

University of the Incarnate Word

The Athenaeum

In Sickness and in Health in South Texas: Narratives of COVID's Impact

11-14-2022

COVID Impact and the Rise of Antisemitism

Allison Lieber

lieber@student.uiwtx.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://athenaeum.uiw.edu/sickness_health_narratives

Recommended Citation

Lieber, Allison, "COVID Impact and the Rise of Antisemitism" (2022). *In Sickness and in Health in South Texas: Narratives of COVID's Impact*. 13.

https://athenaeum.uiw.edu/sickness_health_narratives/13

This Narrative is brought to you for free and open access by The Athenaeum. It has been accepted for inclusion in In Sickness and in Health in South Texas: Narratives of COVID's Impact by an authorized administrator of The Athenaeum. For more information, please contact athenaeum@uiwtx.edu.

The area that affected me the most is likely emotionally. I was surrounded by family, my friends all moved digital, school was online. None of that proved challenging. For me, the biggest issues came at the despair and rage I felt when seeing other people. The botched government response. The misinformation and lying. The attempts to explain to grown adults that they should care for other people. There was a distinct lack of human empathy. People finally got to see how atrocious our predatory "healthcare" system truly is when it was overwhelmed. When major corporations reported record profits while nurses and essential workers struggled to eat. Then there's the rise in anti semitism. There are conspiracy theories that Jews and Israel created covid. The rise of anti semitism has ruined my emotional health because I don't feel safe. I don't feel safe admitting I am Jewish in this country, but especially in this state. I don't feel safe to attend synagogue. Covid showed how selfish or selfless a person is. It showed if someone lacks or contains empathy. It showed who will listen to science and who will fall back onto hate. And seeing all of this has distanced me emotionally and socially from many people. Because I cannot connect deeply with someone who wants me dead for existing. And yet I still want to help people. Otherwise I wouldn't be here. But I cannot say that my wellness hasn't been impacted. Because it has been by people who lack basic empathy and refuse to listen to science.