

"I think Trump's reaction was initially bad, because he denied the severity of the crisis at first, but overall I feel he has handled things decently. He instituted travel bans on China and Europe pretty early, and many were upset at that, but it turns out it was a very good idea. If travel bans started later, I'm sure our crisis would have been much worse. While I often disagree with Trump's rhetoric and the fact that he is still tweeting stupid things and sparring with reporters during a national emergency, he has overall been more levelheaded than I had expected, and he usually listens to the doctors and scientists. And regarding why he didn't take it too seriously as well, one reason could be because of China's consistent minimization of the crisis and false data. I'm upset with how their government has handled the crisis and believe that they do bear a lot of responsibility for the pandemic. Regarding Congress, they deliberated way too long over the stimulus bill because of partisan reasons, so that was disappointing but not surprising. Newsom has been good overall as well."

-- Anonymous, Student, Murrieta (Calif.), 4/20/2020

"Who and what should we believe? There is a lot of mix messaging from the White House which is causing angst and unrest around our country. I think some governors and mayors are trying to keep the calm and provide needed information but then there is contradiction. Some politicians are using this pandemic as a platform for their re-election."

-- Anonymous, CSUSM administration/staff/faculty, San Diego County (Calif.), 5/04/2020

"It's been a mess. The CDC first over-regulating and then under-regulating on testing measures, the response from the White House, the various representatives taking hardline stances as if health is a partisan issue... Deficiencies have really been brought to the surface due to the pandemic."

-- Anonymous, Student and CSUSM student library assistant, Encinitas (Calif.), 5/05/2020

"It is a difficult situation, regardless of whose hands it falls into. However, it is extremely upsetting to look back and see how it could have been prevented earlier on. The leader of our nation should not have played it off as being the flu or common cold, claiming it would disappear in April. "

-- Anonymous, Student, San Diego (Calif.), 5/07/2020

"The government hasn't done enough to make sure this virus stops spreading."

-- Anonymous, Student, Riverside County (Calif.), 5/07/2020

"I think the government is doing what they can but it is hard because there are people going against what they have said. The president is not handling the issue very well, he is making it hard for other parts of the government to put rules in motion. He goes against what pothers say and says things he should not."

-- Anonymous, Student, San Diego County (Calif.), 5/07/2020

"I'm not sure. I feel extremely overwhelmed with all the information that is being put out there. It seems like every media outlet has their own agenda."

-- Anonymous, Student and stay-at-home mom, San Marcos (Calif.), 5/07/2020

"The government would rather see us die then help us!"

-- Anonymous, Student, San Diego (Calif.), 5/08/2020

"I believe our government acted too late. We weren't prepared for this crisis and it shows. If our president and government officials around him had acted quicker we wouldn't be in such bad shape."

-- Anonymous, Student, Escondido (Calif.), 5/11/2020

"I believe that the government leaders are doing everything they can to keep us safe as well as keep the peace, but I believe that education on the subject could be much better. A large majority of people do not understand the severity of the situation and are not taking it seriously enough, or are acting based upon false information."

-- Anonymous, Student and checker (Vons), San Marcos (Calif.), 5/11/2020

"I think that our government has done wonderful by shutting us down early and keeping us safe, but it's gone on too long. The survival rate in California is 99.99% and people are losing their small business, homes, and livelihoods [sic]. It's time we opened back up."

-- Anonymous, Student and restaurant worker, San Diego County (Calif.), 5/11/2020

"I think that government leaders haven't handled the situation as well as they should have. For example the number of death from Covid-19 is high yet they care more about the economy and want to open everything back up again. It's like they don't care about what the health care workers have been through so far. Another example of their poor leadership are the anti lockdown protest that have been going on. These people are being very hostile toward many people including police officers and nothing has been done about it. Yet it a minority group would have been the one to protest then it would have been shutdown quickly and if they resisted then they would have used violence against them. This is a perfect example of the white privilege that exists in America and is not being talked about on a large scale."

-- Anonymous, Student and restaurant worker, San Diego County (Calif.), 5/11/2020

"I think the Governor of California , Gavin Newsom has done any amazing job leading California during this difficult time. I believe that the governor's all across the states have done for the most part an amazing job. However, I do have to criticize the way the federal government has handled this conflict. I am not pleased with how the current administration is handling the conflict."

-- Anonymous, Student, Escondido (Calif.), 5/12/2020

"I think nobody knows what's going on and we all need to come together and decide on one plan."

-- Anonymous, Student, Temecula, (Calif.), 5/12/2020

"I think that California has done a good job at responding to this crisis as a whole, but I am still shocked with the lack of care some people have by not even attempting to follow guidelines. I think our country definitely could have and still could handle this whole situation better. "

-- Student and CSUSM Library student assistant, Los Angeles (Calif.), 5/12/2020

"I believe our president did not take the best precautions or measures when speaking about covid to the public. He did not wear masks, which expressed to his supporters that they should do the same, creating issues in public. Some of this changed when the president got covid himself, and became educated on how serious this pandemic is for our nation."

-- Anonymous, Student, San Bernardino County (Calif.), 10/26/2020