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2 May, 2020  
Beginning Western

### Covid 19 Impact

The 2020 Covid 19 pandemic really has not affected my life in a significant way. In the beginning of march, near spring break, people were just starting to really freak out about this whole thing. I went home to California, so I was around my family and all our livestock. On a normal day before the pandemic, I would wake up go to school, then work and take care of our animals. I would go to the feed store as needed and take my dogs for walks at the state parks. My parents work from home and they don't really have any friends they hang out with so they pretty much would stay home all the time. While I was at home when the pandemic really hit full effect, I did the exact same things. I would wake up, do my schoolwork, go to work because I'm an "essential worker", take care of my animals and go to the feed store. Only difference was that I had to find somewhere else to take my dogs. The governor of California apparently thought closing state parks, the most wide-open places in the state, would be a great idea. Instead all of us dog walkers found random neighborhoods to walk our dogs at. The biggest change I saw was that people started wearing bandanas over their mouths, but not their noses, because it's supposed to keep them from getting the virus. As for my parents, they are plumbing contractors. Most of their jobs are at the hospitals in San Francisco, so they really are essential workers. If anything, the whole pandemic is helping their company make more money.

I was only supposed to be at home for a week, but the airlines kept cancelling and pushing my flight back. After about three weeks of being stuck at home, I finally was able to fly back to Bozeman. Bozeman is not half as bad as it is in California. Sure, everything is closed, but at least its making people be creative and come up with things to do. That is a positive impact the virus has on me. I have been making myself get out more and see new things. I found three new places I like to go on runs since I've been back in Bozeman. If I wasn't extremely bored and tired of sitting at the house all the time, I probably wouldn't have found those places.

In terms of being an "essential worker," I work a company called Instacart. Basically, you go grocery shopping for people and deliver it to their house. I've been doing it since before the pandemic, but I have definitely seen a change in the amount we get paid since Covid 19 came around. People give us shoppers huge tips now. An order of only 10 grocery items used to get me a \$5 tip, whereas now people are giving me \$15. In terms of work and money, the pandemic has positively affected me.

When it comes to school, I am struggling big time. I am the type of student who needs to be held accountable for things. Having to actually show up to a class to get a grade is what makes my grades stay afloat. The online classes make me do the complete opposite. I forget to do a lot of assignments because I don't actually talk to any of my teachers. I would rather do literally anything else with my time than sit there and watch a recorded lecture on my computer. I get distracted very easily so the online classes do not work for me. The only plus side to them is that I have more free time. So when it comes to school work and its relationship to Covid 19 it has a very negative impact on my life. Overall, the only major things that Covid

19 has done to me and my life are make school harder for me. Other than that, it has done nothing to me personally.