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## A little over a year in the pandemic and the Coronavirus is still Impacting American life.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Tallahassee community is still facing hardship through this coronavirus pandemic a whole year later. Students are pushing through classes and still trying to find some normalcy while being COVID safe.

In a few weeks the one-year anniversary of the pandemic will be coming up. This virus has not only taken lives but also taken jobs. No one knew what the outcome would be and how long this virus would be disrupting our country.

The cases have been skyrocketing in the United States and some of that has to do with government mandates. In some states masks are not required and that is where the COVID hot spots are.

Bryanna Vizcanio, 19, who is a casino worker, said that the government should have handled the virus differently.

“I wish President Trump would have taken the virus a little more serious,” Vizcanio said. “Now here we are a year later and the cases are still rising.”

While the cases are rising it is hard to experience a normal college life. Tallahassee students are getting exposed to an altered reality of college due to this pandemic.

Rae’gan Burton, 20, who is a biological systems engineering student, said that the virus has affected her academically.

“COVID has been an up and down battle for me,” Burton said. “Having class virtually is something I am still getting used to.”

This pandemic has also taken a toll on families and adventure seekers. Not all families have the convenience of living in the same states as their loved ones and leisure traveling has been looked down upon.

Bobbilee Rhodes, 58, who is an accountant, said she wishes she could still travel like she used to.

“Traveling was my favorite thing to do before the pandemic,” Rhodes said. “Now I have to sit at home and social distance.”

Although there is a lot of negative news getting pushed out in the media there has been some positive occurrences during this year in the pandemic. 2020 was a difficult year for everyone but there can always a bright side to optimistic people.

Artice Holland, 22, who is a DJ, said the pandemic has created financial opportunities for him.

“This pandemic has actually opened a lot of doors for me,” Holland said.” I look at this pandemic as a blessing in disguise I guess.”

Holland is not the only one that had looked at this pandemic in the eyes of a half glass full point of view. This pandemic has made Americans grateful for what they have and cherish every second of life with their families because you never know when your last day is.

Morgan Pinnock, 22, who is a physical therapy student, said that COVID has made her realize how blessed she is.

“Before the pandemic I did not cherish family like I do now,” Pinnock said. “Now I realize the importance of family and to appreciate the little things in life.”

The country is still trying to progress and Americans are seeing better efforts in 2021 to get this virus under control. Currently there are three vaccines for the virus and slowly but surely they are becoming available to everyone. Please contact your local pharmacy for more information on the COVID-19 vaccination.