

# THE PAW PRINT

Summer 2020 • The Student Newspaper of LCCC • Vol. 6 No. 4

## The Paw Preview

### Opinion

Is there a way to prevent pandemics?

Read Maria Rehrig's op-ed on the truth.

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### Health & Fitness

Have you been taking care of your mental health in quarantine?

Read Samantha Kramer's article to learn how. Page 10

### Style & Entertainment

How have small businesses been affected by COVID-19? Read Devin Strohl's article to know more.

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## Wanted!

Do you want to see your name in print here in The Paw Print? Consider enrolling in Journalism (CMN 225) for the fall 2020 semester. Help document student life and news while expanding your resume in the field of communications. Meet with your advisor and fit Journalism into your fall schedule.

## COVID-19 forces LCCC to go online

**Makenzie Christman**

Writer

On March 14, Lehigh Carbon Community College students received an email notifying them that all classes would move online for the rest of the semester as a safety precaution for the campus community.

LCCC President Ann Bieber explains that the decision to move courses online is far from simple.

"There are many stakeholder groups on campus involved in the discussions including the Executive Team (president and vice presidents), Academic Council (faculty leadership), Academic and Student Development Vice President and Deans," Bieber said. "When the national situation grew increasingly dire, we began planning for business continuity of operations, which required all departments to determine what was needed to continue to provide services."

While some students may see the shift as a drastic adjustment in their academic lifestyle, Bieber hopes that all students can still perform well in school.

Freshman Elizabeth Cook feels that her teachers have helped her greatly through this transition.

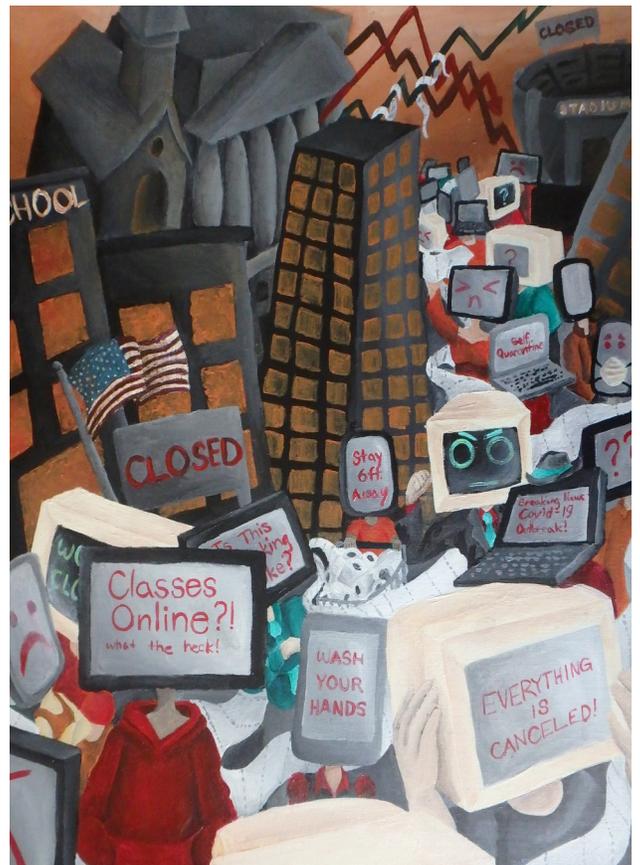
"The transition is not terrible honestly, and teachers are being really helpful for me," Cook said. "My teachers are keeping everyone calm and being very informative."

Sophomore Abraham Frear agrees with Cook, but thinks that the transition is certainly one to adjust to.

"The transition is annoying, but all my professors seem technologically capable," Frear said. "So, it's not painful for me."

Bieber sees this as an opportunity for the LCCC community to come together and support one another, much like the support Frear and Cook have received from their professors.

"The students, faculty, and staff at LCCC are the best and I could not think of a stronger team to go through these very challenging times," Bieber said. "The college team always remained focused on our students – they always have been – and will always be -- at the center of all we do at LCCC."



Kasandra Brittenburg, *The World's Quarantine*, Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 20", 2020, Painting I

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## THE PAW PRINT

### Contact Information

Please direct all questions, concerns, and comments to the following address:  
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## Words from the editors

### Suli Contreras Editor

I've always liked to refer to The Paw Print as a mini time capsule that can summarize the events, feelings, and priorities of the students on campus. COVID-19 is affecting every single person on Lehigh Carbon Community College's campus, along with the rest of the world. Because of that, my fellow editors and I, along with our advisor, decided that we would make this edition to circulate around the different perspectives of the pandemic and all that accompanies it. We also paired up with the art department to display the artwork of students through the lense of their feelings on the coronavirus.

I believe that the most difficult part of this process is the absolute lack of closure. I won't be able to properly say goodbye to LCCC and all that it has offered me. I was robbed of that emotional departure from my professors who guided me towards my degree.

What helps immensely is that we are not alone. Many other students have finished their last semester at LCCC struggling through a pandemic and adjusting to an online world. High school graduations, proms, weddings, funerals, and all major life events have to adjust around the overwhelming obstacle of today's world.

The reality is that many people are losing their lives, and I would much rather struggle in the confines of my home than risking the fatal spread to my loved ones and others with weakened immune systems.

We will make it through one day at a time. That's the beautiful thing about being human; we adapt.



### Maria Rehrig Editor

I was nervous about boarding a cruise ship for the first time. I was excited to start planning to live on campus next semester. I was feeling bittersweet about finishing my degree plan and taking my last steps on Lehigh Carbon Community College soil in May. I was.



Life has paused; suddenly plans are at a standstill and reality has been redefined. For me, that means there will be no more cruise; campuses in Pennsylvania and around the globe may very well stay closed through next semester; and I'll never get to properly say my goodbyes with LCCC, my friend of two years.

Who knew March 5 would be the last time I'd see everyone? Who could have anticipated that our spring break would be our last chance to experience normalcy before a full-on hiatus from our everyday lives?

A couple months ago our productivity was defined by how often we left the house or how well we juggled family, friends, and school- the busier you were, the more driven you appeared. As the "busy life" no longer remains an option for many of us, our productivity must stem from how well we are able to adjust and work on ourselves from within.

Despite self-betterment, the fact remains: it's a completely different world from what we once knew, and the pandemic of 2020 will reshape what we define as "normal" forever. As a society, we will have to decide what a comfortable distance from another person means. We will have to decipher if shaking hands at a job opportunity is the right move or if it'll cause discomfort and create flashbacks to a darker time.

As much as we discover silver linings, such as increased family time and self-discovery, there's nothing we can say to downplay what comes next: the aftershock.

## Information & Policies

THE PAW PRINT is a student-run campus newspaper, printed to bring its students and community comprehensive coverage of the news and events affecting our campus. The editors encourage interested students to become involved in the production of The Paw Print. Interested students should contact the newspaper via email (pawprint@lccc.edu).

Students and community can also access THE PAW PRINT online at lcccpawprint.net. The newspaper will be updated twice per semester. PDF forms of the printed newspaper will also be accessible shortly.

The editors and advisors are the decision-making body of the newspaper and governs its operations. The paper is dedicated to accurately reporting on the activities and proceedings on campus and in the surrounding areas. Opinions and views expressed in the newspaper are those of the journalists and editors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of

Lehigh Carbon Community College.

THE PAW PRINT reserves the right to make changes and corrections as they are deemed fit, and will not promote or advertise any illegal products or services. The newspaper will not invade the privacy of people, involved or likewise, and will not print anything deemed libelous or in poor taste.

THE PAW PRINT editorial policy reflects the ethics of college journalism. The paper, both as a whole and as the journalists individually, strive to protect and uphold this policy at all costs.

# news & features

## Global Citizen brings us virtually together

**Jasmyn Romanishan**  
Writer

In times of crisis when students don't know how to help, Global Citizen offers an abundance of ways to make a difference. Global Citizen is a non-profit organization that uses its platform to inform and impact change all over the world.

"Global Citizen is a movement of millions of people taking action to solve the world's biggest problems," the Global Citizen website states.

Their charity actions include signing petitions, tweeting, emailing, and taking quizzes to earn points.

According to the Global Citizen website, "Since 2011, 24,232,661 actions have been taken, \$48.4 billion commitments have been made, and 880



Gabrielle Neiss, *Fear of losing life*, Acrylic on canvas, 11" x 14", 2020, Two Dimensional Design

million lives have been impacted to date."

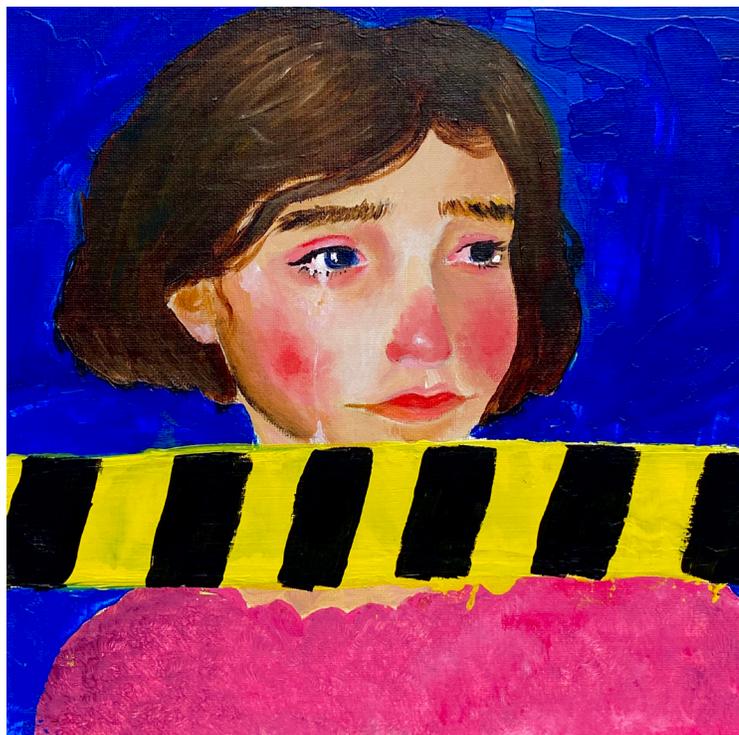
With the coronavirus pandemic, Global Citizen has been taking action to make sure people are informed about the virus and know how to avoid spreading it. They have started the 'Together At Home'

campaign where artists go live on social media and perform concerts from their homes.

"Together At Home is our virtual concert series in partnership with WHO (World Health Organization) to help us all practice social distancing and promote global health," the Global Citizen website shared.

The virtual concerts take place daily on Instagram and on April 18, Global Citizen broadcasted 'One World: Together At Home' globally. The program supported the WHO and health care workers on the frontlines of the coronavirus crisis. The global broadcast included artists and comedians like Billie Eilish and Jimmy Fallon.

For more information, go to [globalcitizen.org](http://globalcitizen.org).



Haley Brinker, *Quarantined and Forgotten*, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 12", 2020, Painting I

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## The importance of janitors is reinforced

**Roger Engle**

Writer

The outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus has caused the shutdown of schools, businesses, and community centers, but this hasn't stopped the janitorial staff at Lehigh Carbon Community College from doing their job.

The job of the maintenance staff at LCCC is more important now than ever because of the new standards and guidelines that are being implemented to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus.

"We are constantly monitoring social distancing of anyone on campus and taking all necessary steps in ensuring the safety of our personnel," George A. Calaba, the director of facility management at LCCC, said.

There have also been new changes to the way the staff operates and the products they use. These changes should help to make the campus more sanitary during this pandemic.



Anthonella Del Rio, *COVID-19*, Acrylic on canvas, 10" x 14", 2020, Painting I

"The cleaning procedures have changed in that we ordered a stronger cleaning/disinfecting agent and we are concentrating on keeping those high-trafficked areas disinfected," Calaba said. "It's not as much of a concern now with most everyone working from home, but we continue to deep clean those areas just in case."

The janitorial staff at LCCC is working around the clock to make sure that the school is safe and sanitary for when classes will once again be held on-campus. Students can help to prevent the spread by staying home, practicing social distancing, and washing their hands. For more information on the coronavirus and how to protect against it, visit [health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov).

## Earth is gasping for a breath of fresh air

**Derek Kirsopp**

Writer

Wuhan – New Year's Eve 2019. The World Health Organization recognizes 41 patients infected by an unknown pneumonia. By early February, President Xi Jinping forced the shutdown of thousands of factories in an attempt to control the contagion now known as Covid-19. Italy succumbs within weeks, and by March, the pandemic has spread to 145 countries, resulting in world-wide industrial shutdowns and billions of people self-quarantining.

Less factory, motor vehicle and aircraft activity has resulted in noticeably decreased levels of nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere.

NASA's Earth Observatory satellites have been monitoring pollution since launching in 2004, revealing startling images of China before and after people began staying home.

"What we saw in China was a very rapid effect," Joanna Joiner, NASA atmospheric physicist, said. "We're seeing

changes in human behavior, ...how they're using fuels...pollution won't hide from the satellite data."

According to research data, China experienced a 25% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over a four-week period.

NASA's images of dramatic changes in air quality over China and Italy became associated with the reduction of emissions around the world.

"It's the first time in history we've seen something like this," Marco Percoco, associate professor of transportation economics at Bocconi University in Milan, said.

Scientists are reeling over how quickly the earth has responded to positive environmental changes amidst concerns that any gains in air quality may be short lived.

"Past experience suggests that emissions declines during economic crises are followed by a rapid upsurge," Secretary-General Petteri Taalas, of the World Me-

teological Organization stated.

The short-term effects of clear skies and cleaner air has come at a cost. Thousands of lives have been lost, the economic and financial impact of shutting down the world will have a long-lasting effect, and our way of life may never be the same.



Rhiannah Funk, *Hope for Change*, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 12", 2020, Painting II



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## BASTL program lets writer earn a degree while working

Alicia K. Durst's love of writing led her to take communications courses at Lehigh Carbon Community College, but she never thought about pursuing a bachelor's degree.

"I was the campus editor for the student paper, Paw Print, and from there I got a job in the College Relations Office."

Most of Durst's work involved writing alumni magazine stories and taking event photos. But then she was asked by 3Seed Marketing, Design & Interactive, which helps promote LCCC, to provide a testimonial as a student.

"Little did I know the questions I was asked during the commercial was also my job interview," said Durst, who joined 3Seed part time in April 2018 and soon became a full-time marketing coordinator.

"Soon after I was hired I wanted to go full time, and my bosses wanted me to go full time, but they didn't want to hold me back from getting my bachelor's degree," she explained.

She knew that Bloomsburg University's Bachelor of Applied Science in Technical Leadership degree was for her.

Bloomsburg accepted her associate credits, allowing her to complete the program in four semesters, and the flexible online classes at LCCC fit her work schedule.



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## Opinion

### Tragedy bonds us

**Suli Contreras**

Editor

If you look at memory through a psychology lense, there's a term known as collective memory, or a memory which an entire group of people will remember as a generation. If you look back into the history of these collective memories, there's a similar theme. When I ask my grandmother about the thing of her generation that she will never forget, her answer is quick and simple-- JFK's assasination. She remembers hearing an announcement over the loudspeaker at school saying that school has been prematurely dismissed. Their beloved president had been shot and killed. She went home and cried with her parents, rewatching the footage rolling on the old, chunky, tv set.

For my mother, her response is just as unnerving. She remembers working

at a Godiva chocolate store when she saw the small, staticy TV hung in the top corner of the room light up with breaking news. The twin towers had just been struck. Her coworkers broke down in tears, and my mother immediately thought about the safety and future of her four children.

For me, I remember sitting on the couch with my parents, watching the governor on our flat screen TV, closing all non-essential businesses, schools, while preparing the state for quarantine and isolation. I'll remember crying because my graduation at college was canceled and fearing to catch a virus that could kill me due to my already weak, asthmatic lungs.

Funny enough, this type of tragedy bonds us, and connects us as a generation of people. We're all going through

a similar struggle, but to varying extents. We'll all remember what life was like when we were scared, uncertain, and sheltered. At the end of the day, within this grand tragedy, we have our community united (while socially distancing, of course) to support those in greater struggle.



Morgan Coley, *Empty*, Acrylic on canvas, 18" x 24", 2020, Painting II

## It's the wake-up call we all needed

**Stephanie Heffelfinger**

Editor

This is something I've never experienced in my lifetime. I remember the swine flu happening when I was in elementary school; our schools didn't close. Grocery stores weren't empty; people weren't wearing masks. Social distancing was unheard of. Why were we not worried, living in fear? Why do I not remember anyone being sick? Did our society develop 'herd immunity' then?

I miss my friends and coworkers. I miss freedoms like simply going outside without preparation. However, I am saving money staying home, making my own coffee, watching movies, and cooking dinners instead of eating out.

Being stuck at home gives you a lot of time to think and reflect about yourself and life. I think deeper these

days about my future, if I am choosing the right major, and how I can benefit myself, my family, and the world. There's nothing to snap us out of our daily, monotonous routines, like a worldwide pandemic.

I realized it took the coronavirus



Kasandra Brittenburg, *Are You Kidding Me?*, Graphite, pencil, and charcoal, 18" x 24", 2020, Figure Drawing

to suspend interest and payments on college loans, feed children for free, and house the homeless.

It took a deadly emergency to appreciate and respect grocery store workers, hospital staff, garbagemen, and restaurant staff.

It took a stay-at-home order to temporarily prevent pollution and clean our earth. Imagine if everyone stayed at home more how our world would change and benefit.

A pandemic was the wake-up call we all needed to reconnect with ourselves and families, be kind, help our neighbors, and respect the elderly. We could all use a wake-up call to be safer and look after our health and earth. We got a wake-up call to be grateful for our taken for granted lives and freedoms.

# The truth hurts

**Maria Rehrig**  
Editor

Conspiracy theories are harmless until they distract us from the true origins of a problem. The theories behind the coronavirus make sense: there is a need for population reduction, so the government created the virus; it's a way for countries to join together, thus work toward world peace; it was constructed to help slow global warming by limiting transportation. Some people even believe that the virus itself was just the universe's way of giving us all time to slow down and find ourselves.

Although there is logic to some of these theories, by putting our energy into these questionable conclusions we are not examining the entirety of the issue nor are we trying to genuinely understand the root of the problem to prevent it from happening again.

The majority of the population know two general facts about COVID-19: it

comes from China, and it has something to do with bats. But did you know that the majority of viruses and infectious diseases have been due to animal agriculture? This includes Ebola (bats), Swine Flu (pigs), and Mad Cow Disease.

Because people demand meat on their plate, animals are kept in conditions which create the environments that encourage viruses to develop. The viruses are then transmitted to humans through our contact with animals, whether it be our consumption of them or our handling of dead animals at the factory, and uncooked flesh at home. If we did not use animals for food, the COVID-19 strain of coronavirus almost certainly would have never been introduced to the human body.

I do think it's important to question things. Don't get me wrong, I love a good conspiracy theory, too- but this time

it's not okay. On one hand, this mass oblivion is because people are simply ignorant about the issue. In another way, it is because people refuse to take accountability for what their "choices" result in.

All I know is this: I have to deal with the consequences of other people's food choices, and I'm pissed about it.



Emma Pennington, *Hope*, Charcoal, 9" x 12", 2020, Drawing I

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To learn more about the PA Transfer Scholarship, go to [ESU.edu](http://ESU.edu) or call 570-422-3542. See why you belong at ESU.



# IN FOCUS:

## LCCC classes portray the Coronavirus pandemic through art:



Carter Dech, *No, you're not crazy*, Watercolor, 14" x 11", 2020, Figure Drawing

"The quarantine has been rather difficult for me. There is so much going on inside my head, and I am very stressed out. I feel like my head is going to explode from all of this stress and all of the thoughts in my head. The dots of color represent all of the thoughts and stressors leading to a head exploding from overload."

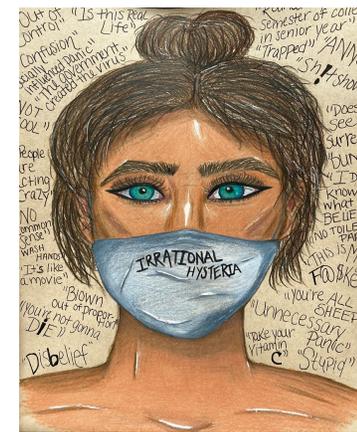
-Kyleigh Haas



Kyleigh Haas, *Outburst*, Acrylic on canvas, 11" x 14", 2020, Painting I



Alexus Tewold, *"Corona" virus*, Acrylic on canvas, 11" x 14", 2020, Painting II



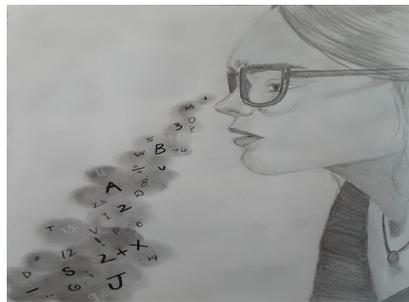
Dante Rufino, *The New Normal*, Colored pencil, 9" x 12", 2020, Figure Drawing

"The girl represents all of us, everyday humans, being thrown into this pandemic. I wanted her to have the mask on because something told me that this soon was going to be the new normal. The only thing we can do is to stay calm, be positive and keep pushing through matters like this. I pray for better days and hope for the best. Remember, there's always a light at the end of the tunnel."

-Dante Rufino

"It's about the struggles of going from the classroom to online learning. I felt as though I had forgotten many things and lost the ability to learn in an environment where I can engage with students and my professors. That's why there are letters and numbers and symbols pouring out of my eyes instead of my eyes receiving them."

-Celeste Sukley



Celeste Sukley, *Forgetting*, Graphite and charcoal, 11" x 14", 2020, Drawing I



William Hechler II, *The Hard Fight, COVID-19*, Pencil, 8.5" x 11", 2020, Drawing I

"As someone who is immunocompromised, *The Hard Fight*, COVID-19 represents the overbearing looming threat the virus is. The body's immune system is compromised, hence the crumbling wall, and the virus can invade at any point. The exhausted knight who is the body's last defense, as a white blood cell, is too weak to even lift his sword. Even with the help of hospitals, the situation looks bleak and will be a hard fight to overcome."

-William Hechler II

## health&fitness

### Take care of your mental health during isolation

**Samantha Kramer**

Writer

The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted an overwhelming amount of students in their daily lives.

Lehigh Carbon Community College has closed and transitioned to online learning for the remainder of the semester; all nonessential businesses are closed until further notice, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidelines for social distancing, all in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19.

During times like these, where the future remains uncertain, mental health can suffer, especially for those who already struggle with mental wellness.

"I'm already an anxious person, and the Coronavirus has caused my anxiety to rise ten times higher than it originally was," Daniel Melin, LCCC student, stated. "My mother is at high-risk for the virus, so it's been really difficult for me because I can't really be around anyone beside the people in my house."

Since the recommendations for limiting

exposure to the virus require social withdrawal, feelings of anxiety, stress, loneliness, and isolation are likely to arise.

**"I just try my best to be positive about it; this is something that is out of my control."**

However, it is important to remember that despite not having control over current world events, there is always the possibility of choosing how to react to



Donjeta Esati, *COVID 19 Project*, Pencil, 18" x 24", 2020, Figure Drawing

such events.

"I just try my best to be positive about it; this is something that is out of my control." Chanaly Rodriguez, LCCC student, stated.

The CDC guide to manage stress and anxiety during COVID-19 outbreak suggests:

- Taking breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories about the pandemic
- Taking care of your body by eating healthy, well-balanced meals, exercising regularly, and getting plenty of sleep
- Making time to unwind by doing activities you enjoy
- Connecting with others and talking about your concerns and feelings

While the future may be uncertain, remember that this is only temporary and the world is experiencing this together. For more information and advice from the CDC about COVID-19, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

## Prevent Coronavirus through social distancing

**Akaash Shukla**

Writer

Over the past few months, SARS-CoV-2, otherwise known as COVID-19, has been classified as a pandemic. As a result, people have been trying to find ways to avoid and prevent the virus from affecting their lives any further than it already has.

One of the leading ways to combat it is through social distancing, where an individual avoids large crowds that may have come into contact with the coronavirus. Establishments that have a higher number of people inside, such as malls, should be avoided. Social distancing is equally important at smaller locations like gas stations, too, where there can still be a lot of traffic.

Maureen Bredbenner, an operating room nurse at Lehigh Valley Hospital, has

more information on how social distancing works.

"It prevents an increase in the amount of people that could get sick with the virus and also aids the healthcare system with admitting too many people at once to a point where hospitals get overcrowded," Bredbenner stated.

According to the Lehigh Valley Health Network's website, the virus itself is known to spread via the respiratory system as well as by contamination. If one were to have the virus and cough in a public area, the cough can linger and the infection may enter the system by the mouth, nose, or lungs. If the virus contaminates a surface that someone later touches with their hand and decides to rub their eyes or mouth, the virus can enter this way as well.

For more details on how to avoid and prevent COVID-19, visit [www.lvhn.org](https://www.lvhn.org).



Lillian Paulino, *2020*, Charcoal, 18" x 24", 2020, Figure Drawing



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## Local nurses cope with the unforeseen

Alex Schneck  
Writer

They put on eyewear, masks, gowns, gloves, and any other personal protective equipment (PPE) they can acquire, while the thought that it isn't enough to protect themselves from COVID-19 still lingers.

Nurses who work at hospitals in Eastern Pennsylvania are confronted with increased stress and the shortage of PPE due to the surge of vigilance shown by hospitals and the general public against COVID-19.

"We are instructed to continuously monitor ourselves for any symptoms, especially fever, to help limit exposure to other workers and patients," a local nurse stated. "Knowing we have the proper precautions in place to take care of patients helps to limit both stress and anxiety."

The daily routine of nurses has

been altered and is changing every day, but it is not as drastic as one may surmise.

A new challenge that hospitals face is putting positive COVID-19 patients on units since they require more isolation precautions and other specialized teams to take care of them.

Fast ways of communication, like emails, have helped hospitals stay updated on things like new protocols and policies, potential PPE shortages, and plans for visitors. This allows the hospital to function as a team to deal with this pandemic in the best way possible to help protect workers, patients, and their families.

"Things are still very uncertain," another local nurse stated. "It can be scary going into work and not knowing what to expect, but being a nurse

is very rewarding. We are grateful to have a job and to protect our community from the unknown."



Emma Pennington, *America*, 9" x 12", Colored pencil, 2020, Two Dimensional Design

## Citizens struggle to prepare for COVID-19

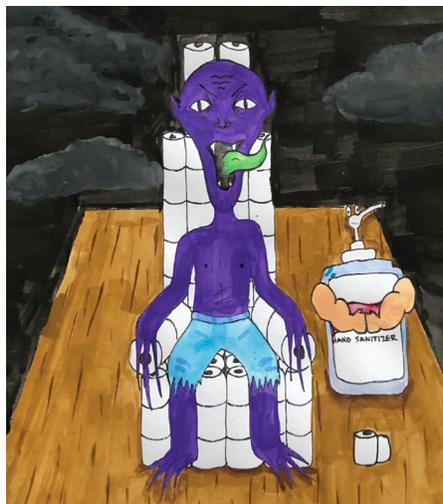
Kayla Pasquariello  
Writer

Bread, milk, and eggs: three things that typically are the first things to go in a grocery store at times of crisis. Whether it be a hurricane that causes a power outage or a snowstorm on the way, stocking up on the right items is essential.

With this strain of the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, items such as toilet paper and hand sanitizer have been deemed important to consumers. Signs are being made to apologize to customers for the lack of these items, and limits are being created for how much of one item can be bought at once.

But how should people be handling the crisis and what items should people actually be stocking up on?

"(People should be) buying soap and making sure to keep their distance from people. People continuously going out is the real issue and panic buying does nothing but punish people who are not better off, or people without the ability



Eve Walters, *Reign of the Toilet Paper Goblin*, Watercolor, 11" x 14, 2020, Two Dimensional Design

to go out. We need to look out for everyone as a whole, not just ourselves," Alexandra Gallagher, a microbiology lab professor at Lehigh Carbon Com-

munity College, said.

Not only should people be stocking up on soap and practicing social distancing as is recommended, but there are other things people can keep in mind. Fresh fruits will likely spoil in about two weeks so it's better to steer away from that type of produce.

**"People continuously going out is the real issue and panic buying does nothing..."**

However, canned items, frozen foods and boxed pasta as well as rice have a longer shelf life, and items such as canned fruit, or canned soups are recommended by the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Disaster Education Network.

Regardless of what others may deem important to stock up on, it is always good to double check and see what is officially recommended to be prepared for a crisis.

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## style & entertainment

### COVID-19 affects business as usual

**Devin Strohl**  
Writer

On March 19, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ordered the closure of all nonessential businesses across the state of PA due to COVID-19. It was implemented to control the spread of the virus, and the order forced the closure of all businesses that did not serve the public with necessities. This meant that nearly all food businesses would stay open, while places such as the Lehigh Valley Mall were closed to prevent the virus from spreading further, but the order affected people's jobs.

Those that were "non-essential" had to either consider unemployment or wait until their jobs would return after the pandemic subsided. Those deemed "essential" kept their jobs and were given documentation protecting themselves from

authorities in the case their counties went into a lockdown.

"It's crazy," a woman—who asked to keep her identity private—of a local fast food restaurant in Carbon County stated. "They say we're essential, but we're still out here. We have a chance of getting it and bringing it home to our families."

As these workers had to continue to go to work during the pandemic, those that are not working struggle in a different way. Jim Thorpe, known for bringing tourism to Carbon County, has less people on its streets as events have been cancelled while local stores are suffering, too.

With new cases each day, businesses are financially suffering. After the panic subsides, countries around the world will be able to see how businesses recover.



Jessica Hook, T.P. (*Totally Precautions*), 11" x 14", Graphite, colored pencil, ink, 2020, Drawing I

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# The arts push back, the show must go on

**Jenny Pacanowski**  
Writer

The lights that once illuminated the stages of the Lehigh Valley are now dark with questions about how to continue providing art programs and shows amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 9, Governor Tom Wolf announced that all non-essential staff



Cheyenne Green, *Isolation 19*, Acrylic on canvas, 11" x 14", 2020, Painting I

should close their doors and self-quarantine, which affected local art communities.

Theatre is known to bring heart, light, drama, fear and catharsis to audiences. All across the country it became unsafe to occupy spaces filled with theatre goers or any large gatherings. The love scenes, fight sequences, and friendly hugs were stopped in their tracks for stage actors while COVID-19 rips through the country.

However, Artsquest, a beacon for the arts in the Lehigh Valley, is offering online programming called Artsquest@home. Located in Downtown Bethlehem, ArtsQuest is home to Musikfest, Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas, and a variety of comedy shows/workshops. Senior Director of Communications, Mark Demko, was proud to share that Artsquest has launched more than 100 online events- a milestone for the organization.

The arts at Lehigh Carbon Community College haven't gone unscathed, with the end of semester theatre arts showcase being cancelled.

Professor Ben Peruso of the theater arts programs at LCCC states, "Since time began, the arts have found a way to help whatever situation was at hand... the students have been performing theatrical monologues over the internet... while doctors sing and others tell jokes to relieve the pressure and the world takes a breath."

Lisa Jordan, Managing Director of Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem, said that the theatre has overcome challenges in the past.

"Touchstone Theatre is in its 39th year of creating original theatre, offering powerful arts education residencies and transforming the community," she said. "We are flexible, creative folk used to working smart and on a shoestring budget. We will survive."

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