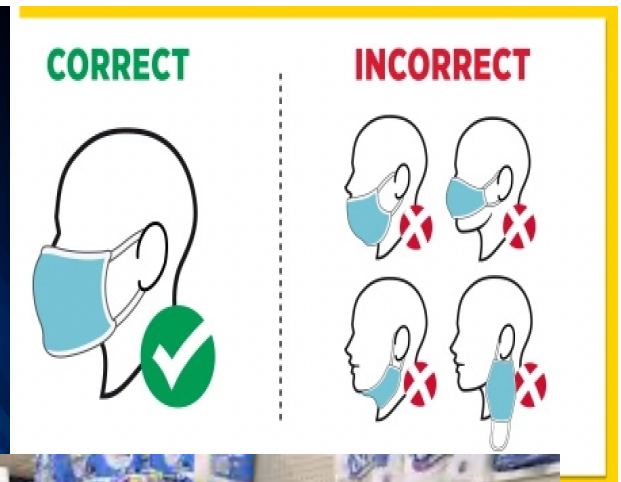
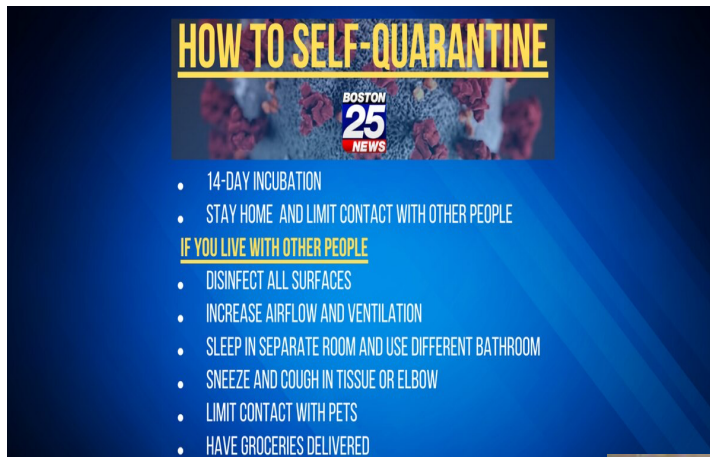
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## Covid Archive Collage and Personal reflection



The start of the pandemic felt surreal. That is the word I would use to best describe the entire situation. I felt like I had very detached emotions from the experience in the beginning. This surreal experience that was occurring in the world. I think my biggest concern was for my family to be able to work and stay healthy, since we are not in the best situation financially.

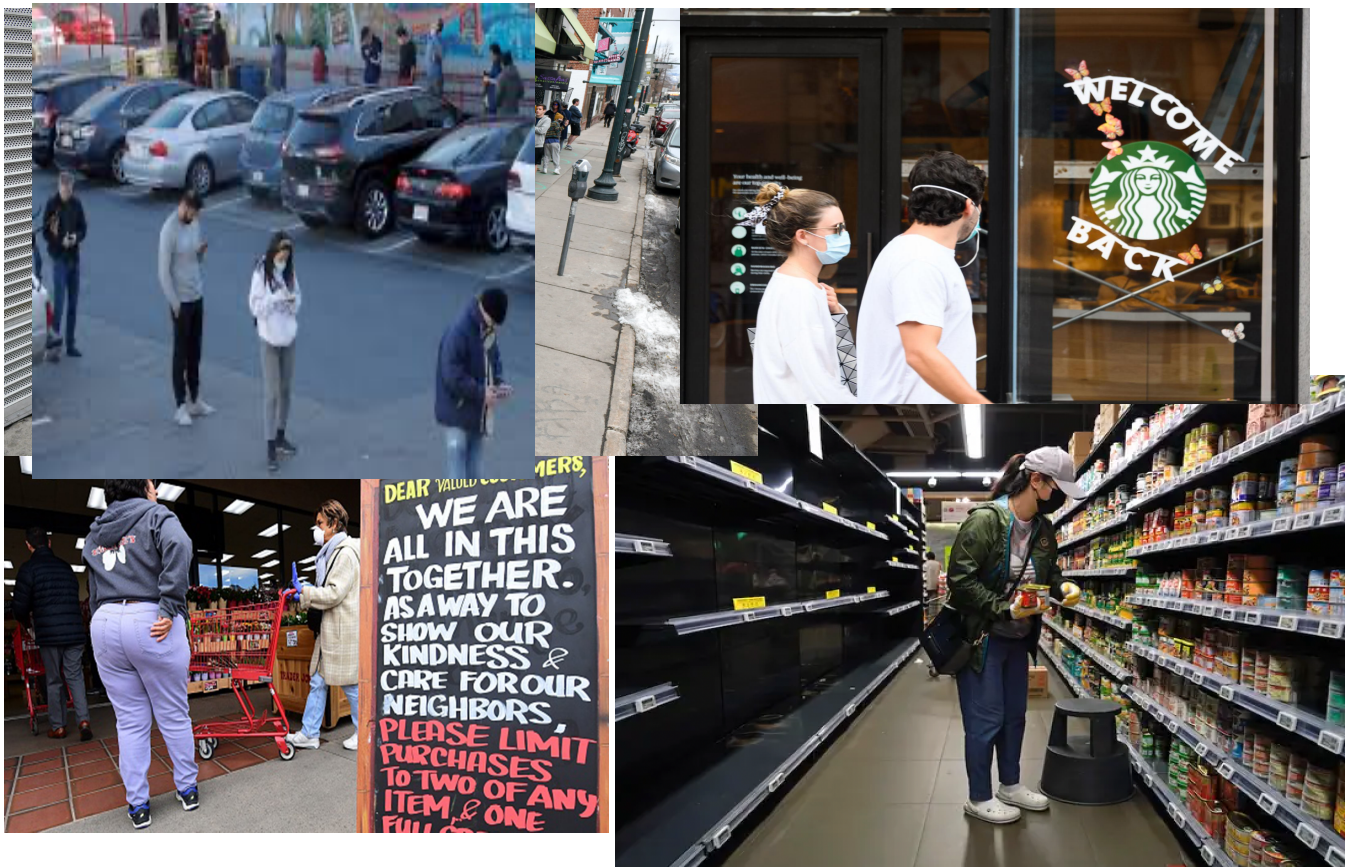
My work was closed and I felt like it was something that would only be temporary. I am an introvert and relish my time to not have to go out too much, but after awhile you just get antsy being inside all the time. I wanted to go out! To just do anything. I would drive around, listen to music, come home, do online school work, hang out with my friends through face time chats. I just wanted to self preserve as much as possible. I felt like the media was just using scare tactics and creating more problems than help.

From the beginning, there seemed to be too much media hysteria occurring which made me really skeptical about the whole situation. I felt like this was an example of mass manipulation to get people to fall in line with orders and not give full information to the public. I know it's not that simple to conclude that the media was attempting to take advantage of this time and push forward propaganda that creates mass confusion. I just wish these media tactics were completely removed, because throughout history we see the media would use propaganda towards hidden agendas. It seemed like the

media just wanted to scare everyone. There seemed to be a theme of lack of facts and an abundance of media misinformation.

To shut down our economy was a mistake in my opinion. I think that there should be compensation for people to not have to work until there is a cure that is successful with no horrid side effects, but to tell people they could not work was not right. Many people lost their jobs and had to suffer the real fear of losing their homes and business. Furthermore, I applied for unemployment since my work was shut down for 3 months straight. The unemployment process was not simple and although I should have qualified for benefits, I got none. If I was not living with my family during this quarantine I would be in more severe trouble financially.

I am very grateful that I live with my family especially in a time like this when security is being threatened. However, because my family are older it makes it all the more concerning when we all need to work to survive and the virus seems to be more harmful for those that are older. Still, I hope that all of this ends as soon as possible and the world can find a cure. I think that the shut down of the economy only makes things harder on the people.

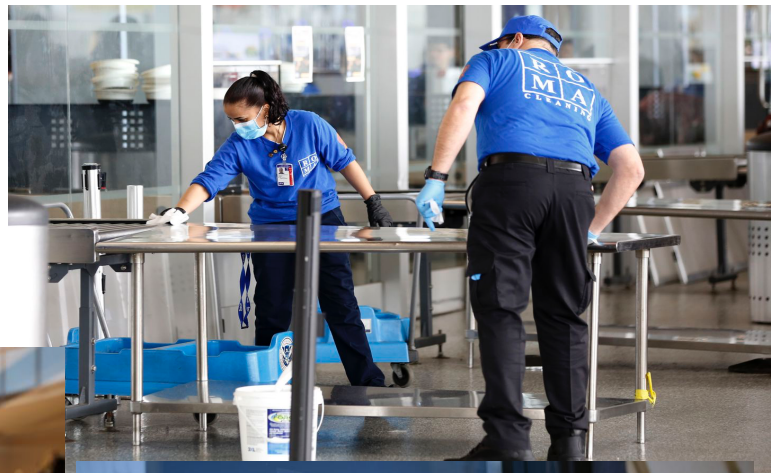


When the businesses started opening up it felt like finally things could go back to normal. I was



already so bored of being at home most of the time. I am a homebody by nature, but even I have my limits. I would be excited for any excuse to go out. Going to the grocery store would feel exciting at this point. I would have a reason to get dressed. I think staying at home just made me get my moneys worth out pajamas and loungewear. Certainly 2020 is the year of the loungewear. Most people staying home and longing for social interaction and an excuse to go out again.

When I went to the grocery store I saw a giant line outside. The stores were attempting to help with social distancing and limit the store capacity. It is so weird that this is what has happened in our society. I hope that things will become more efficient in the near future for all of us. I think that this is a lesson for people to be more accommodating to others. At first I would forget to bring my mask out of the car sometimes and would have to turn around to go back and get it. It was definitely an adjustment to get used to. At stores people would go out of their way to talk to me and I felt sort of socially awkward to have people try and create conversations more frequently after being quarantined. However, I did appreciate it and realized that people really need that social time as much as possible to feel mentally healthy. I felt like I was getting my social fix with my friends through face time calls.





The difference with our current day handling of the pandemic is that we have learned to become more accustomed to sanitizing and being mindful of our resources. At my work we need to sanitize even more than before and it just makes the job harder. I think I have adjusted though. I am sad that we have less human contact than before and that people are paranoid to interact, but I hope that people will not lose sight of the human need for connection and not be too afraid of our peers. I do appreciate the care to sanitize as much as people are doing these days. It is teaching people to be more mindful of how cleanly to be in public especially.

I think that stores should open up to support the economy and to promote adaptability to these times. I know it is not so simple, but these are my hopes that the economy will recuperate and that people could be compensated financially for these unprecedented times. I don't think it's right to force people to not work and expect people to have enough money to pay their rent and survive as it is. It's been a crazy year with protests for the George Floyd incident as well and all the political divide. Ultimately, I hope that the country will work together and support our rights and liberty.