**COVID CLOSURES**

When COVID-19 reached the United States, many working students struggled when they were no longer able to work their normal hours. "My hours have been significantly cut," said Thomas Wells, a student who was temporarily laid off from his job at Famous Dave's. "It’s weird to go from working as much as I did to not working at all. I love working and seeing my friends every shift and I don’t know what to do with all the extra time I have. Not to mention the amount of money I am losing during this whole thing. It is a really stressful time and there is nothing I can do about it besides wait for it to be over," Wells said.

Governor J.B. Pritzker's closure of all restaurants and barsasting March 17 led to further financial distress for students. Some restaurants remained open for carry out and delivery but other non-essential businesses like clothing stores closed for an uncertain amount of time. "I completely stopped my pay until I see improvement. I don’t feel like I get any income even if I don’t close up and being unemployed. It disappoints me not being able to work due to the virus because I need some unemployment. If I don’t file, I get absolutely nothing," said Thomas Wells.

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**REMOTE LEARNING**

When the coronavirus pandemic closed school doors, teachers worked tirelessly to provide distance learning opportunities while students adapted to a new learning environment.

"It’s been weird. I like working at home because I’m in my own space, but I feel like I get distracted easily," said Alyssa Krol.

"I feel like the workload for learning has been pretty fair and teachers seem more concerned about students' mental health," said Elizabeth Koska.

The start of school life and school life was essential for students who didn’t have enough internet access or lacked a reliable computer. "Unfortunately, I had to work on my own since the only option I have is the library, but it’s really difficult to stay focused," said Tristyn Gullen.

"I’m not sure where to go from here. I don’t know what to do with all the extra time I have. Not to mention the amount of money I am losing during this whole thing. It is a really stressful time and there is nothing I can do about it besides wait for it to be over," Wells said.

**PANDEMIC TIMELINE**

- **March 2020**
  - **March 1** - First case of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China.
  - **March 11** - World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a pandemic.
  - **March 12** - Illinois in lockdown.
  - **March 13** - First death of a US citizen in Washington, DC.
  - **March 15** - First case of COVID-19 in Illinois.
  - **March 16** - All Illinois schools closed.
  - **March 17** - Governor Pritzker extends the stay-at-home order.
  - **April 7** - Governor Pritzker extends the stay-at-home order until May 30.
  - **April 30** - Governor Pritzker extends the stay-at-home order until June 25.
  - **May 29** - Governor Pritzker extends the stay-at-home order until June 25.
  - **June 25** - Governor Pritzker extends the stay-at-home order until July 6.
  - **July 6** - Governor Pritzker extends the stay-at-home order until July 6.
  - **July 6** - Illinois schools reopen.

**WHAT'S CANCELED, POSTPONED, CHANGED**

- **2020 AP Exams**
  - Free response, taken at home
  - State Tests
  - SAT
  - Spring Science Assessment
  - Professional Sports
  - MLB, NBA, Golf all postponed

**LEAVING HOME**

Travel restrictions caused panic shopping, lines, shortages. The Governor's shelter-in-place order caused many to panic shop, buy food and cleaning supplies. Many had to leave their homes to find items, and there were long lines for items like toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies. The pandemic caused a shortage of items across the country, and people began to panic shop, buy food and cleaning supplies. Some stores had to close temporarily due to the shortage of items.

**COVID-19 PANDEMICS**

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**WHAT I DID ON ELECTION DAY**

Many students in Illinois woke up early to vote in the presidential election. "I woke up at 6 a.m. to vote in the election," said Peyton Johnson. "I was really stressed about not working. I rely on my job to pay for my car. Since I won’t be working for a while, I’m not gonna be able to do much like drive places in order to save gas and I will most likely be behind on car payment by the end of the month," Johnson said.

With their hours cut and little source of income, students like Lissette found themselves in a crisis for saving up for college and paying personal bills. "I am no longer able to help out as much. Unfortunately, I am an 18 year old in high school who has to pay two personal bills. I had to go to college and because of the lack of funds, I had to cut some of the money I had saved up for college," Lissette said.

Some students, like Kyle Faw, who worked at a McDonald's in midtown Evanston, had lost time in their work environment. "It is a really stressful time and there is nothing I can do about it besides wait for it to be over," Wells said.

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