

Matthew Kilroy

A Big Change

The Coronavirus has made a huge impact on my life so far, and it's not over yet. When the pandemic started, I was in the second semester of my senior year of high school, and life couldn't have been better. The high school swim season was coming up, and I was in the best shape of my life. I was doing great in all my classes, and I had a girlfriend who I really liked. Honestly, when the pandemic hit, I wasn't worried about it. My school said that we would get two weeks off, and I thought it would be like a vacation. Unfortunately, I was wrong. Within the first week, my girlfriend had broken up with me and sent me into a mini depression. After the second, we were still out of school, but now we had to do online work. And of course, my swim season was canceled a day before the first meet. I was feeling awful, to put it lightly. When summer came around, I thought things would get better, and they did, but not in every way. I was starting to hang out with some friends again, and my swim practices had started up. Although summer still didn't feel right. So many businesses were closed, and everyone was isolated. Even my practice was different as my swim group got split up into three separate groups, and every day, we had to wait outside with a mask on to get our temperatures taken. Nobody seemed to be in a good mood, and everyone was just waiting for things to get better. Suddenly, during the last week of summer, one of my teammates took his own life. The whole team had a memorial for him at the beach, where we all swam out into the ocean and formed a big circle. Then we went around, and all said a fun memory we had with that teammate. On top of everything else that was going on, this was a lot for me to digest. I had just fully gotten over my ex-girlfriend a couple weeks before, and now I had lost someone else in my life. My extended family wasn't doing very well, either. My uncle lost his job, and my cousin got jumped and beat up so bad he permanently lost hearing in one of his ears. I also started college this year, but so far, it's not what I hoped it would be. When the pandemic first started, I remember asking my parents if they thought my freshman year of college would be affected. They said that I had nothing to worry about because everything would be back to normal by that time. But here I am at home completing my whole first semester of college online. Needless to say, Coronavirus has changed my life tremendously, and not for the better. Although things haven't gone my way for quite some time, I hope for what the future will bring. However, just like in the summer, I am waiting for everything to get better, as I'm not sure what I can do to make everything better. I just hope that soon this pandemic is just a distant memory I can talk about with my family and friends.