

## Covid-19 around the Globe

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As the virus spread across the United States in the beginning of the year I reached out to my friends across the globe, asking them what their countries were doing to combat the pandemic. A friend in Shanghai, China told me that the people of China were afraid of their government due to the strict safety regulations that affected everyone's day to day life. I found it perplexing when contrasting these behaviors with the United States where so many disobeyed stay at home orders, refused to wear masks and intentionally put themselves and others in harm's way.

A friend in Lyon, France explained to me that he could only be out of the house for one hour per day to buy groceries. He was stopped on a jog in the french countryside, police stopped him and warned him that if he were stopped again he would be fined, and if caught a third time there was the threat of jail time. In Paris, France, an acquaintance said that policies in the capital were much stricter and that now she feared going outside.

In Germany it seemed much the same as France, strict regulations and the people were actually complying with the regulations. In Amsterdam, it was more relaxed as is the nature of Amsterdam. Friends and families still gathered in the parks and took boats on the canals as if things were normal.

A friend in Cairo, Egypt, revealed that people were angry, hungry and in dire need of jobs. In Mexico City, a good friend told me that the poor and uneducated still gathered together, because they did not have access to the news and their economic status did not allow them the privilege to quarantine.

I found it fascinating to speak with those around the world about their countries' actions since the beginning of this pandemic. The common question that was brought up in all of these conversations was the fact that the United States was doing so poorly. I am not here to criticize or condemn, but to be told that the United States is the greatest country in the world over and over, yet for us to be falling behind - allowing nearly 100,000 of our own people to die. It seems that we can no longer hold the title of the greatest country on earth.