

UHD DATEDLINE

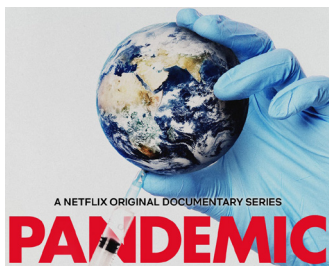
Student Run Since
Volume One

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Students adjust to new normal

By Sheryl Sellers

It may, at times, feel to students that they have entered an alternate universe. Unpreparedly weaving the web of online instruction prompts the question, “How you doin’?” Dateline reached out to students, faculty, and staff to see how they are doing and to gather their current views on our new normal.

Jessica Quiroz, a junior majoring in corporation communications, is taking four classes this spring. With two classes already online, she is accustomed to online learning and actually prefers it. However, the classes that transitioned to online on March 23, offer unique difficulties.

She explains, “For both of my classes, we are still to complete group projects. In one class, we had to create a training program. It is difficult to plan via virtual meetings. We had hands-on activities, but now we must change everything and plan virtual activities that go with our training. I wish a substitute assignment had been implemented... meeting online is hard.”

Jessica is not alone in finding group assignments online a challenge. Getting feedback from members of a group is difficult and can take days rather than minutes.

Learning new technology is a plus, but it

can add stress when one is unfamiliar with the application. Group projects have an added layer of difficulty such as deciding how and when to work on

“I wish a substitute assignment had been implemented... meeting online is hard.”

- Jessica Quiroz,
UHD corporations communication major

the projects.

Another student, sophomore, Guadalupe Garza an accounting major, had this to say:

“I can’t stay focused with the classes that have merged to online. With one of the subjects, I struggle to comprehend the material, and now it’ll be harder because I’m not an online learner at all. That’s why I paid to have face-to-face classes rather than online classes.”

Similar comments on cost have been voiced by other students. Online classes are typically less expensive, so some students are questioning whether there will be a partial refund now that face-to-face classes have converted to online instruction.

An immediate dilemma some students

faced was the lack of a home computer and internet access. Many more struggle with the added predicament of sharing a home computer with family members or siblings, who now are also working or schooling from home. Faculty and staff are forced to deal with the transition, as well. Some have limited experience with online classes, and some simply miss the face-to-face classroom interaction that cannot be aptly replicated in a virtual setting.

Faculty and staff complaints include issues of students not responding to online discussions or not participating in Zoom meetings. Some students have simply disappeared.

Having to adjust to this new back-and-forth dialogue can be difficult if students are not engaging on the new platform.

“I can’t stay focused with the classes that have merged to online.”
- Guadalupe Garza,
UHD accounting major

Furthermore, the ability to motivate individuals is more challenging when not meeting face-to-face.

For Jessica, the back-and-forth communication is there, but difficult

to comprehend.

“While we were meeting, there was a lot of static and I could not hear and understand what my classmates or professor was saying.” Jessica continued, “Sometimes, all students wanted to talk at the same time, so it just caused confusion.”

Some forms of instruction are more difficult to transfer online. Simulations and models are a helpful replacement for some course labs. Although these simulations are beneficial, it is not the same as face-to-face lab instruction. Students will miss out on some of the hands-on modeling, but they can still accomplish the analyzing of data, the hypothesizing and the coming to conclusions that are the ultimately the goal of these course labs, and of learning instruction, as a whole.

Recall the quote from Thomas Edison “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” Students, like Edison, also learn by making mistakes. This ability to learn by making hands-on mistakes will be missed, but now, we have a whole new platform on which to experiment with new methods and to make new mistakes. But most importantly, we have an opportunity to learn through those mistakes as we learn to adapt to our new normal.



THE DATELINE

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The Dateline has been the official student newspaper of the University of Houston-Downtown since 1982, and it has been "Student Run since Volume One". We strive to meet the needs of a growing university as well as the growing metropolitan city that surrounds us.

The newspaper is published bi-weekly, every other Monday, as well as over the Summer break.

Print circulation is 1,000 copies per issue and distributed to all college buildings throughout the University, as well as satellite campuses at UHD-Northwest.

Deadlines for contributions are one week before publication date.

Submission Policy

The Dateline staff consists of students from the University of Houston-Downtown who complete all tasks required to produce the newspaper, which serves the main UHD campus, and satellite campuses at UHD-Northwest. We want all students, regardless of major, to contribute. However, we must comply with our submission policy to operate under our limitations of time, energy, and staff.

The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in The Dateline reflect the viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown, its administration, or students.

The Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. All submissions become property of The Dateline and may not be returned.

All staff and contributing writers must be currently enrolled students at the University of Houston-Downtown. The Dateline interacts with contributing writers via messaging, phone and/or email.

Press releases, story ideas, news tips and suggestions are always welcomed.

Any student interested in joining The Dateline staff may request more detailed information sending an email to the editors at editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com.

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Fellow Gators - Editors' Note

In January, COVID-19 reached pandemic state. As it spreads across the world, it affects many individual's daily lives and routines. In light of the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) rules and regulations, UHD has decided to suspend its in-person classes, opting for virtual lectures and assignments for the remainder of the spring semester. UHD has made this drastic decision in hopes of slowing the spread of COVID-19 cases and to better ensure the safety of its students, faculty, and staff members.

During these uncertain times, The Dateline hopes to alleviate concerns our readers may have regarding the pandemic. In this issue, The Dateline Staff have united to offer tips, advice, and hope to our readers, motivating them to finish "Gator Strong" while coping with the ongoing uncertainty of this pandemic.

Since spring break, I have been keeping myself busy by doing various chores around the house, whether it be doing the dishes, laundry, or even sweeping the floor. In addition, I am also focusing on my mental health by taking breaks from the news and practicing self-care and meditation. Reading is also another good outlet, taking you to different times and settings, escaping from the looming fears of recession and other modern-day issues. Although there are many other ways to be productive during this quarantine-cation, these are some of the few ways I have been able to keep myself busy. For all those who need mental health support, contact UHD Counseling services; as a student/faculty member, you are entitled to five free sessions per semester.

– Aansa Usmani,
Assistant Editor

Though we find ourselves in uncertain times, it is imperative to remember the importance of what we are doing. The stay home, work safe order has been difficult for everyone as it disrupts our daily lives, but it is imminent to the safety of ourselves and others. It is tedious to adhere to such orders and it is difficult to stay confined in our homes. We all miss our time at UHD (and anywhere else), but we all must do our part to keep ourselves and our communities safe. It is our own responsibility to adhere to social distancing rules, and the more we do so, the quicker we can return to life as we knew it before COVID-19. Stay strong, stay safe, and stay inside.

– Jaida Doll, Editor

Despite the situation we find ourselves in, whether we find ourselves worrying about major inconveniences or minor issues, we can help pass the time by focusing on community and wellbeing. The days might blend together, but this does not mean that they are meaningless. You are protecting yourself and your family by social distancing and staying away from others, allowing time for self-reflection and alone time. There is a wealth of technology at our fingertips that can bridge the physical separation many of us feel. In some cases, we may find ourselves reconnecting relationships that may have been strained or even strengthening solid bonds. Do not feel guilty about this time. What is happening is out of our hands. This opportunity allows us to step back and reassess where we are. Things may be tough now, but we will get through this. None of us are alone in what is happening. But we will make it through together.

– Varah Thornton,
Assistant Editor

During this quar-

antine, it is important to keep active, as it is good for both your physical and mental health. I keep myself sane through physical exercise by biking between 10 to 15 miles every day. When shopping for essential supplies, it helps pretend you are on a Food Network TV Show, such as Guy's Grocery Games, where you are told to cook something you are familiar with, but cannot find any of the ingredients and must improvise. It takes your mind off the empty grocery store shelves and may make shopping a little more fun.

– Laura Dunn, Section Editor, Gator Life

You are not alone. This situation is hard for all of us – around the world, some are dying and many more are sick. We are stressed, we are scared, we are overwhelmed, and many of us are having a hard time remaining optimistic in such pressing times, but it is important to remember that you are not alone.

As we are staying home and working safe, I have missed UHD. I realized it has become a second home for me and my coworkers are actually really good friends. Though the transition was not easy, now I am able spend more time with my daughter who I realize has really missed having me at home, and I can even finish that novel I've had lying around for years. Though I am grateful for what I had before the stay home, work safe order, I am even more grateful for my health and my daughter's health... and the internet.

My message to all my gator friends is this: You cannot control everything that is happening around you right now, but you can control what you do today. That is all you have to worry about, what you do today

Peace to you.
– Sheila Oretga-Calvillo,
Section Editor, News

Did you know...? Navigating a new normal

By Sheryl Sellers

A new normal. A new way of doing things. An education in being flexible, and quite an education it is.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all UHD classes are being held virtually with the assistance of Zoom, GroupMe, Microsoft Teams, and any other assortment of simulated applications. Thank goodness for technology.

UHD is providing many alternatives

and resources to help students stay connected and receive the help they need to finish the spring semester successfully. Following, are some helpful hints. Connect to the UHD homepage daily for updates. A survey was sent to students recently to determine needs, such as computers. A limited number were available to borrow. Check with IT if a computer is needed.

The UHD library is no longer avail-

able to visit, nor are any of the public libraries.

There are options, however. Students can still access the library research data. Check with your instructor if this resource is needed. There is a link to connect to VPN.

Visit the Information Technology page and look through the resources available at Taking Classes Online and Remotely. Among other information at that site are several free resources such

as home internet and free software programs. Stay up to date on UHD information via Gator Mail. The Student Activities Center announced on March 25 that all their resources are now available online. These include virtual tutors from the Writing and Reading Center and from the Center for Math and Statistic Support. Supplemental Instruction Center offers study sessions and exam reviews on Zoom.

Access Zoom SI (Supplemental

Instruction) sessions via the University College Supplemental Instruction page. See the March 25 email from Student Activities Center for a direct link to view important dates.

A moving body is a healthy body, and UHD Sports and Fitness offers online classes in aerobics and workshops such as learning to breathe deeply and weight loss strategies. Mental health is as important as physical

health. Stress can set in during change and if there is fear of what the future holds. UHD Counseling Services can be contacted if needed via phone or video, and Health Services still offer their support.

For another good source of online learning information, from the UHD homepage go to Keep on Teaching UHD then Students Learn Online. Welcome to UHD online! Success is at your fingertips, literally.

COVID-19

Image courtesy of Oaklawn Hospital

Manage message madness and maintain motivation

By Sheryl Sellers

For some, navigating the horizon of online learning can be cumbersome, complicated and frustrating.

Information and messages are gushing from Gator Mail, Blackboard Message, Blackboard Discussion, Blackboard Course Content, and GroupMe from any number of classes and project groups.

How does one manage all the information pouring in, while staying motivated, focused and organized?

There is help for students in need. Following are a few simple things help ease your adjustment to online classes and staying at home:

Adjusting to this new normal is difficult, and the spare time quickly becomes boring and draining. There are many options to fill

- Dress and shower at your normal time. Working in pajamas is really not as cool as it sounds.
- Eat your meals at normal times.
- Create your list of things that needs to be accomplished and list by priority, and create concrete deadlines for yourself.
- Limit time on social media; it wastes time.
- Create a comfortable, separate space for your classroom environment.
- Create folders for each class to hold important papers. Or create email folders for each class to hold important conversations, announcements, grades.
- Use a whiteboard or calendar to keep up with deadlines that are at the forefront.
- Put deadlines and reminders on your phone. Set alarms for Zoom classes.
- Take a walk when you need a break.
- Talk to a friend or catch up with a family member (over the phone!).

the time at home when taking a break from studying.

If joblessness has taken its toll, many businesses including Kroger, Amazon, and HEB are hiring. If you'd rather stay inside while COVID-19 makes its rounds, there are also a variety home-based careers that could be an option to fill the gap during this pandemic.

Mary Kay Cosmetics is just one of many in-home businesses. This company offers its consultants a website that is maintained and updated by corporate staff and online apps for individuals to try various cosmetic looks. These are just a few of the online resources offered to their consultants, that are of especially beneficial in times of pandemic.

If finding a

way to replace income is not important, take up a new craft or hobby. Or try motivating yourself to finish that end of semester project on which you know the due date is quickly approaching.

Motivation comes from inside, from passion and purpose. If greater purpose is competing for a job in a stimulating career, that is a motivator. Virtually everyone in the world is going through a similar situation. Once the pandemic is over, good study habits will prove to have been beneficial.

So, don't just get up. Don't just stretch. Don't just open the textbook. Don't just connect to Zoom class.

Enjoy for a greater purpose. Have passion. A bright future is within reach.

COVID-19 around the globe

By Lauren Anderson

COVID-19 has affected millions of people across the globe.

Once the virus was detected in Wuhan, China on Dec. 31, it was brought to the attention of the World Health Organization (WHO) who posed some important questions in need of urgent response. The WHO determined to understand how the virus was transmitting, the severity of the virus, and the best means of preventing the spread of the virus.

It has since been discovered that the virus is transmitted during close contact with an infected person as it travels through respiratory droplets in coughs or sneezes.

However, it can be contained through means of social distancing, as well as the simple act of washing your hands.

The WHO director-general, Tedros Adhanom, Ph.D. encouraged social distancing in the WHO's COVID-19 media briefing on March 11.

"The best way forward is the blended comprehensive approach which puts containment as a major pillar," he said.

"COVID-19 is menacing the whole of humanity, and so the whole of humanity must fight back. Individual country responses are not going to be enough."
- Antonio Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General

China:

As the virus was first detected in China, the country received criticism from the rest of the world for not only being the source of the virus.

Xenophobia and Sinophobia has become a pressing problem in many countries.

Despite these criticisms, China has been able to alter the course of the virus in the country. There are nearly 82,000 confirmed cases and 77,000 recovered. In order to slow the spread of the virus, Chinese authorities banned all forms of public gatherings, transitioned to at-home, online schooling, and enforced a quarantine. When the outbreak was at its worst, authorities even visited homes to check temperatures and isolate the sick for observation and treatment. They also trained and prepared about 20,000 medical staff from all across the country.

Italy:

Italy is now the third most affected country in the world, just below the U.S. and Spain. The country now has more than 147,000 cases and over 18,000 deaths. Because of the high number of cases in Italy, ventilators and intensive care beds are in short supply. With the influx of patients, medical professionals are forced to make difficult decisions. Doctors have been told to prioritize citizens under

the age of 80. To further combat this virus, Italy implemented a lockdown which closed all non-essential retailers. Curfews and travel restrictions were also implemented.

Germany:

Germany has around 122,000 cases and about 2,707 deaths. Like Italy, the country has also closed all non-essential retailers, education and entertainment facilities including museums, movie theaters, gyms, swimming pools, and nightclubs. Furthermore, Germany has outlawed all non-necessary overnight stays. German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, closed Germany's borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, and Denmark.

France:

France has also limited

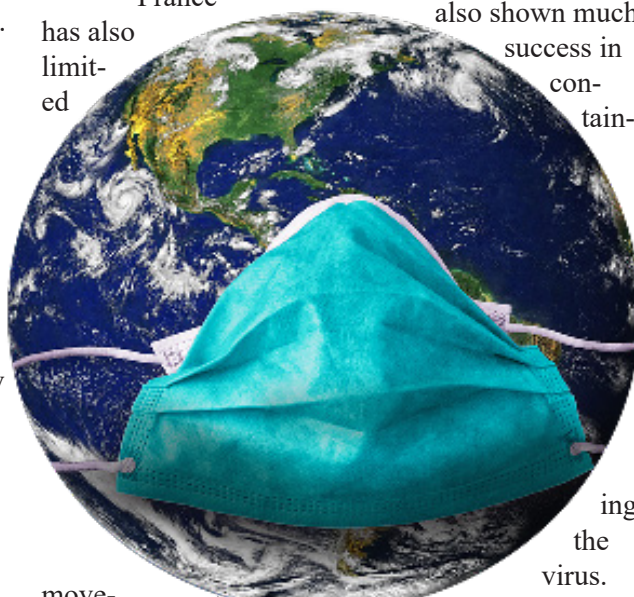


Image courtesy of Pixabay

movement for the next few weeks. Only visits to the doctor and food stores are allowed. Elections have even been delayed in France. They currently have about 90,000 cases and 13,000 deaths.

Australia:

Australia has also taken precautionary measures against COVID-19. In February, the Australian government activated an emergency response to COVID-19, considering it a state of emergency long before the WHO declared a pandemic. Although this allowed the country time to prepare for the arrival of the virus, panic ensued as a result of declaring pandemic status so soon.

Due to the state of emergency that was declared, Australia was able to release emergency funding and tax breaks to its citizens. This also gave hospitals time to prepare for the thousands of patients that would soon come. Everyone traveling to Australia must isolate for 14 days whether they have encountered the virus or not. There has not been a need for schools to close or for the population to self-isolate, as Australia was well-prepared for the pandemic. There have been over 6,000 cases but only 54 deaths.

Singapore:

Singapore has also shown much success in contain-

ing the virus.

There are nearly 2,000 cases but only 7 deaths. Singapore has an impressive health system with strict virus testing and applaudable tracing and containment programs. The the country is well-prepared to fight the battle against COVID-19, but it is still taking precautionary measures. There is a 14-day quarantine for anyone who arrives in the country and strict rules against large gatherings. Though many retailers have closed, some businesses and universities remain open.

South Korea:

South Korea has around 10,000 cases and 208 deaths. The country is combatting the virus with rigorous

testing. COVID-19 tests in South Korea are fast, free, and results are sent through text within 24 hours. The country

The Iranian government has since urged people to cease travel, even to religious shrines. Despite authorities urging

"The best way forward is the blended comprehensive approach which puts containment as a major pillar."

- Tedros Adhanom, WHO
Director-General

was also one of the first to implement drive-through testing centers. Although the country has more cases than Singapore, South Korea maintains high success in recovery. Out of their 10,000 cases, 7,000 have recovered.

United Kingdom:

The U.K. has also been affected by COVID-19. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson took a controversial stance in his plan to combat the virus. His idea was to allow citizens to be exposed to the virus, in order to gain immunity to it, even though this would likely increase fatalities. Medical professionals have stated that evidence to support this theory has not been found. Johnson remains in intensive care for COVID-19.

U.K. authorities have encouraged citizens over the age of 70 to stay home for at least three months. Furthermore, authorities ask that all unnecessary travel cease immediately. However, unlike many countries, businesses in the U.K. have remained open. There has been nearly 75,000 confirmed cases around 8,000 cases.

Iran:

Like Britain, Iran's initial response to the pandemic was not been effective in containing it. Authorities denied the risk that the virus posed, despite many who fell ill it.

people to stay home, most citizens continue to go about their daily, public business. There have been 68,000 cases and 4,000 reported.

Israel:

Israel, on the other hand, has been doing a bit more to prevent spread of the virus. There has been around 10,000 cases and 93 deaths. Borders have been closed to all foreigners and Israel's internal security service has even been deploying its counter-terrorism technology to help combat the virus. These tools will help keep track of sick citizens. Despite many raising concerns about this technology violating citizens privacy, the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, approved its use for at least 30 days.

The United Nations launched a \$2 billion global humanitarian response to fight COVID-19 in 51 countries. Governments are urged to fully support this plan. United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres stresses this.

"COVID-19 is menacing the whole of humanity, and so the whole of humanity must fight back. Individual country responses are not going to be enough," he stated.

*For more information on Xenophobia and Sinophobia, see page 12.

COVID-19 impacts small businesses

By Laura Dunn

In these times, individuals are oversaturated with information about COVID-19. Turning on the TV, reading a newspaper, or getting on social media of any sort, brings more and newer news about COVID-19. This news, mixed with incorrect statistics and circulating misinformation about what people are hearing and reading, can be quite scary.

The Center for the Prevention of Disease Control (CDC) has advised that staying inside helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. People all across the United States are being forced to work from home or worse, are being laid off.

Large corporations that pull billions in profits every year can survive a crisis such

as this, but what about the small businesses that are often barely scraping by paycheck to paycheck?

Local restaurants are encouraging people to get take-out and delivery and smaller stores are offering their products at discounted prices. However, as more and more people are laid off, people are less likely to spend their money on anything other than necessities.

Three small business owners shared their experiences about how their businesses are faring during these uncertain times and how they are adapting to the changes.

Sheryl Sellers, an independent consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics, said the biggest impact COVID-19

has had on her business is that she is unable to visit her clients during this time.

She has not let this stop her though, saying, "At this time I rely more than ever on technology by holding virtual skin care and color appointments. I mail or porch-deliver samples and then use Facetime to hold an appointment online. Customers order and reorder products via text, over the phone, or on my Mary Kay Personal Website, and choose to have the products delivered, mailed, or sent directly via the Mary Kay Customer Delivery Service."

Dulce Santos of "Pretty in Mink by Dulce," is an independent eyelash extensionist.

She said,

"Business has been a lot slower than usual, it is crazy."

People practicing social distancing or putting themselves in quarantine are trying not to leave the house and are therefore not participating in regular shopping or beauty routines.

Although Santos said she was happy to get some rest for the week, the rest of the future is unknown, and this can be scary. Santos hopes people will still purchase eyelashes, as she plans to remain open.

Harvey Dunn of "PaintJam" also commented on how his business is affected by the stay home, work safe orders.

He said, "I am very worried because I perform for groups

of people at events and right now a lot of those events are being cancelled. For every cancellation is a paycheck."

Dunn is trying to make up for the lack of shows by selling custom paintings at reduced prices, hoping the lower prices will prompt more people to seek custom work for their homes and offices.

These are trying times for small businesses. When all of this is over, the large, chain stores and restaurants will still stand, but it is the small business owners that are most

strongly feeling the uncertainty of this time. It is encouraged that individuals support local, small business owners. Shop and eat local. Even just a 'like' or 'share' on social media goes a long way for these businesses.

If you would like to support any of the businesses mentioned in this article, their contact information is below:

Sheryl Sellers of Mary Kay:
@sherylsellersmk | Instagram

Pretty in Mink by Dulce:
@prettyinminkbydulce | Instagram

PaintJam: @paintjamharvey | Instagram

COVID-19 cancels STAAR tests

By Anthony Raul Ramirez

Elementary and middle school students across Texas rejoiced, as it was announced by the State of Texas Assessments of Academics Readiness (STAAR) tests have been cancelled for the 2020 spring semester.

This is all an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic currently occurring in the United States. All schools have been required to close the doors in order to weaken students' chances of catching and spreading the virus.

On March 16, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said that he would waive STAAR testing requirements for the year.

In an announcement by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on March 18,

it was revealed that the upcoming tests, which assesses third through eighth grade students for readiness to graduate to the next grade level, will not be administered for the 2019-2020 academic year.

For this academic year, the TEA will leave students' graduation assessments in the hands of the school districts. The graduation criteria encouraged by the TEA includes recommendations by the students' teachers, passing grades in each subject, and any other academic information the district deems necessary for consideration for graduation.

COVID-19 cancels rodeo

By Katelyn Houser

For the first time in 88 years of business the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo closed and canceled all concerts and events.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo was scheduled to run until March 22, but was then canceled on March 11 as officials in both Houston and Harris County declared a health emergency.

Mayor Sylvester Turner made a live broadcast announcement that same day, revealing a Montgomery

County coronavirus patient attended the World Champion Barb B-Que Contest on Friday, Feb. 28.

The total attendance numbers for that day were 77,632 so there was every reason to expect the virus to spread to many in the community. Epidemiologists traced the patient's steps and determined he was experiencing COVID-19 symptoms during the barbeque contest. Those who came into contact with the patient were forwarded to their local

hospitals for guidance.

Rodeo guests already attending the event were ordered to leave immediately as employees began shutting off rollercoaster rides and closing food stands.

Students who worked on raising farm animals were worried about being unable to receive scholarships.

In 2019, the Houston rodeo had a \$227 million economic impact. The rodeo planned to distribute \$27 million through scholarships, junior

show exhibitors, educational program grants and graduate assistantships.

Luckily, Turner announced that guests will receive refunds and students will still receive scholarships for their hard work.

Unfortunately, the cancellation of the event still remains a massive economic loss for the city of Houston.

All concerts around the globe that were scheduled for the rest of March through July were postponed until further notice or simply canceled, as in most cases. Many artists and musicians were reluctant to announce the cancellation of their shows due to growing concerns of COVID-19 spread and encouraged fans to buy merchandise and went as far as doing live stream performances on social media to make up for lost profits.

Social distancing

When possible, keep 6 feet between you and others when you are out.

Avoid

- Group gatherings
- Sleep overs
- Playdates
- Concerts
- Theatre outings
- Athletic events
- Crowded stores

Use Caution

- Visit local restaurant
- Visit grocery store
- Get take out
- Pick up medications
- Play solo sports (like tennis)
- Travel

Safe

- Take a walk
- Go for a hike
- Yard work
- Play in your yard

Clean your home

- Read a good book
- Listen to music
- Cook a meal

Family game night

- Go for a drive
- Group video chat
- Stream a show

COLORADO Department of Public Health & Environment

Houston parks remain open during COVID-19 pandemic

By Laura Dunn

The normal image of a park is a playground full of children playing and laughing. There are usually people sitting on park benches, playing in basketball courts or hosting a family gathering.

That is not the scene today and will not be for the near future.

As of midnight on Tuesday, March 25 Harris County judge Lina Hidalgo issued a mandatory 'Stay Home. Work Safe' order for Harris county that will continue until at least

April 30. The order mandates that if you are not an essential employee, you must work from home. All non-essential businesses must cease operations and remain closed until told otherwise. The grocery stores are still open for essentials, but must social distancing must be adhered to. Restaurants are still offering to-go and carryout, and churches must hold services online.

With places like the gym closed,

it leaves many wondering where they can get some exercise. Thankfully, citizens are still allowed to go outside and go to the park.

Playgrounds, benches, basketball

courts will all be roped off and prohibited for use. However, you can still hit the trail to walk your dog, ride your bicycle or take a run.

Even though we can still enjoy our

parks, social distancing is expected and enforced. If you break any of these rules, you can be fined and even spend up to 180 days in jail. Remember that these rules are in place to

help you, not hurt you as we try to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent overcrowding in hospitals. Be active but remember to follow the rules.

Signs at Houston parks encourage social distancing.

Photo credit: Laura Dunn



Houston parks enforce social distancing by closing playgrounds, water fountains and benches. Photo credit: Laura Dunn



Photo credit: Laura Dunn

Pandemic price gouging runs rampant in Texas

By Anthony Raul Ramirez

According to KENS 5's Henry Ramos in San Antonio, price gouging has risen in Texas due to the surging pandemic. As many as 300 cases have been reported to the Texas Attorney General.

The news station found a grocery store selling rolls of toilet paper for \$4 and two-and-a-half dozen egg cartons for \$7.49. The store, Thrift-T-Mart, cited the reason for the prices were that vendor prices had increased and the store needed to raise the prices itself to afford to pay employees as they supplied the higher-priced products.

The Texas De-

ceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act defines price gouging as, "Selling or leasing fuel, food, medicine, [etc.] at an exorbitant or excessive price."

Crackdowns on the act have been featured on news stations in many states, including our own.

Texas Attorney General, Ken Paxton commented on price gouging.

He said, "State law strictly prohibits price gouging and other forms of disaster scams in the wake of a disaster declared by either the Governor or the President. These laws apply to any person or entity selling necessities at an

exorbitant or excessive price. This prohibition includes those who supply retailers.

"My office will work aggressively to investigate and prosecute any price-gouger who takes advantage of a disaster declaration by selling necessities at an excessive price, including retail suppliers in grocery and pharmacy chains.

"No one is exempt from price gouging laws in Texas, and those who violate the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act will be met with the full force of the law."

According to NBC News, two-thirds of the United States already have laws in

place prohibiting price gouging in times of crisis.

Stores have also attempted to remove any attempts at price gouging by third-party sellers on websites. Walmart took down a seller attempting to sell an 8-ounce bottle of hand sanitizer for almost \$50, while another was being sold on Amazon for \$90.

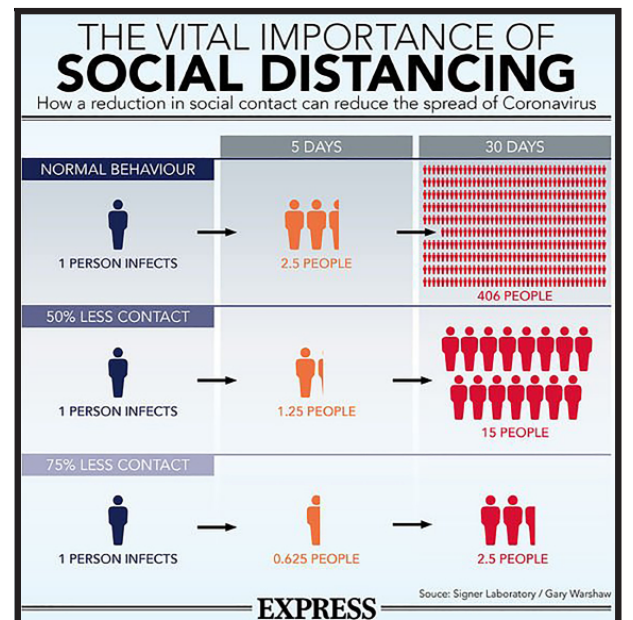
Both stores have made attempts to remove these types of transactions from their website before they can take place.

However, some stores have done the opposite. The Super Liquor store in Fresno, California was recently fined \$10,000 for

selling a 24-pack of bottled water for \$16. The average price for a 24-pack is around \$4.

Citizens can face a fine of up to \$10,000 for price gouging in Texas, as

well as \$250,000 if the recipient is 65 or older. Please be proactive in protecting our communities from price gouging by reporting any incidents.



UBI versus GOP stimulus bill

By Anthony Raul Ramirez

COVID-19 has detrimentally affected the United States' economy, with the DOW losing 5,700 points from Feb. 12 – March 9. In the week of March 9 – 16, the DOW dropped another more than 3,500 points. During these troubling times, the government has been working tirelessly to find ways to slow the virus' spread and re-stabilize the economy.

Congress has created the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201), a congressional bill introduced on March 11 and signed into law on March 18 with bipartisan consensus from both chambers. This law hopes to assist systems that many Americans rely on, ranging from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program (SNAP) to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

In terms of specifics, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other nutritional programs are suspending work requirements to SNAP, allowing state waivers for citizens to obtain emergency SNAP benefits. Money from the yearly government budget will support the USDA and the DHHS. Additionally, unemployed individuals will have their benefits expanded, and individuals without health insurance will have the fee for COVID-19 diagnosis testing waived.

There has also been a discussion of the government planning to give checks to every American adult for the sum of up to \$1,200 (lower amounts based on higher income tax)

and \$500 for each child under the age of 18 years old. Proposed by Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT), it has become popular with higher-ranking members of his party, including Trump Administration officials.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is in favor of Romney's plan.

He stated, "We're looking at sending checks to Americans immediately."

President Trump also expressed his wish to give people checks sometime "in the next two weeks."

However, the White House's open discussion of this proposal has caused some people to point to the re-emergence of Universal Basic Income (UBI).

A UBI is a consistent, monthly payment from the gov-

ernment in addition to regular income.

Former Democratic Presidential candidate, Andrew Yang, launched his campaign on the idea of a UBI, fearing automation increases would leave more unemployed Americans in rural and lower-income areas. His \$2.8 trillion yearly plan was appealing, but not enough to garner major support with voters.

However, there are some key differences to note. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a national emergency and these stimulus payments will end after this economic crisis is over.

According to Forbes Magazine's breakdown of the bill, "payments would begin to phase out for individuals making over \$75,000 and phase out completely for those making over \$99,000."

Additionally, the article states that Mnuchin would send out additional checks—six weeks after—if the pandemic continues to cause further economic decline. These payments are a necessity for both individuals and small businesses, many of which are closing because they cannot afford to pay their employees. The \$1,200 individual stimulus will assist those living paycheck-to-paycheck as so many are finding themselves out of work or with severely reduced hours.

However, this is not a new idea. In 2001, Americans were sent \$300 tax rebate checks as well as during the Financial Crisis of 2008, when Americans were sent between \$300 to \$600 per adult and \$300 per child. Stimulus bills are passed to stabilize the economy, but they are not the same as a UBI.

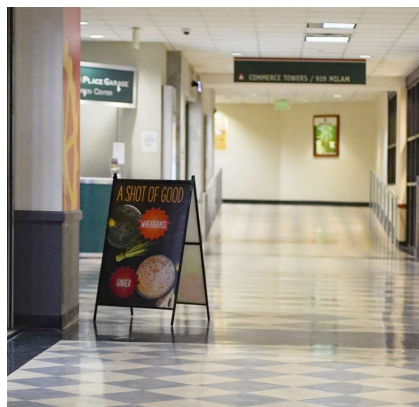
Instituting a UBI could have several adverse effects. Yang's main reason for the plan was to address a lack of jobs, yet according to CBS News, there were one million more jobs available, in 2019 alone. Unemployment rates were at record lows across minority groups including African Americans (5.5%) and Hispanics (3.9%), in addition to the lowest overall unemployment rate in 50 years (3.5%).

Another issue would be a rise in price of market products, because of the tax increases. A system like UBI would need a large amount of money (an estimated \$1,000 per month), resulting in tax increases. This increase would also affect businesses by urging them to hire fewer employees or implement large wage cuts.

Stay home, work safe in Houston



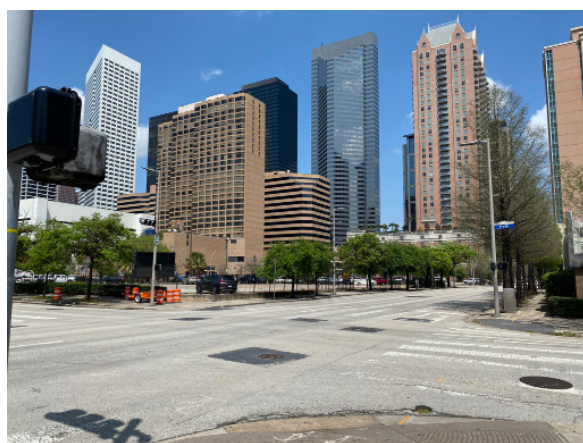
Empty streets of downtown Houston as effect of the stay home, work safe orders. Image courtesy of @iPutYouOn via Twitter



The usually bustling, but now errily empty tunnels of downtown Houston during lunchtime. Image courtesy of Houston Chronicle.



An empty highway - a rare sight in Houston. Photo credit: Yessenia Rincon



A usually bustling, but now deserted intersection in downtown Houston. Image courtesy of @trentarend via Twitter

Gator Support

Following is a list of resources that can assist Gators in these trying times.

Resource	Description
UHD Student Resources Page	A list of resources provided by and compiled by UHD for student access
Texas Workforce Commission	Unemployment Benefits and Services for Texas Residents
IRS	Resources page for the IRS regarding stimulus checks distribution and 2019 Tax information and dates
Free Tax Preparation from VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)	Free Tax services for: \$66,000 annual income or less, college students, senior citizens, disabled
Charter Spectrum Broadband	Charter will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription.
Microsoft Office 365	Free with your GatorMail login
Scholly COVID-19 Student Relief Fund	Scholly is providing cash assistance to students in need during this crisis.

COVID-19 impacts comic business

By Carlos A. Reyes Jalomo

For a medium that survived World War 2, political witch hunts, speculator inflation, bankruptcy and an economic recession, no one expected the comic book business to be begrudgingly brought to a halt from what people like the president are calling, “an invisible enemy.”

When the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 12, comic book retailers across the globe knew the clock was ticking before shops began to temporarily close down. In some cases, businesses are closing permanently given the “non-essential business” status into which many establishments, like comic book retailers fall.

A few weeks later, even comic book publishers begin to feel the pressure due to a decision by Diamond Comic Distributors to cease operations until further notice.

Diamond Comic Distributors (Diamond) is a Baltimore-based comic book, toy, gaming and apparel distributor that has served worldwide retailers since 1982. Diamond has exclusive distribution arrangements with major U.S. comic book publishers including DC Comics, Marvel Comics, Dark Horse Comics, IDW Comics, Image Comics and more. Diamond has been running unopposed – mo-

nopolizing the distribution model for all comic book related paraphernalia to the direct market.

On March 23, Chairman, Founder and CEO of Diamond Steve Geppi, sent an unprecedented message to all publishers and retailers announcing his decision to halt any further shipments.

Geppi stated, “Product distributed by Diamond and slated for an on-sale date of April 1 or later will not be shipped to retailers until further notice. For the time being, however, we have been able to develop procedures with our teams at the distribution center in Olive Branch, MS to safely continue fulfillment of direct ship reorders for the retailers who are able to receive new product and need it to service their customers. It’s unlikely that orders will be filled on the same day they are placed, and these plans are subject to change if at any point we no longer feel that we can safeguard our teams while fulfilling orders.”

Remaining retailers are still operating, but they are pushing forward without a reliable distribution model as they no longer have access to new products and publishers. Now, with the middleman out of the equation, all retailers looked to the major publishers for leadership.

Image Comics formally stepped forward as

the first major publisher to try and offer a sense of relief by writing an open letter asking fellow publishers to follow suit and allow stores to return inventory.

Marvel Comics responded by taking an unprecedented approach and offering what they refer to as “extensive deep discounts” on all titles scheduled to go on sale between March 18 and April 8, seemingly disregarding Diamond’s announcement.

On Saturday, March 28, DC Comics announced that periodicals and books with in-store dates, between March 18 and June 24, are fully returnable DC Comics will also provide credit for separate return shipping on certain items. In addition, DC Comics is exploring a multi-distributor model to provide the flexibility needed during the crisis, becoming the first major publisher to seek options outside of Diamond in almost 40 years.

In the meantime, most comic book retailers across the country who are not forced to shut down are forced to find a creative approach to serve their customers with comic book deliveries and curbside pick-up.



By Carlos A. Reyes Jalomo

Following is a series of fun facts regarding comic book characters dealing with pandemics along with some behind the scenes information of the creative processes of some of your favorite comics.

In Oct, 2014 the Justice League would have to deal with the Amazo Virus. A synthetic plague created by Lex Luthor with the goal to suppress metahuman abilities. The disease was originally pitched by Luthor to the White House as a means to suppress the metahuman abilities of incarcerated villains.

The virus was deemed too controversial and untested and was locked away. An outbreak would ensue after a villain named Neutron would try to assassinate Luthor and inadvertently release the virus.

In May 2019, DC Comics published a mini-series called DCEased. A story where a mysterious techno virus is released upon the Earth, infecting 600 million people in an instant and turning them into violent monstrous agents of destruction. The heroes of the DC Universe are caught completely unprepared for a pandemic of this magnitude.

On Dec. 7, 2005,

Marvel Comics published Marvel Zombies. A story in an alternate Earth where an alien virus turned the world’s greatest superheroes into flesh eating monsters. The story explores what happens after the zombies run out of humans to eat.

In July 2019, Image Comics released The Walking Dead issue 193. Unbeknownst to fans, Image Comics editors and retailers alike, series creator Robert Kirkman had planned to abruptly “kill” the series the same way he would abruptly kill fan favorite characters in the series.

In a letter at the end of the issue Kirkman would say “In a way, killing this series has been a lot more like killing a major character. Much, much harder... but the same feeling.” The team would go as far as making covers for issues 194-196 as a way to keep everybody in the dark.

When The Walking Dead was originally pitched to Image Comics, Robert Kirkman told Image executives that the super-virus would be a precursor to an alien invasion. Once the series was greenlit and Image Comics editors noticed that there were in fact no aliens.

Kirkman would fess up and say he lied about the aliens in order to get the series approved. Kirkman’s intention was to tell a ‘never ending’ horror survival story all along.

DNA Comics of Humble, Texas before and after social distancing rules were enacted.



Photo credit: Carlos A. Reyes Jalomo



Photo credit: Carlos A. Reyes Jalomo

Hollywood's response to COVID-19

By Carlos A. Reyes Jalomo

On March 17, AMC Theaters announced a temporary nationwide shutdown of all locations for 6 to 12 weeks in compliance with local, state and federal precautions in response to the spread of COVID-19. The unprecedented decision shook Hollywood and forced studios to decide whether to postpone or adapt to the current situation.

The film industry had a stacked lineup for a pre-summer season (see image).

Given the current situation, studios took different courses of action. For example:

The upcoming James Bond film

“No Time to Die” was delayed until Nov. 25. “F9”, the newest in the Fast and Furious franchise, has been pushed back from May 22 to April 2, 2021 and the long awaited “Black Widow” solo movie was moved to a Nov. 6 release as Disney resisted placing the film on Disney+ before the film has a theatrical release.

On the other hand, Dreamworks Pictures, along with Universal Studios, capitalized on the opportunity when Dreamworks decided to release “Trolls World Tour” on-demand as a 3-day \$20 digital rental.

Universal Studios followed suit by making “The Hunt,”

“The Invisible Man”, and “Emma” available for a \$19.99 48-hour on-demand digital rental. The sales numbers from such bold decisions will determine if other studios will wait out the pandemic or abandon the movie theater model altogether for a more streamlined approach on digital platforms.

While Hollywood weighs their options, streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+ have stepped up to provide hours of entertainment

to keep people busy while in self isolation.



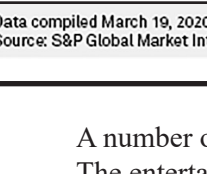
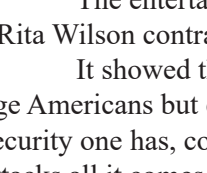
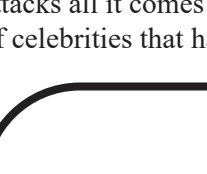
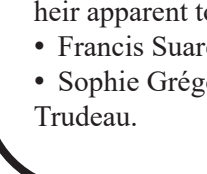

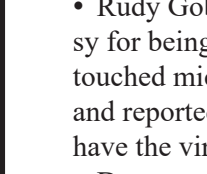
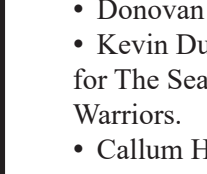

Video game publishers and companies have also released a plethora of games, including long awaited sequels such as Animal

Crossing: New Horizons and DOOM Eternal, which hardcore and casual fans alike saw as a godsend during a time where entertainment is needed most.

The current pandemic has shaken decades old business models. However, if

anything can be learned from this experience, it is that Hollywood is not as indispensable as was once believed. Entertainment continues to evolve, with or without the glitz and glamour of tinsel town.

Select spring movie postponement in the US

TITLE	DISTRIBUTOR	ORIGINAL U.S. RELEASE DATE
 A Quiet Place Part II	Paramount	March 20
 Mulan	Disney	March 27
 The New Mutants	20th Century Studios	April 3
 Peter Rabbit 2	Sony Pictures	April 3
 No Time to Die	United Artists	April 10
 Antlers	Searchlight Pictures	April 17
 Antebellum	Lionsgate	April 24
 Black Widow	Disney	May 1
 Run	Lionsgate	May 8
 Spiral	Lionsgate	May 15
 The Woman in the Window	20 Century Studios	May 15
 F9	Universal	May 23

Data compiled March 19, 2020. Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence research

COVID-19 hits Hollywood

By Anthony Raul Ramirez

Actors and Actresses

- Idris Elba – Most notable for his role as Heimdall in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
- Kristofer Hivju – Most notable for his role as Tormund Giantsbane in “Game of Thrones”.
- Rachel Matthews – Starred in the “Happy Death Day” series; voice of Honeymaren in Frozen II.
- Daniel Dae Kim – Known for many roles such as Johnny Gat in the “Saints Row” video game series, Dr. Jackson Han in “The Good Doctor”, and “Lost” as Jin-Soo Kwon.
- Debi Mazar – Plays Isabella Scaramucci in the first season of “Happy!”, Maggie Amato in “Younger”, and voiced Maria Latore in “Grand Theft Auto III”.

Musicians

- Slim Thug – Houston rapper known for his fame in the mid-2000s as he collaborated with other Houston rappers to help define the city’s hip-hop culture.
- Manu Dibango – Jazz player who died after being diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Jackson Browne – Singer-songwriter that has sold over 18 million records in the US. Ranked number 35 in a “Rolling Stone” list of 100 greatest songwriters of all time.
- Natalie Horner – Lead singer of Cascada, sold over 30 million albums worldwide.
- David Bryan – Keyboardist for Bon Jovi.

A number of celebrities have now tested positive for COVID-19.

The entertainment world was shocked when news broke that Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson contracted COVID-19 while filming an Elvis Presley movie in Australia.

It showed the community that the virus is a serious threat, not just to the average Americans but even to entertainers in Hollywood. No matter how much money or security one has, contagions do not discriminate. The virus continues to spread, and it attacks all it comes into contact with – regardless of wealth or status. Following is a list of celebrities that have tested positive for COVID-19:

Politicians

- Prince Albert II – Prince of Monaco and head of the Grimaldi house.
- Rand Paul – Junior United States Senator, unaware of how he may have contracted the virus.
- Charles, The Duke of Edinburgh – Eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, heir apparent to the British throne.
- Francis Suarez – Mayor of Florida.
- Sophie Grégoire Trudeau – Wife of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Athletes

- Rudy Gobert – NBA player for the Utah Jazz who sparked controversy for being tested positive after joking about COVID-19. He purposely touched microphones and tape recorders during an NBA press conference and reportedly chased players around the locker room while claiming to have the virus.
- Donovan Mitchell – NBA player for the Utah Jazz.
- Kevin Durant – NBA player for the Brooklyn Nets. He has also played for The Seattle Super Sonics, Oklahoma City Thunder, and Golden State Warriors.
- Callum Hudson-Odoi – Striker for the Chelsea Football Club.
- Dmitry Strakhov – Russian ProTour cyclist that tested positive after the UAE

Netflix documentary illuminates pandemics with chilling hindsight

By Katelyn Houser
As people around the world prepared for self-quarantine, Netflix conveniently released its newest documentary “Pandemic: How to Prevent an Outbreak,” which focuses on the study and prevention of viruses.

The documentary follows Dennis Carrol, Ph.D., the director of the USAID Emerging Threats Unit who travels the world to monitor practices used to prevent massive outbreaks around the world.

The documentary discusses the 1918 flu pandemic. The H1N1 virus killed over 500 million people and is known as the deadliest outbreak in human history – even worse than the Black Plague. The Earth’s population has doubled over the past century, meaning millions are at risk of potential illnesses and even death.

Carrol explains, “This kind of carnage is not relegated to history. When we talk about another flu pandemic happening, it’s not a matter of if, but when.”

Practices to prevent massive outbreak includes vaccinating animals such as chickens, birds, bats and even pigs that are the prime carriers of viruses.

The first episode, titled “It Hunts Us,” shows the disturbing results of a pandemic like massive grave burials. The episode also includes footage of a drill in a New York City hospital, illustrating how doctors prepare for the chaotic work that a pandemic is bound to create. In the segment, all staff

unfortunate results of these communities on the larger public. The documentary shows how measles has spread amongst children, and explains how many unvaccinated children are refused acceptance into school. After years of preventing a measles outbreak, the infection has once again appeared in alarming amounts around the globe, as a result of these anti-vaccine communities.

To stress the importance of monitoring viruses, the documentary also dives into population statistics. China, the highest populated country, still battles an ongoing issue with avian influenza (informally known as the bird flu). This puts about 60% of the Chinese population at

greater risk of a pandemic.

India, as the second most populated country fights an recurring dilemma with swine influenza (swine flu). Doctors in India constantly monitor their patients for flu-like symptoms.

Before entering quarantine, I was skeptical of the severity of the COVID-19 virus, but this docuseries quickly changed my mind. The docuseries is captivating and leaves the viewer wanting to

learn more as it stresses the importance of a pandemic.

The docuseries does evoke sympathy as it dives into the doctors’ personal lives when dealing with the stress of monitoring their patients.

The docuseries is both educational and a must-watch for viewers to understand the severity of a pandemic through the ironic and disregarded gift of hindsight.

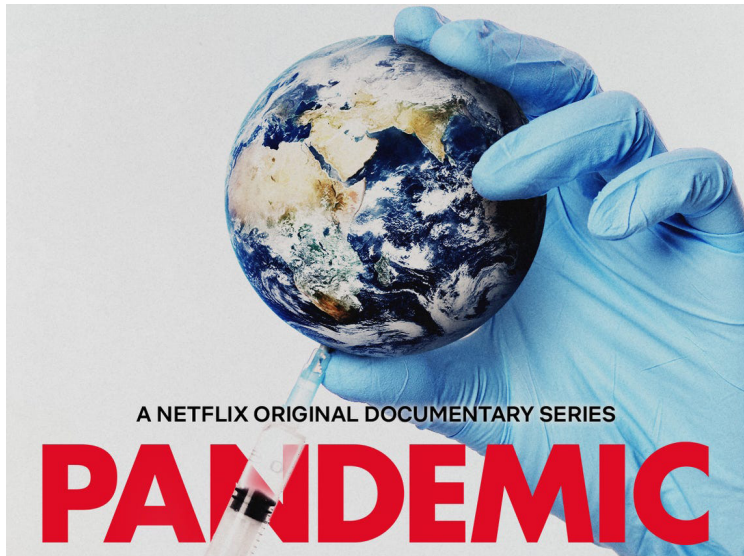
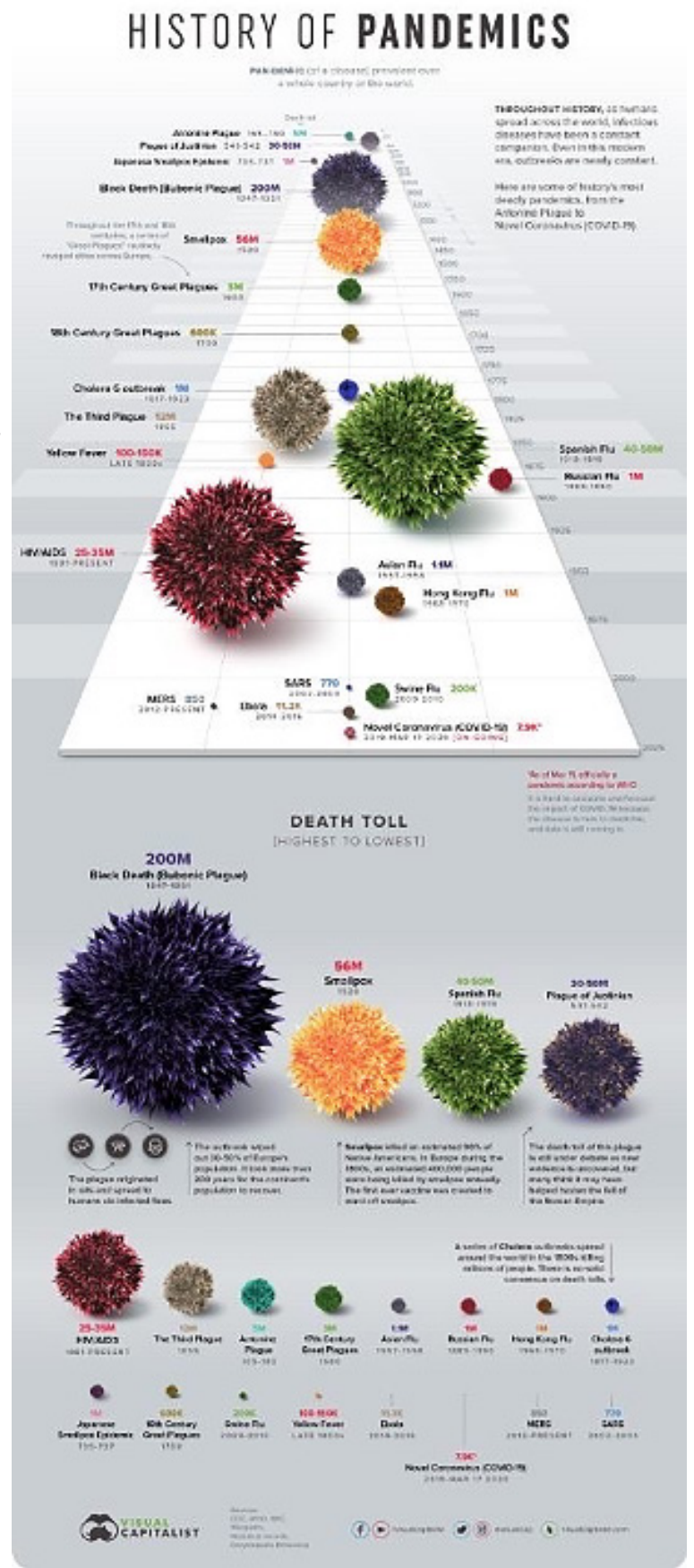


Image courtesy of businessinsider.com



Trump Administration remains consistently inconsistent regarding COVID-19 pandemic

By Sheryl Sellers

Fake news or a media over-hype? Overall executive recklessness or one's irresponsibility? Regardless of the rhetoric framing, the Trump administration has effectively promoted demagoguery in its response to the COVID-19 crisis.

According to Merriam Webster Dic-

tion from the president.

Later, Trump stated that he knew more about the virus than medical professionals and scientists at The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for the Prevention of Disease Control (CDC).

"I like this stuff. I really get it... People are really surprised I

tional travel ban list.

On Feb. 28, acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney responded to a question regarding COVID-19.

"Is it real? It is absolutely real. This is not Ebola*, okay? It's not SARS**, it's not MERS***."

The lack of seriousness from his part shows carelessness and overall disregard for a worldwide pandemic. As of March 22, The New York Times reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had hit 53 countries with approximately 98,000 cases and 3,800 deaths. There have been 30,000 cases in the U.S., with over 400 confirmed cases in less than a month.

The White House is correct in that COVID-19 is not anything like Ebola, MERS, or SARS. It is far worse. According to ABC News, all public

thanks to his "natural ability" to "really get this stuff" is optimistic about using chloroquine to counteract the virus. The drug is used to counteract malaria, in addition to other chronic illnesses, and Trump views this drug as the "game-changer" in facing this new pandemic.

However, the president is not a medical professional. He is a former businessman who has no knowledge of medical panaceas. He may have a good feeling, but feelings are not factual; they are subjective.

When Anthony Fauci, Ph.D., National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases NIAID Director, was asked about using chloroquine as a potential remedy, he promptly disproved this idea. Fauci alluded that it may be anecdotal, but it is not scientifically

worried about the current situation.

He asked, "Millions, as you witnessed, who are scared right now. What do you say to Americans who are watching you right now who are scared?"

In typical thoughtless and emotional fashion, the pres-

herency, consistent in his bigotry, consistent in placing blame, consistent in his pompous attitude, and consistent in his careless narratives.

Regardless of one's political views, the medical professionals know how to better handle this crisis as they have been continuously training for this type of situation.



Anthony Fauci, Ph.D. worriedly looks on as President Trump addresses the public. Image courtesy of Ars Technia

ident responded, "I'd say you are a terrible reporter...that's a very nasty question."

This type of response to a relevant concern does not inspire hope. It instead shows uncertainty and tension within our highest levels of government.

This administration has downplayed the severity this pandemic has ensued, disregarding the advice of Fauci, the WHO, and the CDC. In addition, the president has had enough of social distancing in regard to the economy.

He said, "We can't let the cure be worse than the problem."

Optimism may suggest it an untested drug, but unfortunately, his statement is referring to the plummeting economy.

The president's office holds many roles, but does that now include being a scientist? Perhaps not. But at the very least, he is an egotist. At best, the president is consistent – consistent in his inco-

Disregarding important information can result in further cases of COVID-19, especially among those with pre-existing conditions or other underlying medical issues.

It is important to listen to subject level experts. Why is our president not listening? As mentioned previously, the president applauded himself, as always, as a smart guy. Unless he somehow presents a viable cure for COVID-19, the American people will continue to hold him and his administration accountable for the missteps and the recklessness that it ensued.

**SARS first reported in Asia in 2003.*

***MERS affected 27 countries. Only two cases were confirmed in the U.S. There have been 2,500 confirmed cases of MERS.*

****Since 2015, there have been 29 countries that have reported approximately 8,000 cases of Ebola with only 8 confirmed cases in the U.S.*

**"We can't let the cure be worse than the problem."
- President Trump, on social distancing**

tionary, a demagogue is defined as, "leader who makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises [to] gain power." Demagogues seek to overturn the established democratic foundations, whether it be through political conduct or mere threats of violence and tension.

When President Donald Trump speaks of "arous[ing] the common people against elites," it is arouses tensions between his sycophantic base against the societal elites (i.e., celebrities, media personalities, etc.). This type of verbiage will further divide society, maligning those who either support or denounce the current administration.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, Trump downplayed the gravity of the situation.

He stated, "It could be at a very small level, or it could be at a larger level. Regardless of what happens, we are totally prepared."

A very helpful and reassuring senti-

ment from the president. Every one of these doctors said, 'How do you know so much about this?' Maybe I have a natural ability."

The White House's initial reaction was to ban anyone who had traveled to China within the past month. This restriction would later be removed, implementing a new guideline of a "two-week quarantine" after re-entering the United States from any foreign country.

Shortly afterward, the Trump administration restricted travel for anyone from Europe – except for the United Kingdom and Ireland. It is coincidental, as both the United Kingdom and Ireland both happen to have Trump Organization properties in their respective countries. It seems that one could catch a flight from Paris, France to London, England and later to the United States. However, this exception was short-lived, as the United Kingdom and Ireland have also been

**"I like this stuff. I really get it... Every one of these doctors said, 'How do you know so much about this?' Maybe I have a natural ability."
- President Trump, on his knowledge of the virus**

statements, including those from the CDC to Health and Human Services, must now go through Vice President Mike Pence, head of The Coronavirus Task Force. Hopefully, this role does not entail further infringement of the First Amendment or other authoritarian-like decisions.

The president,

proven in alleviating COVID-19 symptoms. Unlike the president, Fauci is a medical professional who answers based on scientific evidence and theory. Go figure.

On March 20, Reporter Mike Alexander from NBC News asked the president, how he would reassure Americans who are

Pandemic sparks sinophobia

By Deniece Joseph

Since Dec. 2019, COVID-19 has traveled around the world, beginning in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This pandemic has affected lives across the globe, with schools, restaurants, and tourist attractions being suspended as a precautionary measure.

However, this virus is still blamed on China as President Donald Trump continues to promote the usage of the term "Chinese virus" over the correct term, "COVID-19."

This insensitive verbiage is discouraged by global health officials as it can encourage further stigmatization and fear-mongering. Equating COVID-19, or any other infectious disease with specific geographic location, results in a negative bias that can potentially

affect lives, economies, and nations.

Additionally, these hateful actions have contributed to xenophobia and bigotry towards East Asians both in the United States and across the globe. Anti-Chinese sentiments (sinophobia) have massively reemerged during this pandemic as insensitive and derogatory jokes continue to be made, despite the growing amount of infected individuals.

One may argue to have a "dark sense of humor," and they believe that this entitles them to create content riddled with racist, xenophobic sentiments across social media platforms. Regardless of one's humor tolerance, it is never acceptable to demean another's culture or way of living.

Additionally, Asian-owned businesses are negatively affected by this type of demeaning behavior, whether it be through racist individuals or lack of sales due to being a "non-essential business" (depending on the area and what type of business).

The label of "Made in China" has long enraged bigots, however, misinformation has since confirmed their beliefs, promoting how certain products may "contain" COVID-19, despite evidence stating the contrary.

When Former Alibaba CEO, Jack

Ma, donated masks and other critical supplies, his act of charity was met with a xenophobic response as internet trolls and bigots responded with disgusting sentiments toward a simple act of kindness.

As we approach Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it is crucial that we, as a country, continuously advocate against xenophobia. Whether it be in media,

politics, or other forms of community participation, no one should be subjected to derogatory hatred.

COVID-19 is a virus that does not discriminate against race, ethnicity, nationality, or gender; we are all at risk for possible infection. Hateful behavior will have a lasting impact on generations, leading to the continued stigmatization of East Asians.

It is important to stay well-informed and avoid making disparaging comments about another's ethnic background. Nobody should not have to endure racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sinophobia, or any type of hatred towards them, regardless of their ethnicity.

Coronavirus COVID-19



If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

How to Prevent

- Wash** your hands well and often to avoid contamination
- Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
- Avoid** touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stop** shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people
- Distance** yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

All people are advised to:

- Reduce social interactions
 - Keep a distance of 2m between you and other people
 - Do not shake hands or make close contact where possible
- If you have symptoms visit hse.ie
OR phone HSE Live 1850 24 1850

Symptoms

- Fever (High Temperature)
- A Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Breathing Difficulties

Affected Regions

Check the list of affected regions on www.hse.ie

For Daily Updates Visit

www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

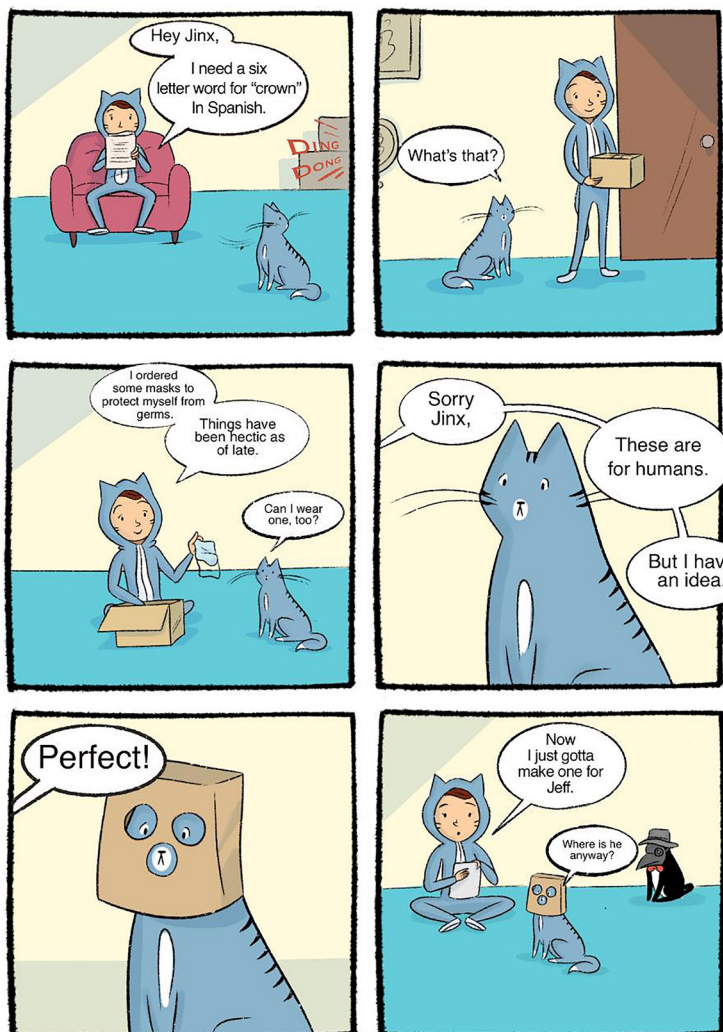
Ireland is operating containment strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice



Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

Allie Cat

By Carlos A. Reyes Jalomo



By Carlos A. Reyes Jalomo



Pandemic

By Laura Dunn

Our hearts are larger than we allow them to be. Imagine times like these the new normalcy.

Maybe we could say I love you more. Maybe we'd stop slamming doors.

Has it really taken panicked uncertainty, To show our neighbor humanity.

We can slow our pace and reflect, On a society with defects.

We tear into nature for corporate greed, She is fighting back, now we're the common weed.

She must pluck us from her garden, Hoping it will flourish once again.

Why, so often, does 'me' come first, When we all take our final ride in a hurst.

Be kind, it is time to forgive and forget. Nothing is worse than living with regret.

Show one another sympathy. Life is hard enough, let us agree.