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Personal Journals

Documenting COVID-19 in Central Illinois

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Cleveland, Alex - Covid-19 Journal

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Friday, March 20, 2020

Illinois' governor Pritzger issued a Shelter in Place order to help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. All non-essential businesses shut down, and people have been laid off of work and forced to practice social distancing. I am not able to work anymore either. As of today, there are approximately 19,476 cases of Covid-19 in the US, and 51 deaths. In Illinois alone, there are over 500 cases, including one in my county (Kendall). California is on lockdown as well, and so is much of New York and Illinois. All 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all report Covid-19 cases. This global pandemic has never been seen before in our lifetimes. For 15 days at least, we are not allowed to leave our homes except to get food or do necessary errands like going to the gas station, going to the bank, or walking your dog. Also, if you are not able to work from home, you are permitted to go to work. Eastern Illinois University has moved to online learning for the remainder of the semester. Many K-12 schools have also closed for the rest of the semester. This situation is honestly mind boggling. This all doesn't feel real to me. Our generation, I feel, has information overload anyway. I feel like it's very hard for us to process everything. I hope this all gets better soon... Well, eventually.

Sat. March 21, 2020

I wanted to go hangout with my college friends one last time before the Shelter in Place order took effect at 5:00 PM today, but I wasn't able to. The order is expected to last until April 7th, unless it is extended. Trump said the social distancing and staying home could last until July, while many top scientists say this could last for months, and possibly even 12-18. I surely hope not. I can't imagine having to live like this for so many months. I can't imagine the

economic impact of this either if businesses deemed “not essential” are forced to stay closed for months. I personally believe that this order will be extended for many more weeks, they just want to give us hope. The U.K. ended classes for the rest of the school year, and said that social distancing and business closures could last at least 12 weeks. I will legit go crazy if we can’t do anything and I can’t work for weeks. Online classes start on the 30th, but that probably won’t slow my boredom. As of today, there are approximately 307,995 cases of Covid-19 worldwide. The US has 27,069 with 340 deaths. Today, it seems that the number of cases in the US has increased by 7,686 and the number of deaths has increased by 84. These numbers are expected to increase for several more weeks. I never expected this to happen in my lifetime, and I definitely didn’t expect this to happen to us so quickly. I hope we don’t get stuck inside for weeks.

Sun. March 22, 2020

The numbers of Covid-19 cases in the US and the world continues to dramatically increase. Worldwide cases reached above 300,000 (which only a week ago was 200,000). As of today, there are approximately 338,724 global cases, with 14,687 deaths. The US currently has 34,717 cases. Trump signed the Defense Production Act which forced some companies to halt their usual manufacturing in order to manufacture what the country needs. This was used in World War II, but is now going to be used to make necessary medical equipment and supplies. No new news on when this could end, many scientists are saying it could be until mid-late summer before things start to return to normal.. Congress can’t get its act together to pass an emergency stimulus bill to stimulate the economy and provide more funding to fight the pandemic. I hope things start to get better soon.

Mon. March 23, 2020

Today was pretty boring. I woke up around 11:30 AM, got dressed, and ate lunch. I spent the rest of the day on my laptop playing games. What else is there to do in a quarantine? Almost nothing it seems. Today, the global total of Covid-19 cases hit approximately 381,761, with 16,558 total covid-19 related deaths. The total number of cases in the US is approximately 46,145, and the death toll has hit 582. I did go on a walk with my friend today. I felt a little bad for violating the social distancing guidelines but I was going crazy. Also, we spent days together a week ago, haven't been anywhere except the same stores, and he lives in my neighborhood. I still feel bad though. I also applied to work at Target and Petsmart today to make some money. Hopefully I hear back from them soon. Jobs are sort of scarce right now.

Wed. March 25, 2020

Today was pretty good! I woke up and picked up my paycheck, then went on a long walk with Rayland. Then, we did some painting. I painted the coronavirus because why not mask your sorrows in humor? I really don't want to be in quarantine anymore. It is so boring and kind of lonely. I feel like we might be stuck like this for a while though. Cases in the US increased to approximately 68,421 today. Also, there are 5 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Kendall county now, which is NOT ideal. The global total of Covid-19 cases is approximately 471,417, with 21,295 deaths. I pray that the US can get its shit together and flatten the curve or even stop the pandemic. I feel like it might be a little too late though. But, I sincerely and utterly hope not. I don't know if I can live like this much longer without going insane. Anyway, I hope we all get through this.

Thurs. March 26, 2020

Today I didn't do much, I ate lunch and worked a little bit on a project for school. I also wrote in my 3,000 Questions About Me book. Today the total number of Covid-19 cases in the US surpassed China and Italy's. We now have more cases than any other country on Earth. Most of the cases are in New York state (around 20,000). The total number of Covid-19 cases in the US is approximately 85,594 with 1,300 deaths. The global total has increased to approximately 532,224. Trump came out and said he wants (and expects) things to be open by Easter Sunday, but this goes against what virtually every doctor and epidemiologist says. If he opens up the country again that just means that transmission will not only rebound, but accelerate. This Shelter in Place order sucks, but if it saves lives and stops or slows down the virus I believe it's worth it. Opening up the country too early could be catastrophic. I will never take the ability to travel with friends and family wherever we want to go, safely, for granted again. I can only imagine what I am going to do once everything reopens and I get to see all my friends again.

Sat. March 28, 2020

Today wasn't very good. I couldn't focus on any of the assignments that I needed to do so I became frustrated. I also keep looking at the news and all the coronavirus stuff keeps getting worse. My mom told me today that the mayor of Chicago hinted at the idea that the governor might extend the stay at home order. Right now, it's expected to expire on April 7th. However, nothing has been getting any better. I can't imagine having to be trapped in my house for another few weeks or longer, and it's likely going to be so. I am already going crazy. The global number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is 663,740 as of today. Also, the global death count has reached 30,874. The United States has reached 123,759 cases, with 2,227 deaths. We are now the number

one country in regard to the total number of confirmed cases. I had a mental breakdown today about it all because I can't comprehend it all. I also feel lost about what to do and how to adjust to staying at home. So, there's a lot going on in my head right now. Some fear, some tenseness, frustration, happiness, and sadness. We will see how things go as the days progress. Hopefully they go back to normal in less time than I am thinking they might. Also, online classes start on Monday and I am extremely unprepared. It's going to be very hard to get into a rhythm, motivate myself, and keep track of stuff. I can and I will have to figure it out though. I hope everything gets better in the world soon.

Sun. March 29, 2020

Today I woke up and showered and ate brunch (basically). I then watched some TV with my mom and step dad. Afterwards, I revised and turned in my English essay. After that I listened to music for a while, and then my family facetimes basically all of my step dad's family. It was definitely fun and funny. Afterwards, I went upstairs and watched the first Hunger Games movie. I forgot how much I liked that movie. A wrench was thrown into my mood when Trump announced a thirty day extension to the social distancing guidelines. I wanted to scream, I have been going crazy and that was only like two to three weeks. I can't imagine another thirty days or the end of April, ugh. I know it's necessary but it's just difficult for a more extroverted person like me. Total confirmed COVID-19 cases globally increased to approximately 722,196 with 33,976 deaths. I hope that this extension of social distancing guidelines means the worst of it will be over my April.

Wed. April 1, 2020

A decent amount has happened since the 29th of March. Trump extended to social distancing guidelines until April 30th, and then Pritzger followed suit with an extension of his executive “stay at home” order. I have been able to cope because of my friends. Some of us facetime or call all the time, and we text or use social media most of the day too. I am very thankful for that. I also started online classes again this Monday. So far so good but it takes some getting used to. Today, there are approximately 935,830 cases globally, with 47,241 deaths. In the US, the total number of cases reached approximately 215,175 with 5,110 deaths. It has also been revealed that China most likely severely under-reported their total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. I’m not surprised, I didn’t entirely believe that the most populous nation on Earth with a slow reaction time in reporting the virus truly only had 81,500 cases. While they likely were pretty successful in slowing and virtually stopping large amounts of the spread, the true case numbers are likely in the millions, or at least the hundreds of thousands. I hope that the prediction that the worst of the crisis will be over by the end of April is true. I want to see my friends and do everything I used to be able to do. I hope that this pandemic ends soon, and people get healthy.

Sun. April 5, 2020

Today was a pretty good day, I watched some Grey’s anatomy and got a couple of things I wanted in the mail. I did get in a little mood and cry a little bit earlier but that didn’t last long. This coronavirus stuff continues to get worse. Yesterday (I think), the CDC updated its guidelines and recommends that anyone going out in public wear cloth masks. According to the CDC, there are currently 304,826 confirmed cases in the US, with 7,616 deaths. However, these numbers are likely higher, because there is a lag time between the CDC’s numbers, and the

numbers shown in the media. Globally, there have been 1,272,115 confirmed cases with 69,309 deaths. Hopefully this all starts to turn around relatively soon. One of my friends' great uncle's tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently in the hospital in isolation. They also think his wife and one of his kids may have it. I pray that they will all be okay and regain their health. It's wild that it happened, his family believes that he contracted it by going to Home Depot a lot. This just shows that social distancing and not going into large public spaces unless it is necessary is important. I pray that things begin to improve soon.

Mon. April 6, 2020

Today was a pretty good day. I woke up and got dressed, ate lunch, worked on my lectures, and completed an english assignment. Then, I started a painting for my friend, I hope I get to see him soon. The death toll in the US surpassed 10,000. Also, the total number of coronavirus cases reached 1,346,974 globally, with 47,702 deaths. In the US, there are approximately 367,385 cases with 10,876 deaths. Hopefully all of this ends soon, or at least gets better relatively soon.

Wed. April 8, 2020

Today was a pretty good day, but it got weird and kind of bad at the end. My best friend Mirage told me her dog Tinkerbelle died today, and my friend Carly told me her aunt passed away. The world has a lot of death and pain recently. Today, the number of coronavirus cases worldwide increased to 1,518,773 with 88,505 deaths. The total number of cases in the US increased to 435,128 with 14,795 deaths. I hope that the next two weeks are the peaks for cases and they get better from there.

Thurs. April 9, 2020

Today felt so long. I got stuck in my head and had a very large mental breakdown. Since there isn't anything to distract myself with really, my brain becomes free to just worry and overthink everything. I am exhausted emotionally. I definitely don't think that being stuck inside is helping along with all of the sadness and fear coming from the media and the internet. There is really nowhere to go for a distraction. Every corner you turn there is another thing to worry about. Mirage's dog died last night, and I also learned that Carly's aunt passed away after battling stomach cancer. I can feel the negative energy in the world, and it's affecting me a lot. Anyway, I managed to get myself out of that mind trap and I feel a little bit better now. Today, the total number of COVID-19 cases reached 1,603,896 globally, with 95,731 deaths. The number of cases in the US reached approximately 468,711 with 16,697 deaths. I watched the daily briefing today from the White House, and one of the lead doctors said we were beginning to see a decrease/plateau in cases. Hopefully if measures are maintained, it will start to rapidly decrease and eventually life can return to normal. Or, at least close.

Sun. April 12, 2020.

Today was Easter. It was really weird not being with my nana or other family members. We had pot roast, rolls, salad, and fried potatoes from the skillet. Afterwards, I just watched a Harry Potter movie and chilled. I also managed to complete my history assignments that are due tomorrow. Today, the number of cases worldwide reached approximately 1,853,155, with 114,247 deaths. In the US, the number of cases reached 560,433 with 22,115 deaths. I don't know exactly when, but the US surpassed Italy's death toll of 19,899. Illinois is starting to show a flattening of the curve, which hopefully means that some restrictions will be eased relatively soon. Hopefully, they will be eased by the end of April. A lot of states and areas, however, might

not peak until May or June. Apparently Washington DC is just now starting to be hit hard, and they might not reach their peak until June. It's honestly so crazy. I hope restrictions ease up a little bit relatively soon to at least allow small groups to exist. And some non-essential businesses to re-open. Most of all right now, I want to see my friends when this is over. It's hard to not be able to see them. But, many people have it much worse than I do, so I have to keep that in mind before I complain too much. I hope that this passes soon.

Mon. April 13, 2020

Today was a pretty good day, I facetimed with my friends Monique and Ainsley for a few hours which was really nice. I also managed to complete some homework, and my lectures for Mondays. I'm still a little behind thought. The total number of cases worldwide increased to 1,925,179 with 119,699 deaths. In the US, the number of cases increased to 587,155 with 23,644 deaths. I hope that the quarantine and stuff ends soon.

Fri. April 17, 2020

Today was a good day. I was in a good mood for a majority of the day, and I ate some good food. Today was not a good day for Illinois, however. We had a lot of cases. For some reason I couldn't find the number. We have a total of 27,575 cases in Illinois, with 1,142 deaths. The global total number of cases increased to approximately 2,250,737, with 154,256 deaths. In the US, the total number of cases increased to 710,021 with 37,158 deaths. Yesterday the Trump administration laid out a three phase plan to re-open the country on a state by state basis. To enter stage one, a state must have a decline in the number of cases over a period of at least two weeks, as well as an adequate amount of testing. In phase one, more people are allowed to return to work, some businesses may re-open at 50% or lower capacity (depending on demand and

safety). Also, some nonessential travel is permitted but it should be minimized. Phase two is if the number of cases still decreases over a period of two weeks after phase one is implemented, and etc. for the other phases. It will take Illinois probably (but hopefully not) until at least mid-May until we enter phase one. Assuming everything goes well, (actually perfect) it won't be until June that things might seem to look a little bit like normal. I pray that we all make it through this and that it all ends soon.

Sat. April 18, 2020

Today was a good day. I was in a good mood for most of the day. I went on a walk and talked with my friend Rayland for awhile which was a good time. When it comes to the coronavirus though, it wasn't. Today, the global number of confirmed cases globally increased to 2,331,892 with 160,763 deaths. In the US, the number of confirmed cases increased to 738,913, with 39,015 deaths. I hope that the curve is flattening and it goes down soon. In Illinois, confirmed cases reached 29,160 with 1,259 deaths. I hope that everyone I love makes it through this and it all ends soon.

Sun. April 19, 2020

Today was a pretty good day. I was in a good mood for most of it. I watched Glee, helped my step dad and my mom outside, and ate a really good dinner. I also completed the history assignments that I saved until the last minute... oops. It's very hard to get myself motivated to do anything since quarantine started. I hope that I can get myself motivated enough to do the stuff I need to do. Anyway, the coronavirus case total worldwide reached 2,407,341 with 165,069 deaths. In the US, total confirmed cases hit 764,265 with 40,565 deaths. In Illinois, the total number of cases is 30,357 with 1,290 deaths. In Kendall county, there are 132 confirmed cases

and 3 deaths. I keep feeling like nothing is getting better. On the bright side, New York says that they believe they have passed their peak and have leveled out/started to go down. I hope it stays that way, and I hope that Illinois gets out of this soon.

Mon. April 20, 2020

Today was not a very good day. I was barely productive, and I was in my head a lot again. I cried over something virtually right after I woke up and sat down to try to do school work. Anyway, the daily coronavirus stuff I guess. The total number of COVID-19 cases has increased to 2,479,691 worldwide, with 170,370 deaths. In the US, there are now 792,759 cases with 42,514 deaths. Pritzger spoke today about how we are likely not past the peak yet, but we are flattening the curve. I just want this to be over with. I want to see my friends and family I haven't seen in months. I also miss going to stores, restaurants, and the mall. I already know the stay at home order will be extended into May. I just hope that he decides to ease some restrictions.

Tues. April 21, 2020

Today was a pretty good day. I got Panera for lunch, worked on my speech, watched two lectures, watched a documentary, did some reading, worked out, showered, did some painting, and spent some time thinking and relaxing. And now, I am journaling. I also ate pretty healthy today so I feel pretty good about that. Pritzger told us today that we might not reach our peak number of cases until mid may... I CANNOT be stuck inside ALLLLLLL the way until mid May. I mean if we have to I will, but my mental health will probably take a long time to recover. Today, the total number of coronavirus cases reached 2,557,181 with approximately 177,641 deaths worldwide. In the US, we have reached 819,164 confirmed cases with 45,340 deaths.

Today, there are 33,059 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois, with 1,468 confirmed deaths. I hope that this ends soon.

Thurs. April 23, 2020

Today was okay, not great but not bad. I wasn't as productive as I wanted to be and I didn't have that much energy. I did do some of my history reading and did my quiz and lab for Cultural Geography and Natural Environment though. Today, Pritzger announced that he is extending the stay at home order until May 30th, as Illinois sees its largest one day increase in COVID-19 cases. Some things did change though. Some state parks will slowly re-open and some elective procedures can resume. Also, I have permission to return to my college and move out of my dorm room, so hopefully EIU sends out an email so we can sign up soon. Today, the total number of COVID-19 cases worldwide has increased to 2,718,699 with 190,654 deaths. In the US, there are 880,204 confirmed cases, with 49,845 deaths. Also, my friend's great uncle passed away early yesterday morning from COVID-19. It was a huge shock to the family because he seemed to have been getting better. It was really sad, when I got on facetime with him he got emotional and I felt helpless and wished I was there to help him feel better. I went on a short walk today too, which made me feel a little better. I just hope and pray that things get better soon, and that Illinois hits its peak in late April or early May like they think it might.

Sun. April 26, 2020

Today was a good day. I woke up and ate some chocolate chip pancakes and spent a lot of the day watching Grey's Anatomy. I decided to restart it and watch it from the beginning. I also worked on my history paper. Today, the total number of confirmed cases globally reached 2,994,958, with 206,997 deaths. The US reached 987,322 cases with 55,415 deaths. Today,

Illinois added another 2,119 cases to its total, making 41,777, with 1,874 deaths. I truly hope that the peak of this pandemic is soon in Illinois.

Tues. April 28, 2020

Today was a good day. I spent most of it sitting outside doing my school work, sunbathing, and just hanging out. It really boosted my mood. We also got dinner from a restaurant so that made me happy. Today, COVID-19 cases globally increased to 3,138,396, with 217,985 deaths. In the US, cases surpassed 1 million to 1,035,765, with 59,266 deaths. Illinois reached a total of 45,883 cases with 1,983 deaths. I hope that Illinois is surpassing its peak and this will get better and be over soon.

Wed. April 29, 2020

Today was alright, it was rainy all day so I didn't have any motivation to do anything really. I watched a lecture for one of my classes and that's about it. Then, I just watched netflix for most of the day. I did go to Target with my mom today for groceries. It was sooooo slow, and a lot of shelves are still empty because of the crisis. I don't know why but sometimes the strangest things are gone. There were basically no spices or seasonings, no tortillas, a very limited selection of soup, etc. I'm not surprised though, people are probably still hoarding things and leaving few or none for anyone else. You'd think that at this point people would have calmed down because it's been over a month since the lockdown, but I guess not. Also, only about 80% of the people in there were wearing masks. I mean, that's a lot, but it should be everybody. Some people also were getting too close to us and other customers, and a lot of them were the ones without masks. When my mom and I were in the bread aisle, there was this guy at the end who wasn't wearing a mask and kept badly coughing and hacking, and clearing his

throat. ESPECIALLY if you are feeling sick you should be wearing a mask. Oh well, we will probably go back to getting our groceries delivered for the time being unless we absolutely need to go ourselves. Today, the number of COVID-19 cases in the world increased to 3,220,011, with 228,215 deaths. In the US, the number of cases increased to 1,064,396, with 61,668 deaths. In Illinois, the number of cases increased to 50,355 with 2,125 deaths. For the past couple of days the number of confirmed cases has remained relatively stable (knock on wood), so hopefully it stays that way, and then begins to decrease so our state can enter stage one of exiting the lockdown at the end of May. I hope and pray that this is the case and that things get better soon.

Thurs. April 30, 2020

Today was an okay day. I took a couple quizzes and did some homework. Also, I cleaned and re-organized my room a little bit because I am moving out of my college dorm tomorrow. So, I have to make room for my stuff I need to bring back. I am excited, I miss the clothes and shoes I left there, as well as my decorations and my board and card games. It's going to be kind of sad though, because it is going to remind me how my freshman year of college was cut short due to COVID-19 and I didn't get to end my first year of college off the way I expected and wanted to. I'm going to miss seeing my college friends everyday, and doing homework together, working out at the gym together, and sharing meals and time together basically everyday. This school year flew by so fast, it feels like just a couple months ago I moved in and began my freshman year of college. Yet, at the same time it feels like so long ago... It's going to be a long day though. I have to wake up around 8:00 AM and be on the road with my mom and step dad by 8:45 AM to be at EIU by 12:00 PM for my checkout appointment. It's about a three hour drive. Then, we need to pack everything up into the cars we are taking and then drive another three

hours back home, and then unpack everything and figure out where to put it all. Today, the total number of COVID-19 cases worldwide increased to 3,308,233 with 234,105 deaths. In the US, there are now 1,095,210 with 63,861 deaths. In Illinois, the total number of cases increased to 52,918, with 2,355 deaths. I hope that this pandemic slows down and stops soon, and I hope and pray that once this wave is over our country has the capability to test and know when a second wave begins so they can squash it in its tracks and we never have to go through something as bad as this ever again.

Fri. May 1, 2020

Today my mom, step dad, and I drove down to EIU and moved out of my dorm room, it was really sad to have had to move out early and see my dorm room so bare. It makes me seriously hope and pray that in person classes can resume in the fall semester. Cases of COVID-19 increased again in Illinois today... Why??? Can people not stay home and avoid non-essential travel? Yes this has taken a long time but it's only going to take longer if people keep violating the stay at home order. Anyway, today there are now 3,401,189 cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with 239,604 confirmed deaths. In the US, there are now 1,131,452 cases with 65,776 deaths. In Illinois, there are now 52,918 cases with 2,355 deaths. Today, there was the largest one day increase of COVID-19 cases in Illinois as the new stay at home order took effect today, with 3,137 additional cases. The data from the government website stating Illinois only has 52,918 cases is low compared to what the media is reporting: 56,055 according to MBC5 Chicago. I seriously hope that people take this seriously and stay home and avoid too much contact with others so everyone can exit this quarantine.

