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Digital Storytelling
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Covid 19 and its Remnants

Over the last century, we have endured a lot, 2 wars, 18 presidents, and major cultural changes. All things have affected our society and have shaped what we have today. In the past two and half years, a major pandemic has shaken up our whole world and we have come to a new normal. In the US we have become more aware and more open to getting to a better place for our mental health. Everyone's mental health has been tampered with within these past two years.

Throughout the past two and half years we have gone through many variants and the CDC is currently monitoring 11 other variants. We have gone through a lot together as a nation with uniting moments to bring us together. For example, when the clock hit 7:00 pm, people went out their windows all over New York and started cheering and clapping for the nurses and doctors coming out of work. We also came together as a country to watch our favorite celebrities sit with us at home and give us some tone.



To the right: "New Yorker's come together at 7pm each day to give thanks and gratitude to the city's frontline workers fighting the coronavirus pandemic." *Adam Jeffery | CNBC*

To the right is a poster from the Global Citizens Concert the was on April 18,2022



We also had times of darkness, when we didn't see a light at the end of the tunnel. Some wondered if we would ever get back to normal. With the city that never sleeps, actually resting for a year and a half. The streets were empty, the theaters were on an indefinite intermission, and the desks at universities and colleges were not filled with eager students ready to learn. Someone could have stood in the middle of 5th Avenue for 10 minutes and wouldn't have maybe seen 1 car. A 2022 graduate of Manhattan College spoke to me about her experience with Covid 19 and how it affected her. She told me the moment that everyone

found out we were being sent home, she said “Everyone was cheering but I was worried.” So going into this locked down she was nervous. She found it to be tough to concentrate at home and found the connection between teachers and students to be “disconnecting”. She also expressed her gratitude for teachers as she said that outside of school and within her family, she found moments of unifying and togetherness. By “singing happy birthday through zoom” and found that her family got closer over the pandemic. She said “Dad’s side of the family would talk every Friday and my Mom’s side was distant before and now unified.” She continues to go on about the silver lining she has experienced through the pandemic of it all but did go back to the point of how hard it was to connect with faculty and staff during the pandemic. She also explains how quiet it was on campus and how odd it was in the beginning when she first returned for hybrid learning.



A picture of the empty campus at night during the pandemic.

We end the conversation with Mary describing the pandemic in her own words. She said, “Covid for me was, a necessary change to be more present with myself, so i that i can give the best of myself.”

For this whole rollercoaster of a journey, we may wonder if our anxiety or depression levels have gone or have become more anti-social. One might wonder if we had more moments of unity and if our post-pandemic world would have been different. Would people become nicer to each other or would people just be relieved that it was all over? One may never know but as Kelly Clarkson says at the end of her daily talk show, “It's a Beautiful Day! ...and if it's not, change it.” We all can do so one day at a time.

Links

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/10/nyregion/nyc-7pm-cheer-thank-you-coronavirus.html

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant-classifications.html

https://twitter.com/kellyclarksontv/status/1365300593107947522?lang=en

Interviewee

2022 Graduate Student, Age 22, Media Operator at NBC

Photo Credits in chronological order:

https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/05/new-yorkers-stop-and-give-daily-thanks-and-gratitude-for-coronavirus-frontline-workers.html

https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/media/togetherathome/

2022 Graduate Student (Interviewee)

This article can be found on my linktree: https://linktr.ee/chrisplate