

+ 13,353 people
recovered (estimate) from COVID-19 in Texas as of April 30

home BOUNDED

COVID-19 outbreak disrupts way of life
and shatters the global economy

Story by Jiaying Fu

All it took for COVID-19 to spread was a cough. A sneeze. A contaminated surface.

Then—two to 14 days after exposure—the symptoms typically emerged. The respiratory illness was characterized by symptoms, such as shortness of breath, fever and coughing. Complications were life-threatening—pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases, death.

Even more worrying were asymptomatic patients, constituting around 15 percent to 20 percent of COVID-19 cases, according to the International Journal of Infectious Diseases. These patients were unaware that they had been affected and unwittingly spread the disease to others, putting many at risk. While people of all ages could be affected by COVID-19, most at risk were the elderly, people who are immunocompromised and healthcare workers.

The virus started in China in November, spread to Europe, and continued to spread to the United States in early 2020.

On March 12, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson declared a local state of disaster for public health emergency in light of an additional five cases of COVID-19 in Dallas County, one of which could have possibly been caused by community spread.

That Thursday night, Head of School Dave Baad sent an email to the school community, announcing that school would be closed the next day. On March 13, Baad sent a follow-up email that marked the beginning of distance learning and teaching. After spring break, students and teachers would move to education via digital platforms.

In an April 2 email, Baad wrote that the distance learning would be extended to May 4. Additionally, on April 21, Dallas County extended the stay-at-home order to May 15. According to

an April 5 email from Associate Head of School Ruth Burke, the school community would close out the year through “Milestone Mondays.” These virtual events took the place of traditional end-of-year ceremonies honoring student achievements, such as the Cum Laude Society and National Honor Society induction ceremonies and the Lower, Middle and Upper School honors assemblies.

School nurse Marcela Biggs said that while inconvenient and disruptive, closing the School helped in the fight to slow the spread of the virus.

“The most important precaution the School took was to close the doors and tell you guys and us not to come to school,” she said. “All schools are a breeding ground for germs. [Slowing down the spread and flattening the curve helps] the healthcare industry keep up....The final outcome will be much more positive: fewer deaths due to complications, better palliative treatment options and better understanding of the virus itself. It gives us time to be better prepared.”

According to Baad, the school would continue to monitor local and state health guidelines and would reopen the campus when local and state officials determine that gathering in large groups was a healthy activity. On April 17, Governor Greg Abbott announced that all Texas schools would be closed for the remainder of the school year. He also announced that Texas would slowly reopen. In Dallas, masks were mandatory in public places.

Both the School and Dallas County encouraged the community to take precautionary measures. The CDC issued social distancing guidelines, which junior Zaria Osmethia believed could slow the spread of the virus. Around 92 percent of students complied with social distancing guidelines, and around 77 percent of students did not leave their house.

“Social distancing and self-quarantine are productive measures that slow the rate of infection considerably,” Osmethia said. “But, at the same time, I don’t think everyone, especially teenagers, are taking it seriously. I think that it’s hard for students to grasp the severity of the problem because we have no clue what’s going on in hospitals and intensive care units. Because we’re not at as high a risk like the elderly, it’s not a matter of life and death for us, so it doesn’t seem as scary.”

To better understand the severity of the situation, senior Sam Bhasin recommended students to keep up with the news. However, Bhasin warned against the danger of being misled by the media.

“Biased or ‘fake’ media can lead many people astray into believing that issues aren’t real or don’t matter,” Bhasin said. “Research the news you believe in; don’t just blindly support it....If you don’t accurately keep up with the news, you’re just as in danger as if you didn’t watch at all.”

Dec. 31, 2019 China alerts the World Health Organization to several cases of pneumonia with an unknown cause in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China.

Jan. 30 The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a global health emergency.

Mar. 13 Head of School David Baad sends the first email to students, parents and faculty regarding school closure. Students were to have online school for the weeks following spring break.

March 19 Governor Greg Abbott orders no gatherings greater than 10 people, bars, gyms and restaurants closures. Nursing home visitations are prevented.

April 6 ESD held its first “Milestone Monday,” an initiative created to commemorate events in the community canceled due to COVID-19. The first was the President’s Volunteer Service Award ceremony.

April 17 Governor Abbott orders the closure of all Texas schools for the remainder of the school year, announces slow reopening of the state.

April 16 The first “Community Night” was held. Student Council officers for each grade in the Upper School created a Kahoot, Uno, chess and Call of Duty tournaments.

March 22 Head of School David Baad reaches out to teachers asking for personal protective equipment from classrooms to donate to UT Southwestern. The donation included 4,000 pairs of rubber gloves, 650 face masks, 12 face shields, 42 bottles of hand sanitizer and 3,600 disinfectant wipes.

Jan. 21, 2020: Washington reports first case of COVID-19 in the United States.

March 10 Dallas County reports its first case of COVID-19

all too soon

Seniors reflect on the way COVID-19 has impacted their final two months as ESD students and how the school is planning to celebrate them in creative ways

ADMINISTRATION

“Our highest priority is to do all we can to preserve the culminating traditions and experiences for the Class of 2020. Although these experiences may not be delivered in the usual manner this year, we are committed to making these moments memorable and duly representative of all the class has contributed. Rescheduling the ceremony, and associated graduation festivities, for July gives us the most optimal chance of achieving that goal.”

✦ **Ruth Burke**
Associate Head of School

COLLEGE DECISIONS

“COVID-19 has made my college decision incredibly difficult. I thought I could save some money by only visiting the colleges I got admitted to. Little did I know that a pandemic was about to ruin my plans. I am trying to decide between colleges I have never visited before. Without visiting it’s been hard to try to get a vibe of the school. It slightly terrifies me that my first time stepping on campus might be when I move into my dorm.”

✦ **Zan Haq, 12**

SPRING ATHLETE

“Senior year in any sport is a season of lasts. You’re last home game, practice, team dinner – the list goes on. Having the majority of my lacrosse season stripped away hurts. It’s important to change your perspective, get in someone else’s shoes who maybe lost a loved one during this pandemic. I miss the field and my teammates more than anything and I now know not to take anything for granted in this life.”

✦ **Malcolm Herod, 12**

LIFER

“ESD is the only school I’ve ever gone to. It’s all I know and the traditions are incredibly special to me. I could not cherish the ‘lasts’ because I didn’t know this was coming. There were so many rights of passage for us in April and May– ISAS, prom, senior prank, pass it on, and graduation. All of those have been put on hold and it’s been really hard knowing we are missing out on so much.”

✦ **Abby Ragan, 12**



THE NEW NORMAL

During the COVID-19 pandemic, sanitary and personal protective equipment such as bleach wipes, masks and gloves became highly coveted. The items ran out quickly and became scarce in stores. Masks and gloves were worn in public as a way to stop the spread or contract the virus and bleach wipes were used to disinfect surfaces. Due to the mask shortage, people got creative and began sewing their own masks.

gone digital

Unable to attend school in person, teachers and students look to on-line platforms to facilitate learning

“Working alongside students and learning from them is motivating to me as a teacher and it is hard not having those interactions. Positively, some of my students have been able to set their own paces for learning and have turned in better work.”

✦ **Eliza Younquist, Eighth Grade History**



“Distance learning has definitely made it harder for me to learn. Only having class three times a week has made it more difficult as well. The most beneficial part is that there is a schedule, which adds more structure to my day.”

✦ **Cara Lichty, 8**

more than
30 million
filed for unemployment in U.S.

Source: Johns Hopkins University, nbcdw.com. April 30, 2020

Photo by Riley Breaux



July 18 Class of 2020 graduation ceremony projected date.

233
REFERENCE COVID-19

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