

## The Unintended Consequences of Isolation During COVID-19

Optimism abounds as I look to the future, for the world has always been able to crawl out of any pandemic...time is the only question as to when that recovery will happen. However, I feel tremendous sadness for those who have been affected personally by COVID-19, and my prayers go out each morning for those it has affected.

With the sadness, these bizarre times have sparked moments of humor as I look at my notes from isolation and what has been noticed. Please email me your experiences as well.

### Work Related

- **Enhanced Technology Skills** - Even the older generation has adapted to using technology as they never thought they would. I am so glad to have bought Zoom (NASDAQ: ZM) at \$110/share in early March as the entire world went online to use video conferencing for work, education (college platform) and even happy hours (See Stanley Tucci's viral video on making cocktails). Necessity even pushed my in-laws who are in their mid-80's to learn Instacart to get groceries. "Necessity is the mother of invention" - or stubborn adaptation to modern times.



- **Longing for the Office (not the same as work)** - I truly believe that we could become a stay-at-home culture and capable of productivity from afar. What I've seen is the necessity of invention that comes from collaboration at work with like-minded peers who can solve problems overnight. Can you do this on a Zoom call and do the same? - maybe. But I think mankind is a social creature that longs to come together, face to face, to build a wall, a new drug or to solve mathematical problems worthy of changing the world. Don't throw out office space for working at home just yet.

- **Toilet Paper** - if we are a working population and 40 hours a week are at work, and now you can't go to work...your "business" will double at home. I see plenty of toilet paper at the office and understand the panic at the grocery store because residential use that has now doubled.
- **Courthouse Shutdown** - there are so many things we don't think about in a shutdown. We were closing a loan, and Cobb County shut down the day afterwards. The loan can't be recorded. If it's not recorded, can a loan be funded? What if the court doesn't open for a month, and our construction project is underway? We need sign offs by inspectors from the City of Atlanta, so our construction workers can be released from plumbing work move on to electrical work.

### At Home

- **Ugly Realities of Aging** - what does your really spouse look like without the hidden luxuries of the barber or modern-day beauty parlor? Enough said!! In Georgia, the governor opened fitness centers and hair salons early. Do you think the first lady of Georgia might have been pushing that agenda?
- **Binge Watching and Other Bad Habits**- in isolation, the temptation for over eating, drinking and general sloth-like behaviors increases dramatically. What I have noticed are extremely poor habits that occur when our habitual patterns of each day are disrupted. Liquor sales are up by 25% in some estimates. Netflix stock is up 10% since April 1.
- **Walkers** - it is so good to see my neighbors walking the street, and I do mean the street. They like to space out for social distancing and I have had to stop my car as people will span the stretch of the street, walking in the same direction, six feet part. Sidewalks were meant to create a sense of community, and they are missing from so many places. Sidewalks create friendly interaction, reduce crime because everyone is out on the watch and gives those walking a strong sense of place, as they take the time to see the flowers they smell.
- **Realities of Work Clothes** - have you truly been isolating at home? Then you don't wear your work clothes, do you? Go try them on...they don't fit as well as your sweats with the elastic string. Yes, fitness centers will be busy when things reopen, and many of us will be looking to buy larger clothes.

### Overall

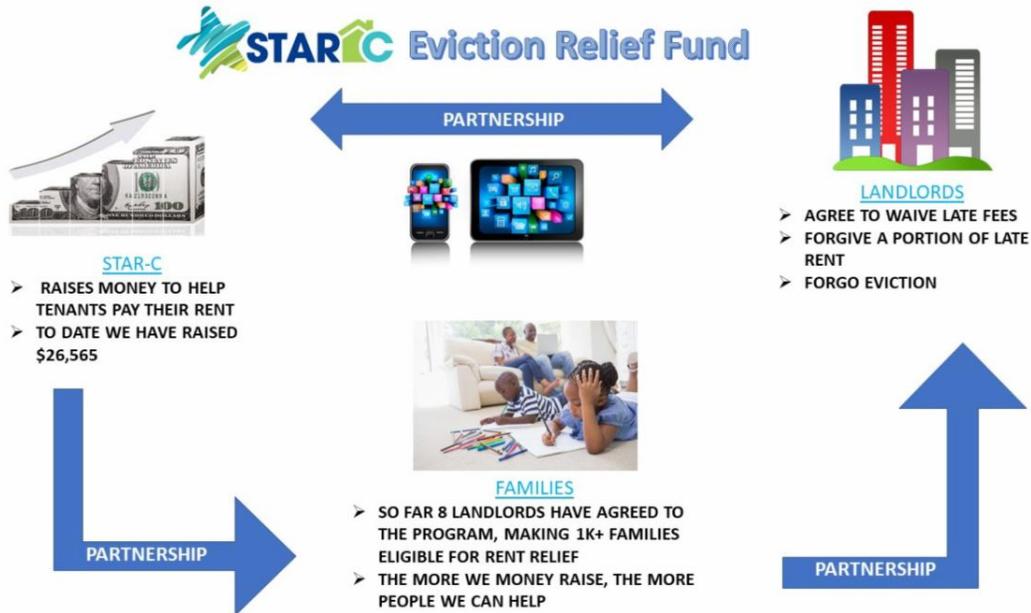
- **Solidarity** - I have found that people want to help other people in times of need. A crisis will always bring out mankind's true heart. I have witnessed acts of kindness, donation of time and food, as well as genuine care from those on the front line. These are usually experienced in rare times of war or attack, as we saw after 9/11.
- **Community** - this may go hand in hand with #1. I enjoyed seeing the video clips of those in an Italian village who came out each evening on their balconies at night to sing or play music in a spirit of community.
- **Crime** - domestic abuse is up. If you are hunkered down with your family with nowhere to escape, tensions get high. This is a sad but often true event at every level of society. China reported a jump in divorce filings by 25% since their pandemic.

- **Nine Months From Now** - read the church bulletins toward the end of the year. Nothing to do, with may be limited access to the pharmacy will create changes. I wonder how that will affect Proctor & Gamble's stock? It certainly will create more need for housing.

**Please Review a Suggestion for the Month**

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