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ENG 100

### Reopening the state- Right or Wrong?

How often do you go out during this COVID-19 pandemic and see excessive amounts of people at stores? People shopping without any protective mask on? Not following the 6 feet of physical distance rule? From the perspective of an essential employee, too many people. This infectious disease has taken a toll on the entire globe, the death toll skyrocketing up to the thousands in just the USA alone. Although the danger of COVID-19 has been repeatedly mentioned and talked about everywhere, our lives indefinitely are in danger. For the health and protection of ourselves, our friends, and our family, Pennsylvania should not be reopened back to society on May 8th.

Like others, in the beginning I did not entirely understand the importance of what was going on. However, after getting sick multiple times a month (more than I did in an entire year) and seeing the coronavirus cases go up, I started to understand. These stay-at-home orders are what is protecting us, these summer months are preparing us for what is going to happen in the winter months. According to Lena Sun from *The Washington Post*, “During the 2009 H1N1 swine flu pandemic, the United States experienced the first wave of cases in the spring, followed by a second, larger wave in the fall and winter, during flu season.” This is one of the exact

reasons why we should not be reopening this early. If it is this bad now, imagine what will happen in the winter, when both the flu epidemic and coronavirus epidemic is going on. To bluntly sum it up: it will be absolutely overwhelming and devastating. All experts are reiterating how staying home and not being in public is what will prevent us from getting that bad in the future.

Retaliating back, you might say, “But I don’t care about my own wellbeing!” “I’m not scared to get this virus!” Yes, but what about the wellbeing of others? One of my closest friends is recovering from having a rare blood disorder during the pandemic. Since treatment, she has been immunocompromised due to medications, chemotherapy, and a bone marrow transplant. Meaning, her immune system has been weakened and is not working at full capacity, putting her at risk even more to infections and diseases like this coronavirus. Although you may not care for protecting yourself against this virus, it is time to think about the other people you may be affecting. If there is any time to be selfless, now is the time. People in the at risk category live their life in fear on a day-to-day basis, and we should be able to hold ourselves accountable to try and lower their risk of getting any infection or disease during this pandemic.

As stated above, not only is it unsafe to reopen Pennsylvania right now, Americans do not seem to want to reopen. Countless professional polls and percentages have been conducted to poll American residents on their thoughts of reopening the country. Almost every result goes against reopening America, including this poll from *Forbes*: “Four out of five Americans are willing to wait for normal life to resume in order to stop the spread of the coronavirus,” and this poll from *The Atlantic*: “Nine in 10 Americans don’t think sporting events should have crowds without more testing; 85 percent would keep schools closed, and 80 percent would keep dine-in

restaurants shut.” If this pandemic keeps going on, it would become even more necessary than it is right now to enforce social distancing so the amount of positive cases of COVID-19 reduces. High level organizations such as the *Center for Disease Control and Prevention* recommend social distancing, saying how “limiting face-to-face contact with others and performing social distancing is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19.” If most Americans are okay with keeping the country closed and keeping it safe, we should acknowledge that and not open the United States, which would ultimately worsen the response to the virus and put people at even more risk.

Additionally, There are many other ways to keep the virus at bay besides social distancing. Social distancing is incredibly important, but if you do need to get your essential items at the store, there are state provided rules to help keep yourself and others safe, such as keeping distance as much as possible. As stated by *Heathline*, “Researchers say 25 percent to 50 percent of people with COVID-19 are unaware they have the virus.” To clarify, someone may look physically completely healthy in your eyes, but you cannot know that for sure. Since this virus can be passed on asymptotically, in order to keep yourself, family members, and friends safe from getting the coronavirus, you need to make sure you are 6 feet away at all times. Not only that, but you should always remember to be wearing a facemask and gloves. COVID-19 is spread through person to person through bodily fluids and stays on surfaces for a long time. For example, being near someone who is coughing, sneezing, or even droplets from when they speak could expose you to the virus. Breathing those droplets in or getting those germs in your body will make you even more susceptible to getting sick or even becoming an asymptomatic carrier.

Which reiterates the importance of a facemask and gloves, since your chances go down significantly if you are protecting yourself adequately.

Overall, there is too much danger for us to be reopening Pennsylvania right now. There are too many cases, too many people going outside, and little to no preparation for the future. Governor Wolf reopening Pennsylvania would not be the right thing to do during this pandemic. Pennsylvanians need to think about older people, people with pre-existing medical conditions, and others in the high-risk category that are more at risk to get this. Pennsylvanians need to think of essential workers, healthcare workers, law enforcement, first responders, food workers and more that are on the frontline of this pandemic. They are the real heroes by making sure everyone is fed, safe, and protected. It is our duty and our responsibility to help and try and protect them before there are even more death tolls during this. All in all, for the reasons stated above it is crucial for the health and wellbeing of others that Pennsylvania does not reopen.

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