

Before the Virus

The coronavirus started to spread around China in November of 2019. It was one definitely of high concern and frequently on the news, but mostly for China, being that there was virtually impossible to contract the virus anywhere. Eventually the virus started to spread to South Korea, Japan, and countries in Asia, making it become a greater concern, but only for Asia. Then in 2020 around February the virus started to change and get out of control. This was one the virus started to leave Asia and go to Europe, specifically Italy, although it still was not an issue of massive concern. Before Italy reached around 20,000 cases of the virus they did not take any measures to prevent its spread, until March when there were more sick people than what the hospitals were able to hold. Since the cases were multiplying greatly everyday, that led to Italy have to close all schools, bars, restaurants, stores, business, and more. The country began its total lockdown, and remained this way for almost two months now.

This was, and continues to be a massive concern to Italy for a number of different reasons. The first being that Italy has a high population of elderly people, which have the highest risk of death when contracting the virus, additionally since there were, and still are, so many people sick in the hospital, there is not enough space to take in every sick person that might need assistance, which has caused many preventable deaths to happen. Additionally since Italy has free universal healthcare, but has such an exuberant amount of sick people in their hospitals, their already insufficiently funded health care systems is meeting the borderline of bankruptcy. Additionally a lot of small businesses that were struggling to get by before this pandemic and now may also have to permanently shut down. Also lots of individuals were, are, and will

continue to struggle to afford basic necessities like food or rent since they are not allowed to go to work anymore.

When it Became a Pandemic

By mid March the virus was in most of Europe, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, England, etc. The virus played the greatest threats on Spain and Italy, both of which already did not have very stable economies before the virus. Luckily Spain was able to take proper precautions towards the virus early on, being that they were able to see how Italy, the first country out of Asia to have a massive outbreak, taking so long to call a total lockdown was a horrible mistakes which has costed them millions of deaths, a lot of which could have been prevented if they had taken proper precautions.

On March 12 president Donald Trump implaced a 30 day travel ban for the United States to Europe, two days later he did the same for the United Kingdom. At that point most of Europe was already in quarantine, meaning that nobody was allowed to leave their house unless it was for an emergency, to get food, or to walk their dogs. Shortly after the United States did the same as there was an exponential spike of cases in New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, Florida, etc.

At this point the coronavirus was officially declared a pandemic. According to Vox's article titled "A history of beards and pandemics" this coronavirus has been the first time that the world has seen a deadly pandemic since the Spanish flu in 1918 and now it has over 2 million cases worldwide. People from all over the world are being told by their governments to stay home and to isolate themselves, in many cases people in heavily affected areas (New York City, Miami, and other big cities) also have curfews where they are not allowed to leave their houses

unless they are going to the hospital, and can get arrested, or fined \$500, if they get caught doing otherwise.