COVID-19

Tracking the global pandemic that redefined the year

ILLUSTRATION
Hannah Lapos
JAN. 9
China announces novel coronavirus strain in Wuhan.

JAN. 21
CDC confirms first case of novel coronavirus in the U.S.

JAN. 25
California announces first confirmed case of coronavirus in Orange County.

JAN. 29
200 Americans from Wuhan evacuate to the March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County to be quarantined.
It started on a New Year's Eve...

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the first case of a novel coronavirus strain was recorded in Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019. Roughly two months and 2,549 cases later, the infectious outbreak was given a name: COVID-19.

While the early symptoms, on paper, can appear similar to the common cold or flu, the high transmission rate of this virus made it a dangerous pandemic that quickly shook the world.

California is one of the states hit hardest by the novel coronavirus, with Riverside County having the second highest county case numbers as of Oct. 20.

For residents and businesses alike, this virus is too close to ignore. Schools from preschool to university moved online for the fall, and restaurants cut operating hours and transitioned to curbside pickup and partnerships with delivery apps to minimize loss of income.

However, amid the setbacks, flexible, science-based cooperation has proven to be the key factor to fighting this virus. From the global collaboration of the CDC and the World Health Organization to the interstate dedication of the Western States Pact, leaders around the world maintained regulated guidelines to prevent further spread and bring the globe back to a healthier and safer environment.

Politicians, celebrities and school administrators all echo the same sentiment:

We are all in this together.
MARCH 11
WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic.

MARCH 12
CBU extends spring break to March 13-27 to plan for COVID-19 procedures.

MARCH 13
Trump administration declares national emergency.

MARCH 14
CBU announces the rest of spring semester will be moved to online instruction. Campus is closed.

GHOST CAMPUS A typically bustling walkway was completely empty when campus closed over the spring and summer.
I want to thank the entire Lancer Nation for your understanding and patience as we make significant adjustments to address a difficult and dynamic situation.

Dr. Ronald L. Ellis
CBU president
CANCELED EVENTS

Because of campus closure, CBU students missed some of the following spring and summer events.

Commencement
Spring and Summer 2020 commencement exercises were moved to a virtual ceremony in fall 2020.

Study Abroad
Students spending spring 2019 abroad in areas with high COVID-19 cases were called back to the States. Summer study abroad was canceled.

International Service Projects
All ISP trips were canceled save for certain trips that used limited video conferencing.

Sports
All spring athletics were halted midseason.

EVENTS

APR 23
CBU announces plan to reopen in-person instruction for Fall 2020.

MAY 8
Newsom signs executive order to send mail-in ballots to all California voters for November general election.

MAY 12
California State University system announces virtual fall semester.

MAY 26
California surpasses 100,000 COVID-19 cases.
ENDLESS SPINNING Matisse Rainbolt expresses her Mexican heritage through dance on TikTok. Her highest viewed video under her account @matisseazul has more than 800,000 views.

MAY 17
Summer session 2 classes begin in person.

MAY 28
U.S. becomes the nation with the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

JUN 10
U.S. cases reach 2 million.

JUL 16
Spring and summer commencements are pushed to fall.
The summer of 2020 was full of unexpected changes, to say the least. Despite canceled summer plans, CBU students share how they kept themselves busy with new pandemic hobbies.

**Matisse Rainbolt**  
Junior psychology major

What were some unexpected highlights of your summer?

“I posted videos sharing my culture and dance on TikTok, and they blew up! I love how I was able to make new friends in different countries and states through social media. It made summer a lot more fun than I could have expected.”

What’s a skill you worked on over the summer?

“I did a lot of violin practicing. I wasn’t able to go back home to Hong Kong, so I stayed with a professor and friend. Many plans got canceled, but it was still fun. One night, me and my professor stayed up playing our instruments from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.”

**Russel Barlow**  
Junior international business major

Who did you spend your lockdown with?

“Social distancing meant I wasn’t able to hang out with my friends. I ended up hanging out with my family a lot more. Even though I couldn’t get out as much, I was really glad for the time to strengthen my time at home.”

**Celine Ong**  
Sophomore instrumental performance major

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**JUL 22**  
California surpasses New York as the state with most COVID-19 cases.

**JUL 30**  
CBU announces move to virtual instruction for the Fall 2020 semester. Housing is reopened.

**AUG 28**  
Newsom reveals new four stage color-coded plan to reopen California counties.

**AUG 31**  
Fall semester begins.