



**virus**

This work is an archival project which seeks to position current experiences of the pandemic into the context of wider representations of pandemics both historically and internationally. Some of the images are taken by me and others are sourced from images I found online.

\*Cover photo: Photo by Kuma Kum on Unsplash.



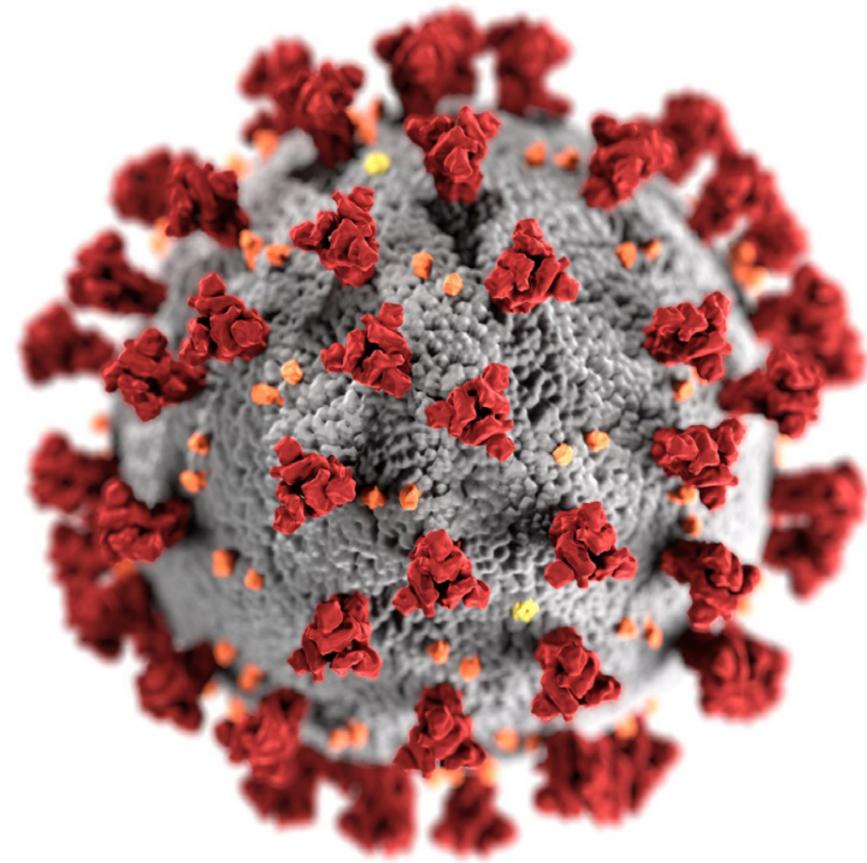
Prehistoric epidemic

China

3000 BC

Number of fatalities: The entire village

\*Photo by Trollinho on Unsplash.



30th of January 2020  
WHO declares a global health emergency amid  
thousands of new cases in China.

\*Photo by CDC on Unsplash.

Plague of Athens

Athens

430 BC

Number of fatalities: 100 Thousand



Michael Sweerts ' Plague in an Ancient City'  
(1652-1654).



If you have Coronavirus symptoms, or been told you have coronavirus after having a test you must stay at home and away from other people.

Antonine Plague

Roman Empire

165-180 AD

Number of fatalities: 5 Million



Nicolas Poussin 'The plague of Ashdod' (1630).



During the national lockdown, a maximum of 30 people could attend a funeral.

\*Photo by Gabriella Clare Marino on Unsplash.

Plague of Cyprian

Roman Empire

250-271 AD

Number of fatalities: 5 Thousand a day



Jules-Élie Delaunay 'Plague in Rome' (1869).



Family members have missed out on the opportunity to provide comfort to the dying patient, to sit by them at their bedside and to say goodbye.

\*Photo by Vladimir Fedotov on Unsplash.

Plague of Justinian

Byzantine Empire

541-542 AD

Number of fatalities:10% of the population



Pierart dou Tielt ' The burial of the victims of the plague in Tournai' (1353).



\*Photo by Anna Shvets on Pexels.

The sustained disruption the pandemic caused throughout 2020 has left a deep rift in cancer care, with 40,000 fewer patients starting cancer treatment across the UK last year.

## The Black Death

Asia-Europe

1346-1353

Number of fatalities: Around 50 Million



Boccaccio 'The plague of Florence'  
(1348).



Supermarkets say they have a shortage of basic items because shoppers are stockpiling as fears grow over the spread of Coronavirus.

\*Photo by Nathan Van de Graaf on Unsplash.



Cocoliztli epidemic

Mexico-Central America

1545-1548

Number of fatalities: 15 Million

\*Artwork by unknown 16th-century copyist.



\*Photo by Mick Haupt on Unsplash.

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the results.

Great Plague of London

Great Britain

1665-1666

Number of fatalities: 100 Thousand



THE BURNING OF LUDGATE.

\*Credits to British Library on PICRYL  
'St. Dunstan's Clock, a story of 1666'  
(1893).



Grandparents can only see their grandchildren under certain conditions such as if they are part of their household, support bubble or if they are helping with childcare under the childcare bubble eligibility rules.

Great Plague of Marseille

France

1720-1723

Number of fatalities: 100 Thousand



Michel Serre 'Vue du Cours pendant la peste de 1720' (1721).



University students have not been treated fairly during Covid.



Russian Plague

Russia

1770-1772

Number of fatalities: 100 Thousand

Charles Michel Geoffrey 'The murder of Archbishop Ambrosius' (1845).



In the face of rising demand, medical leaders have said that some hospitals are having to ration oxygen, staff are being asked to work extra shifts and patients are being treated in the back of ambulances because hospitals have no space.

\*Photo by Ian Taylor on Unsplash.

Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic

Philadelphia

1793

Number of fatalities: 5 Thousand



William Birch 'Arch Street, with the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia' (1799).



You might not feel ill. You might have a fever and a cough and unshakable fatigue for five days or 10. Or you might end up in a hospital, gasping for air. And you might not make it through COVID-19 alive.

\*Photo by Bermix Studio on Unsplash.



Flu pandemic

Worldwide

1889-1890

Number of fatalities: 1 Million

\*Artwork credits to Le Petit Parisien (1890).



You should stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre while wearing a face covering.



American Polio epidemic

United States

1916

Number of fatalities: 6 Thousand

\*Photo credits to U.S National Archive.



London hospitals are admitting 800 Covid patients every day.

\*Photo by Levi Meir Clancy on Unsplash.

Spanish Flu

Worldwide

1918-1920

Number of fatalities: 50 Million



\* Photo credits to AP Photo/National Museum of Health on U.S National Archive.



Face masks should cover both nose and mouth.

Asian Flu

Worldwide

1957-1958

Number of fatalities: 1 Million



\*Photo by Roe Shpernik / CC BY-SA 4.0 on Wikimedia Commons.



Pfizer. Moderna. AstraZeneca.

\*Photo by Nathan Steven Cornfield on Unsplash.

AIDS pandemic

Worldwide

1981-present

Number of fatalities: 35 Million



\*Photo by Anna Shvets on Pexels.



Loss, isolation, no income and fear are triggering mental health conditions or making existing ones worse. Many people may be facing increased levels of alcohol consumption and drug use, insomnia, and anxiety.



\*Photo by David Hume Kennerly on The U.S. National Archives.

H1N1 Swine Flu pandemic

Worldwide

2009-2010

Number of fatalities: 500 Thousand



Face masks are largely intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the spread of infection. They are meant to cover the nose and mouth.



\*Photo by Ethleen Lloyd, USDCDP on Pixnio.

West African Ebola epidemic

Worldwide

2014-2016

Number of fatalities: 11 Thousand



Covid: £5000 fine for people going on holiday abroad.



Coronavirus

Worldwide

2020-present

Number of fatalities: 2.79 Million

26 Nov 2020 — 'I don't want those people to die, and nobody wants them to die but it is the process of life. And s\*\*\* happens,' controversial YouTube star ...

[inews.co.uk](#) › [news](#) › [technology](#) › [jake-paul-youtuber-...](#) ▼

### [Jake Paul: YouTuber dismisses Covid-19 as a hoax and calls ...](#)

26 Nov 2020 — YouTube **Jake Paul** has falsely claimed the **coronavirus** is a hoax and has railed against lockdown measures across the US.

[www.thesun.co.uk](#) › [news](#) › [jake-paul-caught-calling-covi...](#)

### [YouTuber Jake Paul caught on audio calling Covid a 'hoax ...](#)

28 Nov 2020 — YOUTUBER **Jake Paul**, who denied claims that he called **Covid-19** a hoax, was caught in an audio recording calling the virus exactly that.

[www.thedailybeast.com](#) › [youtuber-jake-paul-believes-...](#) ▼

### [YouTuber Jake Paul Believes COVID Is 'a Hoax' and '98% of ...](#)

25 Nov 2020 — The popular YouTuber turned boxer spoke with Marlow Stern about his upcoming fight, his **coronavirus** house parties, creating “content” during ...

[www.youtube.com](#) › [watch](#)

### [Jake Paul Says COVID-19 Is Real After Calling it a ... - YouTube](#)

1 Dec 2020 — **Jake Paul** reportedly threw a victory party after a recent boxing match despite

Young adults cannot seem to stop partying during the pandemic.

\* Google search.

It has been a year of self-healing.  
-Paula,2020

I have learnt to overcome new difficult situations  
-Yongshi,2020

It's my first year living alone, and I miss my family  
-Kleodora,2020

I have been teaching myself self-love.  
-Azize,2020

I have been staying home for days at the time, which isn't healthy  
-Zara,2020

All this has affected my mental health. I have felt alone and I have had money troubles  
-Sabana,2020

I wish I could take back the time Corona took away.  
-Giulia,2020

I came out publicly as non-binary and bisexual.  
-Andie,2020

I learnt how to accept being alone.  
-Veronica,2020

These uncertain times have made wedding planning stressful.  
-Cameron,2021

I'm stuck between wanting to stay in Colombia and returning to England.  
-Laura,2021

I feel like I have all the time in the world and also no time at all.  
-Danielle,2021

I haven't seen my big sister in almost a year.  
-Charlie,2021

I'm taking time each day for my mental health, by exercising or doing something for myself.  
-Emily, 2021

I have struggled to open up about my mental health to my family and friends.  
-Roberta,2021

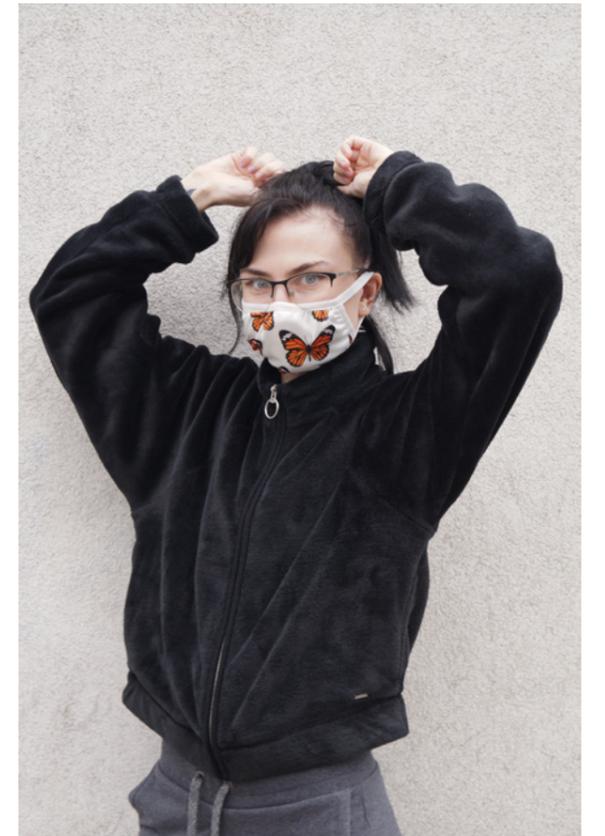
This new routine makes my life feel like the one of a robot, I end up doing the same thing over and over again.  
-Stefano,2021

I haven't been able to enjoy university due to all the restrictions.  
-Pablo,2021

I want to be able to go out without worrying about getting ill.  
-Joey,2021

I miss hugging my family.  
-Diana,2021

My relationship has become long distance, because of all the restrictions.  
-James,2021







Virus, Roberta Todaro  
roberta.todaro99@libero.it  
<https://www.robertatodarophotography.com>  
September 2020-April 2021  
\*Images taken from open-sourced material online

