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"A Better COVID Story"

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Recommended Citation

Sparacio, Mia R., "A Better COVID Story" (2020). *Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience*. 126.
<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/csusb-covid-19/126>

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A Better COVID Story

Written by

Mia Sparacio and Holden Withers

Introduction

Here is a little about me. My name is Holden, and I am a kid who likes to stay home. If it was between going out or staying in, I always want to stay in. If it is between going out and doing something fun or

staying in, I really have to weigh my options. I don't take leaving my house lightly. I have everything I need here. I have my family, I have my dog, I have my video games, I have my tv, I have all of the food I like. So why would I ever need to leave? Don't get me wrong, I liked school ok and I have friends, but my closest friend is part of my family, so I don't even need to go to school to see him. I do ok in school. I like my teacher. I like reading the best and math the least. I like playing at recess. Normal kid stuff, I guess.

About a few months ago I kept hearing about this thing called "coronavirus". I

didn't really think that much about it. I heard it on the tv sometimes when my mom would watch some news show and I would hear my aunt and my mom talk about it every once in a while, at home. I also heard some kids at school talk about it. Sheila said to Henry that it was "way worse than the flu and everyone who has it dies". I later found out that it wasn't true that everyone dies. Our teacher told us that it wasn't true. She said that only some people who got it died and other people got really, really sick and others don't seem to get sick at all. But then all of a sudden, we weren't able to go to school anymore. My mom said that they

decided to shut down the school for a while to keep everyone a little safer. After that it seemed like we automatically had to wear masks everywhere we went. They closed a lot of places down, even Disneyland! We were supposed to stay home as much as possible and we had to stay away from other family and friends. But I still had to do schoolwork. I would meet on zoom with my teacher and the other kids in my class. I know that I am not in school for as many hours as I was before, but I REALLY don't like doing my homework now. It seems even harder than it was when I was in school for some reason.

Now doing schoolwork at home seems just terrible. My video games are right in the other room and I have been having a really hard time focusing. There are just so many things I could be doing besides my schoolwork. Home was my favorite place to be and my best friend is there, how am I supposed to focus on school. This is home, it is supposed to be separate.

But even more that, I thought that having more time to do whatever I wanted to do at home would be a good thing. And it really was for a while. But now, I have actually gotten bored of every video game that I have and every tv show that is

streaming. I am so tired of staying inside
ALL OF THE TIME (I never thought that I
would say that). I think it is making
everyone a little crazy. So, I have decided to
rewrite how things go, to what I think
should have happened. This is the story of
COVID-19 and how we were able to destroy
it and save the universe...

Chapter 1

We start off in a very clean laboratory. My Aunt Camille is the top scientist in the country. In her lab, they had been studying the COVID-19 virus. They had a hard time studying it because they couldn't even see it

under their microscopes! Luckily, another scientist, Scientist Brytani, created the Super Looky Lens. With this lens, you could see the virus, finally! Top Scientist Camille and her team were spending weeks and weeks trying to figure out why the virus was spreading and how it was spreading so quickly. “It just doesn’t make sense! These particles don’t seem like they should be able to move so quickly through the air and to so many people!”, said Scientist Jackie. “Don’t worry, Scientist Jackie”, said Top Scientist Camille, “we’ll figure this out. In all of my years, there has never been a virus that could outrun me.”

Even though the scientists didn't know exactly what they were dealing with, they asked everyone to wear masks when they left their house because they thought that it could help slow the spread. Top Scientist Camille had to go on tv and make an announcement about it.

Television Newscaster Elliott: *“We now bring you to Washington DC to hear an announcement from the country’s top scientist, Top Scientist Camille”*

Top Scientist Camille: *“Hello fellow Americans, I am the top scientist, so that*

means I know the most about science. More than anyone. I am in charge of other very, incredibly smart, scientists that know almost as much about science as me. We know that a lot of you are getting sick from COVID-19. We are spending a lot of time trying to figure out why. We don't know everything yet, but don't worry, we will. In the meantime, we are asking you to wear a mask when you go out of your house. We know that the virus is getting into your bodies through your nose and your mouth, the most. We know that wearing a mask will help slow the spread, even if it doesn't stop it all together. We will find out more about

*this and get back to you as soon as we do.
Please wear a mask. That is all.
Goodnight.”*

TV newscaster: *“And were back in the studio. Again, that was top scientist, Top Scientist Camille, asking us to wear a mask. Even though nobody really knows if that is going to work...hmm if we don't really know if it will work, do we even really have to do it? I guess I will leave that up to you America. Wear a mask because someone told you to, or don't because you still have your freedom.”*

“Hey!! That newscaster ruined our whole announcement! Now barely anyone is wearing their masks!” Said Scientist Brytani. Top Scientist Camille replied, “It looks like we are going to have to speed up our research, team. If no one is listening to us, it will never stop spreading until everyone is infected!” After that news report, the scientists were not surprised at all when not many people were wearing masks.

Chapter 2

The scientists back at the lab were now clamoring to find out more about the virus and doing many different experiments to see what would kill it. “We now know that the virus doesn’t die when you feed it peanut

butter. It is not allergic to peanuts”
discovered Scientist Jessica. “It is not
allergic to fish either!” added Scientist
Dominic. “It seems to like cartoons in the
evening, but not anime unless it is before
2pm” Concluded Scientist Josiah. Scientist
Jackie reported “The virus definitely likes
country music from the 90s and hip hop of
today”. Top Scientist Camille yelled out and
pushed the nearest microscope to the ground
in frustration, “I don’t care what it likes or
doesn’t like or what it’s not allergic to or
what its favorite color is!! I only want to
find how it is moving so quickly and how
we can kill it!!” All of the scientist went

back to their workstations quietly and quickly to avoid getting in any more trouble. Top Scientist Camille bent down to pick up the microscope and noticed that the Super Looky Lens was smudged from being on the floor. She put the microscope back on the counter and cleaned the lens on her lab coat. She held up the lens toward the window to see if she got all of the smudge off. And that's when she saw it!

Looking through the Super Looky Lens, right outside of the window, she saw the most giant COVID-19 germ she had ever seen. It was as big as a pig I once saw at the petting zoo that was really big and round. It

was hovering over the street, right above people's heads. "No, way" she breathed out in amazement. She moved the lens to see if she could see the germ without looking through it. She couldn't. She knew she had made a huge discovery.

She excitedly called out, "Scientist team assemble!" and all of the scientists in the room rushed over to where Top Scientist Camille was standing by the window. She asked Scientist Dominic, "what do you see out that window, on the sidewalk?" Scientist Dominic replied, "Uhhhh, I don't know, trash can? Three people getting out of a car? One person standing at the bus station?" and

then Top Scientist Camille put the lens in front of one of Scientist Dominic's eyes. Scientist Dominic jumped back. "That's, that's, that's a gigantic COVID-19 germ!" All of the scientists giggled because that sounded ridiculous. Scientist Jessica laughed, "Scientist Dominic, stop messing around. That's such a weird thing to say" and so Top Scientist Camille put the lens in front of Scientist Jessica's eye. Scientist Jessica stood there in wonder. "Its true! Scientist Dominic isn't joking, you guys! Everyone, get your Super Looky Lens out of your microscopes and look out of the window!".

Chapter 3

Everyone got their lenses and stood, looking out the window. They couldn't believe what they were seeing. There were tons of these giant germs just hanging over people's heads. The scientists wanted to watch them to see what they were doing there. They all stood there watching them go

around the streets for 2 days. They needed to see exactly what the germs' intentions were.

The giant germs would go over near people and they would send out a spray of something. Scientist Josiah finally said what everyone was thinking, "What IS that spray? We have been watching them do that to so many people walking by. Why are they doing that to people?" Scientist Jackie suddenly burst out, "Do you think that could be the little particles that people have been inhaling? The ones that we have been studying this whole time?" Top Scientist Camille answered, "Yes Scientist Jackie, that's exactly what I think it is. We didn't

know how it was getting everyone as quickly as it was, but now we see that the giant germs have been sending their tiny baby germs into our bodies to make us sick!” Everyone in the room gasped. They needed to find a way to stop the giant germs. They finally had an answer to why everyone is getting sick, but they now needed an answer to how they were going to stop them. Scientist Brytani said to the group, “We need to tell everyone now! Let’s get on tv again and make another announcement!” Top Scientist Camille said, “Scientist Brytani, you saw how that went last time. People were so fast to not believe us at all

because we didn't have all of the information". Scientist Jessica said, "Yeah but science is changing all of the time, we can't always have all of the information all of the time, that's why we keep studying it. It doesn't mean that we're wrong, it means that we keep finding out more information". Top Scientist Camille agreed, "I know Scientist Jessica, but the people the people right now are just not in a good place to hear us, they think that we are doing this not to help them, even though that obviously wrong and we are trying to help everyone. I think that the best thing we can do right now is find out as much information about these

giant germs before we go to the citizens about. “But what about telling the United States government about it?” said Scientist Dominic. Top Scientist Camille replied, “I’m afraid you’re right about that. Let call up my friend, Government Official Cameron.

Chapter 4

“I really want to help you Top Scientist Camille. You know I do. I listen to reason and logic and science, but unfortunately the big guy I work for, doesn’t.” “But Government Official Cameron, you have to be able to do something! The people need to know what they are dealing with. And we

can't do this all by ourselves, we're only a really smart group of me and the top 5 scientists in this Eastern Area of the country. We can't reach all parts of the country without help from the government." "I hear you Top Scientist Camille, but my hands are tied as far as the government goes, the president said that we cannot let this information out, and maybe the germs will just go away by themselves when it gets a little warmer outside. Like maybe they'll go way north for the summer". Top Scientist Camille argued, "You know we can't depend on that, Government Official Cameron." "I know, and that is why I am

going to get you in touch with someone in who is a military official that I think can help you, but you have to leave me out of it. I can't risk my job; I have a family to feed!"

"Ok, ok, I get it. Call up your contact in the military and we will get ready for a war with these very unfriendly giants."

"Scientists, have we found anything that can kill either one of the germs, big ones or small ones?" Top Scientist Camille inquired. "We have Top Scientist Camille! Scientist Josiah and I finally found something that we can shoot at the giant germs that will make them disintegrate while you were on the phone!" proclaimed

Scientist Brytani. “Good” encouraged Top Scientist Camille, “We’re going to have to be ready to go once we hear from that military official.” She added, “Scientist Brytani, I want you to get the other top scientists in the other areas of the country on the phone now. I think we need to let them know what is really going on. We’ll need their help as well if we are ever going to have a chance.”

“I had no idea it was that big! We have been working on a bit of something ourselves over in this area of the country. We are more than happy to be helping out.” Said Scientist Jeny from the Northern Area

Group of Top Scientists. “Thanks for letting us know, Top Scientist Camille. I can’t tell you how concerned we have been. Anything you need, just let me know.” Said Scientist Steve of the Southern Area Group of Top Scientists. “I have been waiting for something to happen so we can jump in and help!” Exclaimed Scientist Michael of the Western Area Group of Top Scientists. Just tell us what we can do, and I’ll put our best minds on the case” said Scientist Natalie of the Central Area Group of Top Scientists. “Perfect” said Top Scientist Camille, “I know that together, we will defeat this thing. Be ready, we have found what will kill it we

just need to figure out how we can get them all.” “I think I could help with that.” Said Military Official Skyler, walking in the lab with racks of huge blasters.

Chapter 5

Top Scientist Camile asked, “Are you the military official that Government Official Cameron knows?” “Yes ma’am, I am. I am Military Official Skyler, and I the one who will help you take those suckers down.”

“We have racks of these blasters going to the top scientists of the other areas of the country momentarily. Does your team have the ammunition to kill these giant germs?”

“We do” said Top Scientist Camille. Scientist Josiah ran over to Military Official Skyler with 4 vials, “Here is our Special Giant COVID Disintegration Fluid, or SGCDF for short. One spray of this and those giant germs will be gone forever”. Military Official Skyler handed it to his lieutenant. “Lieutenant get this on 4 supersonic helicopters and delivered to the other scientists in the other 4 areas of the country”. “Scientist Josiah, will this be enough to get them all?” “Yes, Military Official Skyler. They will be able to make copies of this is no time once it’s at the labs.”

“Now that we have the SGCDF on its way to the other parts of the country, lets get the giant COVID germs out of our area.” Said Top Scientist Camille. “Wait Top Scientist Camille, I made these Super Looky Lens Goggles for everyone so we can see

the COVID and we know where to shoot!” , said Scientist Jackie, “Here lieutenant, send these on the helicopters too”. “Great work Scientist Jackie, let’s move out!” “Top Scientist Camille, I am going to stay behind and study these particles a little more, I think I’m on the brink of another important discovery” said Scientist Dominic, distracted.

So, all of the Scientists and the Military Official Skyler hit the streets with their blasters filled with SDCDF and their Super Looky Lens Goggles. Scientist Jackie had also installed a windshield made out of the Super Looky Lens so they could drive and shoot the blasters. Military Official Skyler was driving the vehicle and blasting all of the giant germs he could see. But then, distracted by the shooting, he hit a parked truck, and the Military Official vehicle flipped, and the windshield got thrown to the

street. Luckily Military Official Skyler's seatbelt saved him, and he was able to get out of the crashed vehicle and continue blasting. Scientists and Military Officials blasting a liquid in the street started to cause panic. The fluid is harmless to humans, but the people didn't know that then. The scientists tried to warn people, yelling "Get down! Put your mask on! Its right above you! There's a giant COVID germ right above your head" but unfortunately, people thought they were crazy and didn't believe them. It wasn't until a man walking by the windshield that had been flung out of the Military Official Skyler's car, that someone saw what they scientists were fighting. The man called over to more people that were running away from the blasts. "Come see, they're telling the truth! There are giant COVID germs floating around!" "Someone go get a news camera, we need people to

see!” A woman ran away to get a newscaster. Other people went to where the crowd was forming behind the Super Looky Lens windshield. They all started pulling out their phones and recording, and some were just staring.

The giant COVID had no chance against the blasters. They would try to send out their tiny baby germs, but the scientists were wearing masks and shielding their face with personal protective equipment or PPE specially made to combat COVID. One by one the giant germs disintegrated, until there were no more to be found.

The scientists and Military Official Skyler all cheered. “We did it! They are all gone, in this whole area of the country!” “That’s true Scientist Brytani, but we need to check on our other areas of the country

see if they are getting rid of those giants like we did.” Said Top Scientist Camille.

Scientist Jeny from the Northern Area Group of Top Scientists said, “We got them all out of our neck of the woods! How did you guys do?”. “We blasted them out of here for good!” said Scientist Michael of the Western Area Group of Top Scientists. “Thanks to your SGCDF, there isn’t a giant in sight.” Said Scientist Natalie of the Central Area Group of Top Scientists. “And don’t forget those Super Looky Lens Goggles” said Scientist Steve of the Southern Area Group of Top Scientists, “We couldn’t have defeated the giants without them.” “Great job everyone, we officially got rid of the giant germs in the United States. We are going to be sending our technology all over the world so there isn’t a single giant germ on earth” said Top Scientist Camille, “But our work isn’t over.

Those tiny baby germs are still out in the world going from person to person.”

“Hopefully, Scientist Dominic back at the lab has some good news about that” said Scientist Jessica. “And what about the all of the people out there? Don’t they need to know what we did for them? Shouldn’t they know that there were giant germs above their heads this whole time?” said Scientist Jackie. “No, Scientist Jackie, they would never believe us. I don’t know that people listen to scientists like us anymore. I think well be the only ones who really know what happened” said Top Scientist Camille.

Chapter 6

Back at the lab, Scientist Dominic really did have quite the breakthrough. “Top Scientist Camille! I’m glad your back, I have so much new information to share with you.” “Well let’s hear it, Scientist Dominic. Everything went as planned out there, hopefully you had the same luck.” “Oh, I did. I found that the tiny particles can’t live for very long out in the world. They could live on a surface for up to a week, but if

people wipe their stuff down with antibacterial cleaners and wash their clothes and things, they touch all of the time, it kills the particles.” “That’s great news Scientist Dominic” said Top Scientist Camille. “But wait, there’s more” said Scientist Dominic, “When they are on a surface, the tiny germs have to try and trick you into touching it and then touching your mouth or nose, so it's harder to get into your body that way. The easiest way they get into your body would be through the air. They can only live in the air for 3 hours, but with talking and sneezing, they get propelled. Also, you have the germs inside of you and you could not even know it. But because you could not know if you have them inside of you, everyone should always wear a mask when you are out of your house because those little germs can't get past the mask” “So we WERE right about the mask!” Said Top

Scientist Camille. “We were. They also can't live inside of you for very long at all. The only way they survive is to go to the next person.” So, you're saying if you trap it inside with a mask, it will die” said Scientist Brytani. “Exactly. We also need to make sure everyone is washing their hands a lot after going out because a lot of other people touch the same thing, and you could get the tiny germs on your hands.” Finished Scientist Dominic. “That is amazing, and we need to let the people know about this information as soon as we can” said Top Scientist Camille. “But Top Scientist Camille, didn't you say that the people won't listen to us?” “I did Scientist Jessica, but this information is too important for us not to tell people. We need their help in order to get COVID out of our lives forever.”

Television Newscaster Elliott: *“We are about to go live with Top Scientist Camille for a special announcement. But before we do, we want to share special footage of the top scientists all over the country fighting off what appears to be giant COVID germs. It turns out the scientists have been trying to protect us this whole time. I was so wrong, I would like to say on behalf of America, we are sorry that we didn’t believe you, Scientists.”*

Top Scientist Camille: *“Wow, I had no idea anyone saw that. Thank you, and you’re welcome. We just want people to know that we will always try and protect you. With that being said, we now have the key to protecting yourself from COVID...”*
And Top Scientist Camille went into everything they learned that day.

Television Newscaster Elliott: *“Thank you so much Top Scientist Camille. We promise to do everything you have told us. We don’t want to keep getting sick. Wait, I am being told that there is another special announcement being made from Scientist Jeny from the Northern Area Group of Top Scientists. We will go live to her now.”*

Scientist Jeny: *“Hello everyone, first off we want to say thank you to all the research you and your team have put in, Top Scientist Camille. We wouldn’t have been able to overcome those giant germs if it wasn’t for you guys. Now, I want to share some exciting news. Between my team, Scientist Steve of the Southern Area Group of Top Scientists’ team, Scientist Michael of the Western Area Group of Top Scientists’ team, and Scientist Natalie of the Central Area Group of Top Scientists’ team, we have*

created a vaccine. This vaccine puts an invisible bubble around you that makes it really hard for the tiny germs to get through AND even if they do, you won't get sick from them because the vaccine also makes your immunity stronger. But you would still have to wear a mask so that people who can't get the vaccine don't get sick when the germs try to leave your body. But people have to wait for it still because we are just getting it finished. But once we do, things will start to get a little more back to normal especially if you follow the guidelines Top Scientist Camille has given AND get the vaccine when it becomes available.

Television Newscaster Elliott: *Wow! That IS amazing news, Scientist Jeny! You heard here first, folks. We need to all work together for things to be more normal. I know we will all do the right thing. For all*

of television and America, this is Television Newscaster Elliott signing off to go wash his hands again. Goodnight.

After the announcement, people started to really take it seriously and followed all of the rules given. Soon people didn't have to stay inside and could go back to work and school without being scared of getting very sick or spreading it to other people.

The End

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