

TRANSITIONS

ADJUSTING TO A PANDEMIC LIFESTYLE

This Pandemic has impacted everyone's lifestyle. Our conversations are often centered on the core issue. This is one illness that money cannot cure. For those in high-risk demographics of age or health, the objective is to simply stay alive through the Pandemic.

Politicians should use their platforms to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit and ingenuity of Americans to solve solutions on multiple issues. These challenges include creating therapeutic solutions for disease treatment; comfortable and effective PPE's; reliable vaccines; and testing processes that are both quick and accurate. Pulling our country together to resolve these issues would reduce the polarizing tensions currently dividing America amongst socioeconomic statuses as we unite towards a common goal. Once we discover these new innovations, there would be ongoing employment to roll out solutions worldwide. This approach would vastly improve our international relations and reduce tensions abroad. This rather simple, practical approach would get us past this dangerous, frozen phase of this Pandemic within a year.

On a more personal level, at our core, we are social beings. Yet during this Pandemic, self-isolation seems to be the prudent norm. We are missing the social interaction and enrichment from things we are accustomed to doing. Remember how we never gave a thought to visiting friends or family? Or went out shopping for food or consumer goods? Or fulfilled travel plans to wonderful places using airlines and hotels? Or were patrons to the arts? Or volunteered to support our community? Or attended faith-based services through our religious affiliation? The absence of all these things, which we have saved for and looked forward to, seems to have created a sense of hollowness along with a lack of fulfillment for this year.



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The collective impact of our actions has far reaching economic consequences. Restaurants struggle with limited dining. There are no public arenas to congregate to enjoy events like sports, theater, and music. This means accomplished artists and athletes alike not only have no work but have lost the ability to excel and advance in their trade. Also, the hospitality staff working in restaurants, airlines, and hotels also are bearing the brunt of this Pandemic. There is a downstream effect, for the vendors who support all their activities are also harmed. People without jobs are unable to pay rent, which now is impacting the real estate sector. We see this economic impact in the low price of oil, which has been signaling a decline in economic activity. Of all the people who have been adversely impacted, the worst part is that they did nothing to deserve this. This Pandemic simply shut down large sectors of our economy.

Age has something to do with our perspective. Yet in this instance age is not a chronological count but rather a state of mind. Some youth act as old, while some elders live a youthful life. The lens of time provides the perspective and understanding of the ramifications of this Pandemic. Although one could conclude wisdom is only in the eyes of the elders, the way wisdom is earned is through experience. Our youth are gaining experience right now. Not knowing any other way, they have entered 2020 full of energy and optimism. With this lens, I am optimistic they will be the ones coming up with solutions to reset our economy. Young and old, rich and poor, together we will get through this once in a lifetime moment.



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