

The Royal Gazette.

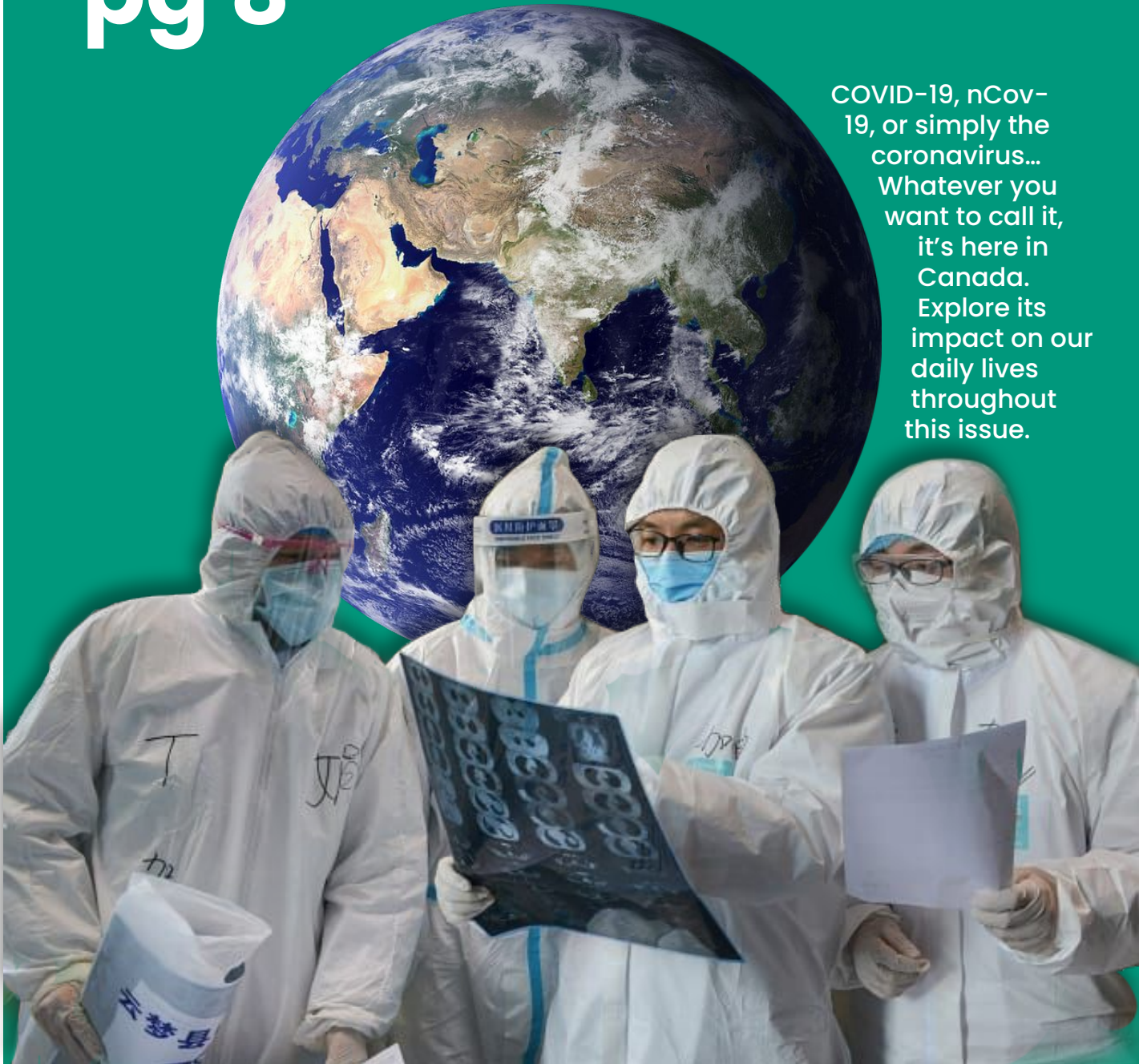
Your school. Your newspaper.

**International
Women’s Day**
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Yearbook**
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COVID-19 in — Canada pg 8

COVID-19, nCov-19, or simply the coronavirus... Whatever you want to call it, it’s here in Canada. Explore its impact on our daily lives throughout this issue.



+ How COVID-19 Affects Theatre Worldwide

pg 6

This Month's Top Stories

Get the most important news right away. Here are some of the **top stories of March.**

HAMILTON

Local Businesses Face Turmoil Due to COVID-19 Shutdown



More than Just Your Health: How the Pandemic Affects Small Businesses

Above: All the restaurants on King Street in downtown Hamilton are now closed, although most still accept pick up and delivery orders. (Kevin Werner/Toronto Star)

Local restaurants have been left hanging in the wake of Ontario's COVID-19 shutdown, following a series of drastic new measures meant to limit the spread of this highly contagious disease. In response, Hamilton officials have urged citizens to continue supporting small businesses in other ways, while still respecting the preventative measures put in place.

One of the most dangerous aspects of COVID-19 is its transmissibility: the virus spreads through coughing, sneezing, and respiratory droplets, and can live for days on surfaces. Consequently, establishments where food is served have been deemed by the government as places where infection can be especially likely. After the virus was declared to be an emergency on March 17, many restaurants were forced to close under a mandate, but their finances and employees will suffer as a result of diminished business.

In order to compensate for the lack of in-person business, many dining places have remained open for delivery, take out and drive-thru orders, but this, according to Tony Elenis, the president and CEO of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association, isn't sustainable in the long term. For instance, some eateries can no longer depend on third-party delivery services like Uber Eats anymore -- they must deliver it themselves.

"Right now, business is very, very slow because of the coronavirus spread," says Tom Ngo, owner of the Stoney Creek restaurant Banana Leaf.

Meanwhile, bars haven't been doing much better, with many having made the hard decision to close on St. Patrick's Day, one of the industry's most profitable days of the year. This decline in income could kill as

many as 25% of small businesses who rely on regular customers within a month. The crux of the issue depends heavily on how long social distancing measures will have to last -- and a 4 week quarantine could be disastrous.

"These are drastically difficult times for small businesses," said Hamilton mayor Fred Eisenberger. Luckily, the province is currently offering \$82 billion in stimulus aid packages for citizens and businesses affected by the crisis. Eisenberger is optimistic about the effect this will have on the economy, saying "...I would think there is probably more help on the way. Hopefully it will stem the tide."

In the meantime, residents can continue to support small businesses and restaurants by buying gift certificates, ordering take out, and staying in contact with local representatives.

CANADA

Saskatchewan
Researchers Spearhead
Vaccine Effort



Meet the Canadian Lab Combating COVID-19

Above: Dr. Volker Gerdts, director of VIDO-InterVac. (University of Saskatchewan)

A ray of hope for those living in fear of the current COVID-19 pandemic: a vaccine may be closer than you think.

Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan have begun testing a novel vaccine for the coronavirus, along with the aid of \$23 million in grants over the next two years. Although it's far from human feasibility, the rapid progress USask's VIDO-InterVac research team has made promises optimistic results in the future, as scientists from all over the world work to stem the tide.

"It's fantastic that the funders have fast-tracked this process to help worldwide efforts against this new virus," says Dr. Volker Gerdts, director of the team. The Saskatchewan group is uniquely equipped for dealing with global pandemics like the one presented by COVID-19, and has previously worked on several coronavirus vaccines in animals -- but never in humans.

The current goal, says Darryl Falzarano, leader of the team, is determining which ani-

mal model is best for mimicking the disease's effects in humans. Once that happens, VIDO-InterVac members can test their vaccine candidates in the model, along with other promising drugs and therapies from scientists around the globe. The ultimate goal of this research is to develop a universal coronavirus vaccine, which protects against multiple strands of coronavirus.

As of now, there is no estimated date for when the vaccine will be available for human usage, but animal testing has begun, which marks an important milestone on the path to a complete vaccine. Thankfully, however, the InterVac researchers have experience from the SARS outbreak from several years ago to apply to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Canada particularly has emerged as a leader in the global effort to combat the virus as one of 10 countries united by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the effort.

So, although the VIDO-InterVac Lab was originally built

to research infectious diseases in animals, it may very well now represent one of the nation's best shots at culling the spread of this new, deadly disease.

IN A TWEET...



U of Saskatchewan
@Usask

A [#USask](#) research team and collaborating scientists from across the country have been awarded \$1 million to develop animal models and test vaccine candidates for effectiveness and safety against the new [#coronavirus](#).
[@VIDOInterVac](#)



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Slipping Under the Radar: What is the EARN IT Bill?

Above: Senator Lindsey Graham, author of the bill, speaks at the Trump impeachment hearings. (Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call)

As the COVID-19 pandemic ravages the minds and news feeds of millions of Americans, one controversial bill is silently stirring up unrest in certain circles. This new act, entitled EARN IT (the Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act) will attempt to reduce the amount of child exploitation and abuse content on social media platforms, by effectively limiting users' privacy. And although it has good intentions, many companies are concerned about the impact that this bill will have on consumers.

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This bill... and twists [public rage] into a backhanded way of punishing messaging service providers' use of encryption.

— Riana Pfefferkorn,
Associate Director of
Surveillance and
Cybersecurity at SCIS

The EARN IT bill is simple in principle, but its effects are far-reaching. In 1996, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act was passed, which mandated that social media platforms were not held liable for what their users published on their site, with the exception of certain severe and outstanding cases. EARN IT makes it so that companies instead have to, well, *earn* this privilege rather than being granted it automatically.

The ultimate result is that companies who *don't* have these protections could potentially face lawsuits if users decide to post illegal content through their services -- and so to avoid this, they will be forced to heavily moderate their sites. This not only limits free speech on the internet, but also means that many companies will have to sacrifice privacy and encryption on their platforms by giving the police “backdoors” into private conversations -- effectively undermining what big tech corporations like Facebook and WhatsApp have been lobbying against for years. This compromise of online security worries many, while oth-

er critics point out that the law would be still be highly ineffective at stopping abuse.

What concerns some even more, however, is how certain members of Congress are attempting to pass this bill during the COVID-19 media blackout, presumably so public criticism and awareness is limited. Furthermore, as Riana Pfefferkorn, Associate Director of Surveillance and Cybersecurity at the Stanford Center for Internet and Society (SCIS) writes, the bill may be preying on recent fears about big tech companies and sex trafficking.

“This bill takes popular rage at social media companies' immunity under Section 230... and twists it into a backhanded way of punishing messaging service providers' use of encryption,” warns Pfefferkorn.

Whatever the case is, the EARN It Bill represents one important aspect of the COVID-19 crisis: that in a time where the news is flooded with stories about this topic, it's still important to stay alert and informed, no matter the issue.

MARCH

Sunday

8

DID YOU KNOW?

International Women’s Day began as a celebration organized by the Socialist Party of America in 1908.



Above: People in Spain gather for International Women's Day, 2020. (Manu Fernandez/AP)



On March 8, people from around the world gathered to celebrate International Women’s Day. Here’s how it looked like.

By Vita Rao - Writer

For centuries, women have fought to obtain equal rights. From Susan B. Anthony to Malala Yousafzai, society’s perception of feminism is constantly changing. Enter March 8th, a day created to represent the ever-evolving fight for equality — International Women’s Day. The day is one that resonates with any, serving as one to celebrate the social, economic, and political improvements. However, it is also a reminder that progression is to be made. This year, the theme of the campaign was #EachForEqual, celebrating independence and a collective need for equality.

The commercialization of the event has complicated the way in which it is celebrated, with many forgetting the true meaning of it. It is a day of unity, whereby all women stand together — their societal standing, meaningless. Google managed to portray this through its annual doodle, acknowledging the achievements of women of various ethnic backgrounds and

generations.

With the pandemic looming over many countries, it made it difficult to conduct the usual methods of celebration. Still, a significant march was held in Edmonton, Alberta — with the women bringing up concerns regarding Indigenous communities, education, and health-care. Ancaster High was able to celebrate the occasion as well—although two days early. The ‘Equity for All’ club hosted a wonderful meeting, inviting students to participate in bonding activities and providing snacks and tea.

Unfortunately, many in other countries were either prevented from participating in protests because of the virus or oppression from the government. Fear of persecution and violence looms over the day; some governments harassing protestors. In Turkey, tear gas was used and in Kyrgyzstan, women were arrested. These actions serve as confirmation that the fight is far from over.

While it may be difficult to maintain positivity during these times of difficulty, it is vital that we remind ourselves of the importance of unity. Throughout the month, several online challenges and discussions have taken place; allowing for women to air their concerns without fear of persecution or worry of contraction of the coronavirus. For instance, in mid-March, a social media challenge surfaced; whereby one would share a photo of themselves with the hashtag #ChallengeAccepted, then nominate other friends to participate. The challenge erupted, spreading at a rapid rate, and reaching women around the world.

Regardless, the various forms of celebration — whether through social media or physical protesting — the month was unforgettable. With many thoughtful discussions taking place, it was a day of reflection and hope for the future. The struggle for equal rights remains, but our level of unity only continues to strengthen.



US POLITICS

Democratic Primaries Postponed by COVID-19

Above: Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders at the Iowa Democratic Debate. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

A look at how the Democratic race has progressed, and how COVID-19 fears continue to wreak havoc on the road to the election.



By John Kerr - Junior Editor

The Democratic Party Primaries, scheduled to be held from February 3 until June 23 2020, are being postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak across the globe and the growing fears amid Americans leaving former vice-president Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders hanging in the balance in the midst of the national elections.

Before new measures were implemented to postpone the primaries, the democratic leadership race had covered over half of the states in the U.S. Opening with Iowa on February 3, the last states to vote were Arizona, Florida, and Illinois on March 17th.

At the beginning of the campaign to elect a new Democratic leader, there were almost 30 who hoped to become a 2020 presidential candidate. After many drop-outs, the field was narrowed down to five contenders. Pete Buttigieg, a mayor from Indiana and the first openly gay candidate, suspended his campaign in early March after losing badly in South Carolina. Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York, drop-

ped out after only winning one riding on Super Tuesday. Elizabeth Warren, a Senator from Massachusetts, opted out of the campaign and began backing Joe Biden. Biden, the former vice-president under Barack Obama is currently leading the race, holding 40.81% of the popular vote. His only remaining competitor, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, trails with 30.91%.

Voting opened on February 3 in Iowa with Buttigieg edging out Sanders in a victory before moving to New Hampshire where they both received the same number of seats. As the race continued, Sanders gained ground over the other candidates until Super Tuesday on March 3 where 15 states voted for their candidate. Biden made off with 10 states where Sanders picked up 4. Bloomberg claimed only American Samoa.

Postponements to the election race began soon after fears of COVID-19 spread into the States and as of March 25, 7 states have announced that they will hold their elections at a later date.

HOW TO BECOME PRESIDENT:

- 1 Candidates announce they're running for president.
- 2 Voters select the candidate they want from their registered party in primaries or caucuses.
- 3 At a national convention, each party's presidential candidate and running mate is announced.
- 4 These candidates then campaign around the country using ads, speeches, debates and interviews.
- 5 At the general election, people vote for a president.
- 6 The electoral college is then used to determine how many electors each candidate gets, depending on the states they win.
- 7 This determines who becomes president, and that person gets sworn in on January 20.

THE ARTS

How COVID-19 has Affected Musical Theatre Worldwide



Above: A person wears a face mask while visiting Times Square in New York City. (New York Times)



The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in upheaval around the world, but especially for performance artists.

By Brooke Vesentin - Writer

The horrific worldwide pandemic that is COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of most events, shows and movies that were set to take place this spring. Among these, musical theatre performances both on and off Broadway have seen a number of cancellations and postponements with shows, programs, and workshops. Many of these theatres have devised plans both on how to deal with customers who have already purchased tickets for these shows and how to move forward with the shows themselves.

As for Broadway shows, the state of New York has cancelled or postponed gatherings of over 500 people until April 12th and possibly longer. Broadway.com states, "Broadway.com customers with tickets to cancelled performances will be automatically refunded to the method of payment used for purchase. Performances beginning April 13, 2020 are currently planned to go on as scheduled. Should any additional performances be cancelled,

Broadway.com customers will be contacted and automatically refunded to their original method of payment." However, shows have not only been cancelled in New York but locally as well. The Mirvish Theatre in Toronto, Ontario has also cancelled all their performances, but are dealing with the ticket dilemma a bit differently. One way you can refund your tickets is by turning them into Mirvish account credits, which you can save to your account and use to purchase future tickets for other shows or use them to purchase a subscription. The credits will never expire and you can convert them into a full cash refund at any time.

Here in Ancaster, within our local theatre community, Theatre Ancaster shows such as "British Invasion" have been cancelled and are planning to return in spring 2021 and refunds are planned to be processed within the next two weeks. Their youth programs have also been suspended until further notice and "The Wonderful Music of Disney" is set to open in late May and is at

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These are extremely hard times for everyone, but if we are all responsible and safe we can get through this.

risk of being cancelled as well.

Not only are the theatres themselves closed, but events such as award shows related to theatre have been cancelled and postponed, including the Tony Awards. The Tony Awards celebrate the best in Broadway theatre, however they have been postponed and rescheduled to a later date yet to be determined. Theatres closing and shows being cancelled are a horrible thing for those who rely on them as a source of income and who have poured in hours of hard work into their performances.

Despite this, the greatest tragedy that has resulted from this outbreak is the number of people it has affected. Quite a few Broadway actors, directors and playwrights have unfortunately been tested positive for the Coronavirus including Aaron Tveit, Matt Doyle, Chad Kimball, David Bryan, Laura Bell Bundy and possibly others. Sadly, some incredibly important and influential people within the musical theatre industry have

also lost their lives to the virus. Mark Blum, who was considered a veteran New York stage actor, was one of those people and sadly passed away at the age of 69 due to complications with the Coronavirus. He was beloved by many and was a great actor both on Broadway and on-screen and will live on in many theatre lovers' hearts. Yet another big name in theatre who has sadly passed is Terrance McNally. He was a playwright and was 81 years old when he died with COVID-19. He was also beloved

by many and his plays and musicals such as "Love! Valour! Compassion!" and "Master Class", will live on in his name. While this is deeply unfortunate, there isn't much we can do about it except for staying home and taking proper safety precautions to prevent the spread of this virus. These are extremely hard times for everyone, but if we are all responsible and safe we can get through this. We can pray for everyone who's been affected by COVID-19 and share some love for them as well.



Above: Teachers stand outside of a school building on a strike in February. (OSSTF District 24/Twitter))



An update on how the Ontario education strikes have been affected by the coronavirus.

By Jocelyn Mattka - Junior Editor

There's no denying that we have entered into a difficult and confusing time and that the ongoing teacher strike has only added to that difficulty and confusion. With the indefinite cancellation of schools, there's been a lot of uncertainty about the role that teachers are to play in the upcoming weeks.

The government of Ontario has issued their own online learning resources, directing elementary school students to TVO resources and high school students to more structured course material. However, while they are providing these resources, there are still many holes and limits on what is being offered. It could

also be said that by doing this, the government is purposely undermining the school boards and the ability of the teachers to continue with their courses in a way that works best for them and their students. Instructions to the teachers themselves have been fairly limited and non-specific, creating a lot of uncertainty during an already challenging time.

Thankfully, there is finally some good news to share on the front of teacher strikes. The EFTO, or Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario has reported reaching a tentative deal with the Ontario government as of March 20. OECTA is in a similar position,

having reached their tentative agreement on March 12 and planning to hold their official union vote on April 7th and 8th.

Unfortunately, our own board has yet to come to a similar agreement and it looks as though little progress has been made. We can only hope that in the midst of our current situation the board and the government can find a way to come to terms in such a way that both sides can be satisfied. The drawn out nature of this conflict does nothing to help the families who are currently in difficult positions all across Ontario; It's time that the government starts giving some consideration to the people.

COVID-19 in — Canada

Here's a rundown on how COVID-19 continues to target Ontarians, students, workers and healthcare professionals alike.

**By Anika Kanagaretnam
and Rose He - Junior
Editor and Writer**



With all the information about COVID-19 flooding the news at every given moment, it can be hard to make heads or tails of what's being said. **Here's a summary of what we know as of March 25, 2020:**

Health Minister Mandates All Travellers from Abroad Quarantine for 2 Weeks

As of Wednesday, March 25, the health minister has said that now it will be mandatory for Canadians coming from abroad to quarantine for 14 days, as previously, self isolating was only strongly suggested. They are also not allowed to return home in public transportation. The reason for this is because symptoms can be very mild. Patty Hajdu, Canada's Minister of Health in the Federal Cabinet, also warned that people who don't follow quarantine restrictions will face penalties, and mentioned several times that this needs to be taken seriously. She was very stern about social distancing and making sure that people with even mild symptoms of COVID-19 do not go outside and stay in self isolation to prevent putting others at risk.

HWDSB Shuts Schools Down Indefinitely

HWDSB says that they support the Ministerial Order of closing school as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19. They have also provided some links of letters for families. They also provide ways to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Some reliable resources are also shown on the COVID-19 update post.

Furthermore, HWDSB responded to a tweet from CP24 on Twitter. CP24 reported that Doug Ford said, "The kids won't be going back to school on April 6." HWDSB replied by saying "We are awaiting more information about the return to school and will update our school communities as soon as we can. We appreciate your patience."

Preventative Action and

Support Measures

As of March 16th-17th, Premier Doug Ford made an announcement on an update of preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Ontario, alongside with a reassuring message stating, "We have your back, Ontario." Ford has declared this situation as a state of emergency in the province until March 31st or until further notice. The update includes closures of all publicly-funded schools for 2 weeks, following the intended March Break. Teachers began to question how they were going to continue education through the use of the internet, while students inexperienced with eLearning may struggle as well. Other closures in Ontario involve all occurring or planned park events. Many local recreational activities or extracurricular events have been cancelled due to the spread of COVID-19. Other settings such as public libraries, private schools, theatres, concert venues, and restaurants without takeout/delivery options are later included in mandatory closures.

IN A TWEET...



Doug Ford
@fordnation

If you develop **#COVID19** symptoms, use the self-assessment tool before calling Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 or contacting your primary care provider or local public health unit. In the meantime, stay home and avoid contact with others. Lives depend on it.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment>



185



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Though COVID-19 is more common and deadly in the elderly, that doesn't mean the young are immune - and they can still transmit the disease.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau then closed the Canadian border to all visitors in hopes of preventing the further spreading of COVID-19.

A recent update on March 23rd by Ford includes the closures of all non-essentials workplaces, commencing on the following day. He also announced the reduction of electricity cost to off-peak rates 24/7 for the next 6 weeks, to provide a fair environment at home to use more electricity.

Ford later announced on March 25th about Ontario's Action Plan of having \$17 billion being divided into 3 groups to support people and the economy through the COVID-19 outbreak:

- \$3.7 billion to support people and their jobs
- \$3.3 billion to support healthcare
- \$10 billion to improve cash flow through tax and other deferrals

As April approaches, more announcements related to COVID-19 concerns by Ford are yet to come.

Local Impact

A simple trip to visit a park or go to a grocery store is not as secure of what it used to be. Many areas are implementing mandatory tests or protections to create a safer entrance for visitors and employees. These protocols can be seen in grocery stores: getting access inside and the ability to purchase products requires mandatory actions such as sanitizing hands.

Ford's Message

Ford is appreciative of those who keep the province running. Examples he gave were the police, paramedics, firefighters, bus drivers, train, airline and subway operators, hydro workers, truck drivers and farmers. He believes Ontario can pull through this situation. He encourages isolating at home to protect your health, your family's health, and Ontario's health. He provided an online link to a website that entails a COVID-19 self-assessment tool to let people know whether they have the symptoms.

Additionally, he also provides the Telehealth phone number (1-866-797-0000) or suggests contacting your primary care provider or local health unit. Ford's first priority is to keep all Ontarians safe which he encourages every Ontarian to "do their part to stay apart." He believes we can beat COVID-19 as long as we all work together as a province.

How You Can Help

There are a number of things you can personally do to limit the spread of COVID-19, including...
Do:

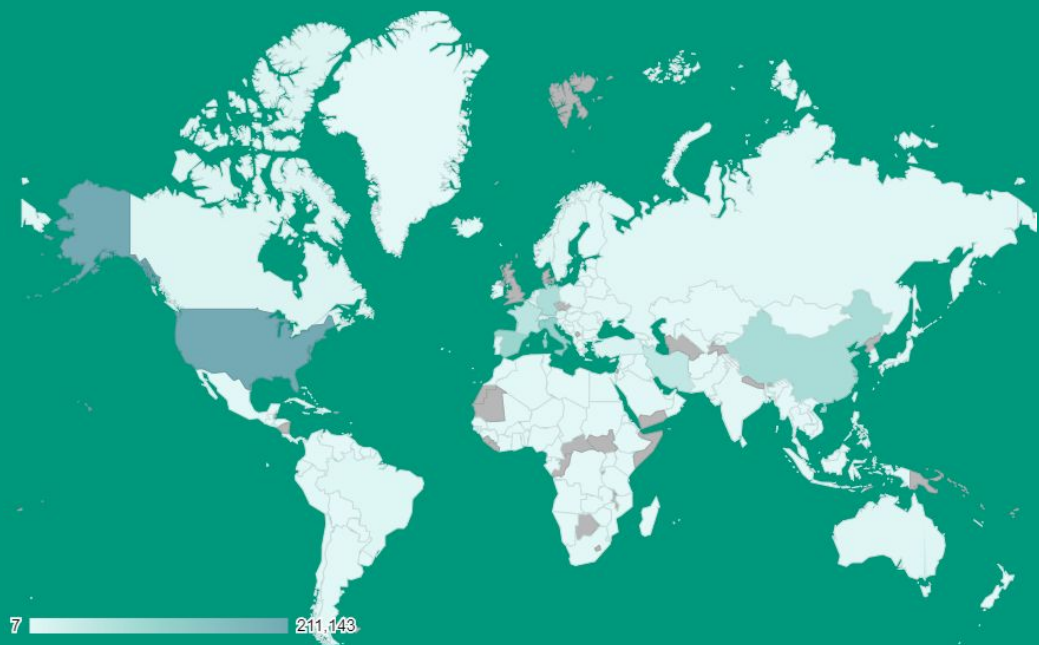
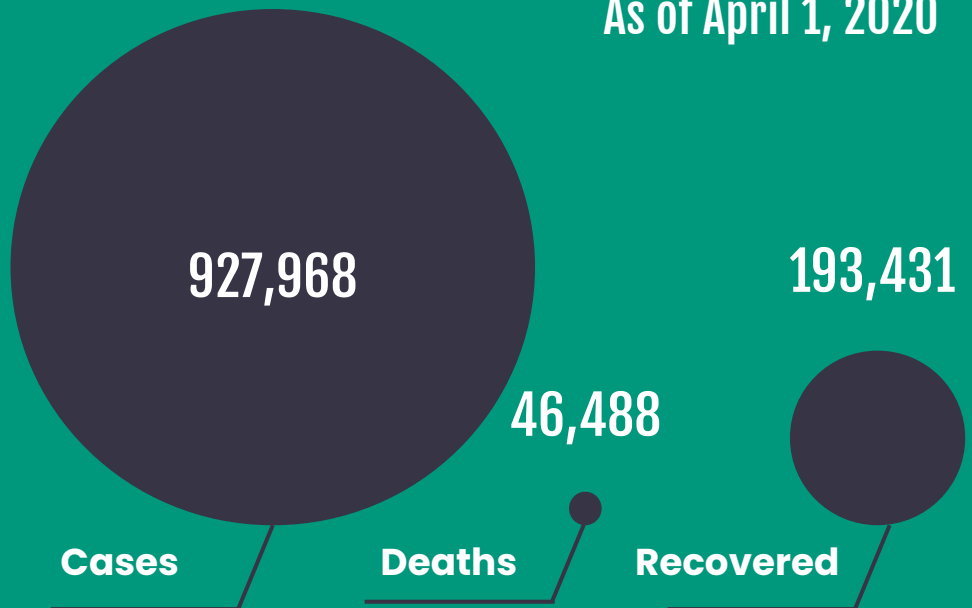
- Wash your hands using soap with warm water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizers that have at least 60% alcohol in them
- Social distancing - maintain a distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from those around you
- Self-isolate to prevent the spread of coronavirus
- Stay informed with the news
- Stockpile on resources to limit trips

Don't:

- Touch your face (specifically your eyes, nose, and mouth) if your hands are not clean
- Attend public places unless it is essential
- Use public transportation, if you can avoid it

Coronavirus Statistics

As of April 1, 2020



A map of some of the global frequencies of COVID-19 cases.
(Data from [worldometer.info](https://www.worldometer.info))

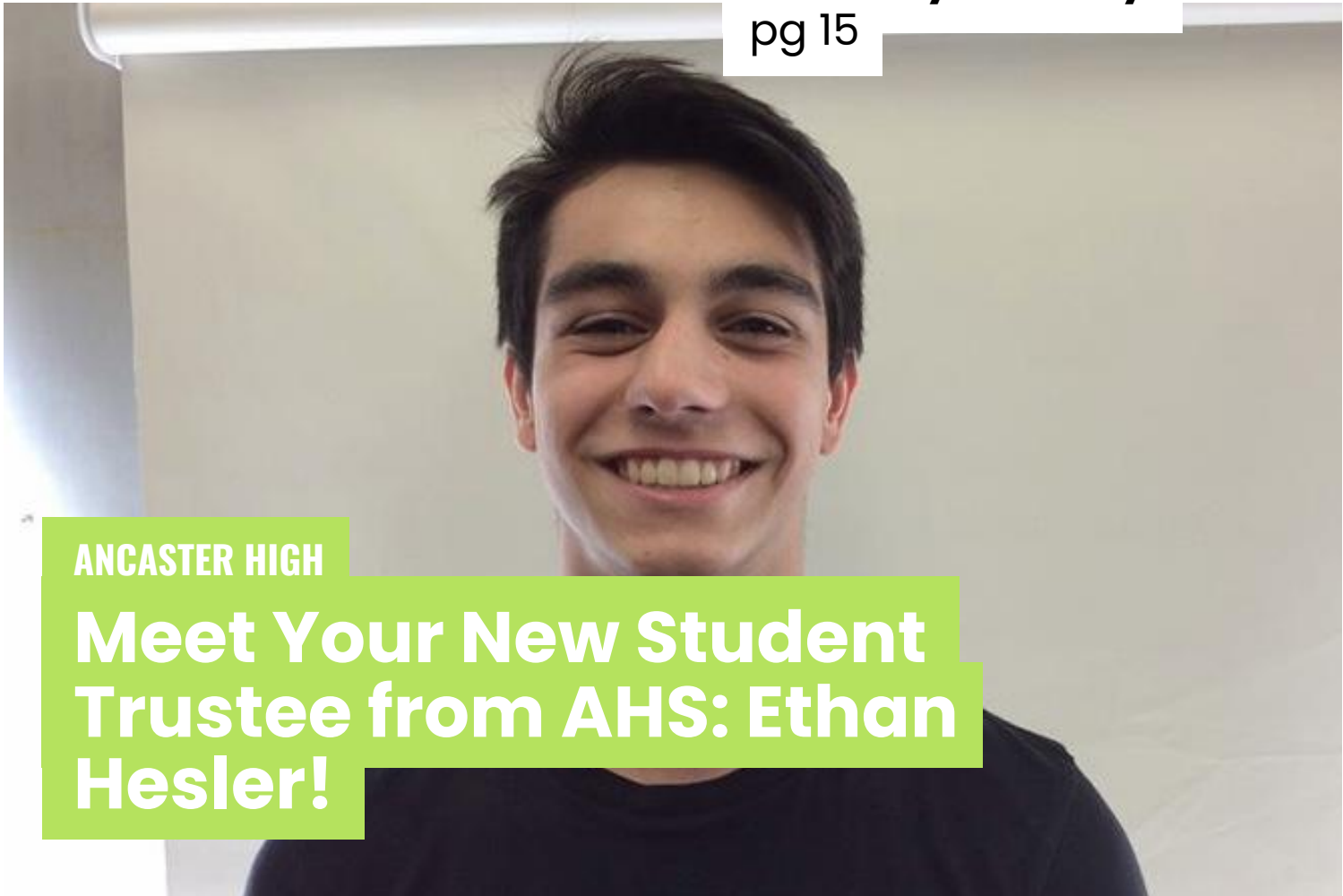
80%

of cases are mild and recoverable.

Symptoms can take up to 14 days to appear, meaning you can transmit it without even knowing you have it.

Pre-existing conditions that can exacerbate the disease:

- cardiovascular disease
- diabetes
- chronic respiratory disease
- hypertension



ANCASTER HIGH

Meet Your New Student Trustee from AHS: Ethan Hesler!



HWDSB’s newly elected student trustees for the 2020–21 school year includes one of Ancaster High’s very own. Find out what Ethan has planned and what being a student trustee encompasses.

By Ethan Hesler - Student Trustee

What is a Student Trustee?

To be a student trustee means that I will sit on the school board for my up-and-coming term starting this August. My job is to represent the thoughts, opinions and beliefs of students throughout the HWDSB and create positive connections within the Student body. Aside from attending board meetings, I also will attend the OSTA-AECO (Ontario Student Trustees Association) conference in Toronto planned for May 21-24 and a swearing-in ceremony on May 11th.

The Road to Student Trustee

Student Trustee elections took place throughout the HWDSB from February 14th - 21st and encompassed all students in the HWDSB grades

7-12. I found out I had won on March 3rd and I was overtaken by a wave of surprise. As the email notification popped up on my screen my heart raced and I opened it immediately. At first, I didn’t believe I had won, and I actually replied saying “I just wanted to double check if I’m one of the student trustees for the up and coming term”. I was elected along with Fatima Zakar and Skylar Seggie who I will work closely with for the next school year.

What I Have Planned

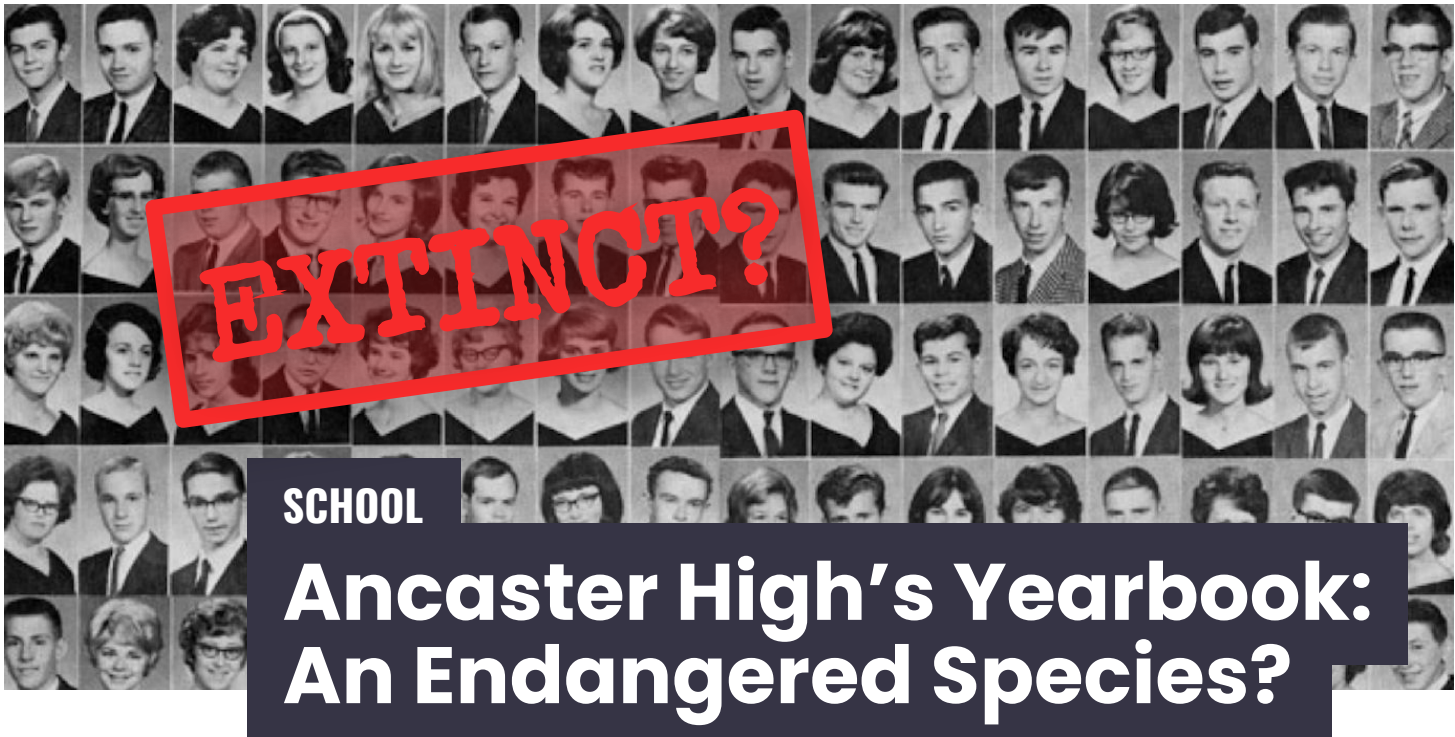
Throughout my term as student trustee, I would like to carry through on the work the current student trustees, Cameron Prosic and Ahona Mehdi as they pass the torch to us. Additionally, I would like to start a social media campaign as well as a survey for students to voice their opinion for what the HWDSB can do better. I am also l

ooking at the concept of adapting teacher training to better student needs, with lessons that would be designed by students so teachers can gage what students want to see when teaching. However, change comes slowly in any school board, so each move they make is calculated and efficient.

Words of Encouragement for Students

I would like to encourage all students of the HWDSB to stay happy and healthy during these times as I understand how being away from friends and being stuck with family can be. I also would like to ask you all to tell us how the HWDSB can do better and what being part of the HWDSB means to you.

**Congratulations to
Ethan, Fatima and
Skylar!**



A dwindling Yearbook Club means that our school yearbook may disappear sooner rather than later.

By Ashley Barry - Club Advisor

Since the early 20th century, high schools in North American culture have bound together the diverse memories and experiences of students through the art of photography in a medium known as a school yearbook. With a collection of photographs capturing student life, athletics, clubs, events, pop-culture, trends, and portraits, yearbooks are articulately put together to tell the stories of students and emulate the essence of their high school experiences. Once a yearbook is published, they are distributed to students for them to keep. Students often get their yearbook signed by their classmates and teachers so they can reminisce about their high school career and the people they shared it with for years to come.

This nostalgic feeling of remembering perhaps the most developmental period of an individual's life of discovering who you are, who and what you vibe with, and constructing a path towards your future are why students find sentimental value in yearbooks. But what if the long-standing tradition of a school yearbook stopped? What

if you were part of the graduating class at your school and you didn't have the opportunity to own a yearbook?

At Ancaster High, the yearbook is a long-standing tradition. I know my grandfather still has his Ancaster High yearbook as a graduate from the class of 1961, and I believe that many students, especially graduating students look forward to attaining the copy of a school yearbook. However, as much as students anticipate and enjoy having a yearbook, I think we can easily forget the immense amount of effort that goes into the creation and publication of a yearbook.

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Over the last couple of years, Mr. Malcolm, the teacher who runs Ancaster High's Yearbook class has found it increasingly difficult to help put together a student-led and generated yearbook. Within the Yearbook class, and the school as a whole, it has been challenging to find students who willingly want to take pictures, provide content, and put effort towards designing the pages of the yearbook. This lack of participation has recently resulted with Mr. Malcolm, Ms. Sanders, and a handful of students coming together to take photography, edit, and design all the pages of the yearbook. As it is

WANT TO HELP SAVE THE YEARBOOK?

Join Ancaster High’s Yearbook Club every Wednesday at Lunch in Computer Lab 1065!

time-consuming to plan when and where photographers can take photos of clubs and sport teams, as well as combining all of these photos to fit the design of each page, one can imagine how tedious and frustrating it would be to work with few people on this project.

As of right now, this school year’s 2019-2020 yearbook is underway and will be published and available for students to purchase, but as for next year, there is potential that there will not be a yearbook for the 2020-2021 school year. The Yearbook course is no longer being offered to next year’s Grade 11 and 12 students. It is unfortunate for students who signed up for the class who are genuinely passionate for photography and wanted to contribute their work towards the yearbook. Nonetheless, stud-

ents who are passionate about photography who want to take the Yearbook course can showcase their talents elsewhere, such as participating in the Yearbook Club.

Moving forward, I know there is talk of there being a Yearbook Club next year, as students who are passionate about photography and design can volunteer their time and commitment towards the project. Here is some further insight on the future of Ancaster High’s yearbook from Mr. Malcolm:

“To those who are deeply passionate about photography and print design: The best predictor of future dedication to creating a yearbook, is past (and current) dedication to creating a yearbook. We have a Yearbook Club who meet and make the yearbook every Wednesday at

lunch in Computer Lab 1065. The Yearbook Club has one (incredible) student member, but it is always open to more!”

If there is a Yearbook Club next year, it will require student leadership and commitment. Members of a yearbook club would also have to know, or figure out how to incorporate the elements of design and the content that goes into a yearbook, which could be challenging if there aren’t any members in the club who have previous experience with designing a yearbook.

All in all, I hope that the tradition of Ancaster High’s yearbook can continue. Yearbooks as we know, are an important component of high school culture and are quite frankly, one of the few things at Ancaster High that scream movie, stereotypical-like high school experience. They are very valuable and are a fun keepsake for students to have and I hope students can recognize this and keep the tradition going for future years to come.



NEWS//FLASH



Ancaster High School celebrates its yearly Pi day events.

By Brooke Vesentin - Writer

Pi day is a worldwide celebrated holiday based entirely around the digit pi (a symbol used to represent a constant / the ratio of the circumference of a circle). Pi day falls on March 14th, 3/14 (which are the first three digits of pi). This holiday holds a very special place in many math enthusiasts’ hearts, and allows for people to indulge in fun, pi related activities. One of these activities often includes indulging in some delicious pie as well. This year, Ancaster High

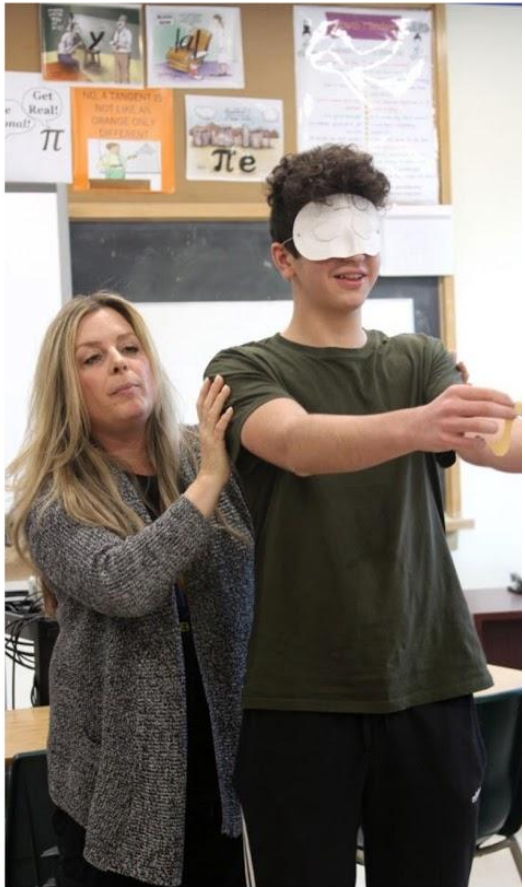
put on our yearly pi day celebrations. Many students tried their hand at some super fun pi related activities including reciting as many digits of pi as they could, (since it is an infinite number, this was one of the trickier contests held), and the winner was Jocelyn Mattka. Reciting a long and complicated number may not be everyone’s strong suit, so students could instead show off their inner “sweet tooth” at a pie eating contest because what’s a celebr-

ation without delicious pies?! Other activities that students participated in were pin the pi on the pie, a scavenger hunt won by Rabia Ikram, Javeria Imran and Simran Matharu, and a triathlon! Not only were there pi day celebrations held at lunch, but some of the math classes celebrated the day with their own pi day parties and festivities. Overall, it was yet another extremely fun and successful pi day here at Ancaster High and I know we all can’t wait to see what next year’s pi day has in store!



Pi Day Photos

By Jenna Scott - Photographer



POP CULTURE

Pandemics in the Age of Celebrity Scrutiny



Left: Gal Gadot sings *Imagine* in a video attempt to lift hopes during the pandemic. (Gal Gadot/Twitter)



After an attempt to inspire the masses goes awry, celebrities are criticized for their tone-deaf approach to the pandemic.

“

This is less about these celebs themselves, but about the **lack of infrastructure and response by our government to keep people safe.**

— Vogue Editor Gabe Bergado

By Vita Rao - Writer

The coronavirus outbreak has seen many tragedies, from the losses of loved ones and celebrities to insensitivity from the world's richest. The virus has impacted many notable figures such as; Boris Johnson, Tom Hanks, Prince Charles, Harvey Weinstein, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, etc; the virus shows no remorse and prejudice. With the increasing number of cases amongst celebrities and other civilians, the importance of proper precautions has become greater. It is vital that everyone practices social-distancing, as it is becoming apparent that nobody is safe from the virus.

With the pandemic reaching greater heights, many are taking to social media to air their concerns; celebrities included. From donations to videos documenting their experience in self-isolation, many have been attempting to use their platform to spread information. However, some have been faced with backlash as a result of their inability to fully relate to the public. For instance, on March 18th, Gal Gadot — along with several other notable

figures, posted a rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine". The video received intense backlash from the public and other notable figures, like Joe Rogan. The concept of people with such privilege who can easily access test kits and resources complaining — is frustrating. Especially considering the economic conditions of many countries, with unemployment rates increasing people are worried about financial security. The pandemic seems to be highlighting the dissimilarity between celebrities and the regular working population, showing how out of touch these notable figures really are.

Furthermore, the song choice had many people angry as well, as it contained lyrics like "Imagine there's no heaven," a poor word choice for the current crisis. In addition, many have been facing backlash for diminishing the importance of social distancing and self-isolation. From Vanessa Hudgens to Evangeline Lilly, it seems as though their ignorance is at its greatest.

However, some celebrities

have been attempting to rectify the issue and provide relief for those in self-isolation. Many have donated and urged fans to donate as well, providing links to various charitable organizations. Others have released statements regarding the virus, urging fans to practice social distancing and self-isolation. Some have held live concerts online, meant to relieve people of their boredom. The likes of Jimmy Kimmel and Jimmy Fallon have begun doing interviews and monologues from their homes, releasing them on YouTube. In fact, on March 30th, James Corden hosted an hour-long special with musical guests — including BTS and Billie Eilish — along with a few other celebrities.

In a time of great hardship, it is important that we focus on remedying the problem by using the proper methods. It is vital that the people in power utilize their influence positively and emphasize the importance of social distancing and self-isolation. The illusion of powerful people being equal to regular civilians must not interfere with the importance of health and safety.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES ♈

March 21 - April 19

It's Aries Season! Happy Birthday to all of our Royal Aries. Being a fire sign, you are confident and determined individuals. This month especially, these traits will be of great importance. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 55

CANCER ♋

June 21 - July 22

Cancers know that practice makes perfect, and with this newfound free time, you have been channeling your energy into your hobbies and interests. Watch your skills improve! Lucky numbers: 11, 36, 92

LIBRA ♎

September 23 - October 22

This month, Libra, you'll find that you have a boost of energy and the time to work on all of the things you've put off doing. Ensure that you utilize this time effectively, don't waste it! Lucky numbers: 9, 10, 55

CAPRICORN ♑

December 22 - January 19

This month, Capricorn, there will be an opportunity to strengthen the important relationships in your life. Use it! It's easy to get too caught in social-distancing, facetime your friends and hang out with your family. Lucky numbers: 21, 43, 76

TAURUS ♉

April 20 - May 20

Although quarantine is difficult, you are making the most of it, Taurus. This month, you will discover a new hobby which will take up most of your time. Have fun! Lucky numbers: 5, 17, 20

LEO ♌

July 23 - August 22

It may be tempting to forget about school, however, make sure you stay up-to-date and complete any outstanding work, Leos! This is a good opportunity to evaluate your work ethic. Lucky numbers: 33, 70, 86

SCORPIO ♏

October 23 - November 21

With the virus going around right now, your daily routine has taken a shift. Don't fret about these changes, embrace them to find success. Self-care! Lucky numbers: 13, 16, 84

AQUARIUS ♒

January 20 - February 18

For the creatively-inclined Aquariuses out there, this will be your month to shine. Additionally, spring cleaning will result in the discovery of something strange. Maybe a funny hat! Or a rat. Not sure. Lucky numbers: 8, 9, 100

♊ GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Geminis are very social, so social-distancing may be a struggle. To cope with this, take the time to Facetime your friends. Get creative and try Netflix Party and play iMessage games with your gang! Lucky numbers: 6, 8, 48

♍ VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

As an Earth sign Virgos are grounded and consistent. This will serve you well in the near future. This month, in particular, pay close attention to your lucky numbers... Lucky numbers: 25, 41, 58

♐ SAGITTARIUS

November 22 - December 21

Quarantine has been difficult for you, Sagittarius. Your adventurous personality has made being cooped up inside hard to bear, but rediscovering abandoned hobbies may help! Lucky numbers: 1, 67, 92

♓ PISCES

February 19 - March 20

Pisces, you're known for being sympathetic. This month, trying to help the wrong person will land you in trouble. Though kindness is important, make sure you watch out for yourself as well. Lucky numbers: 17, 23, 71

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