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Remembering Covid-19

In March of 2020, our lives changed, and no one knew what would happen next. Covid-19 was spreading rapidly all over the world and everything began to shut down. I was a senior in high school, looking forward to all the special senior events, such as retreats, yearbook signing, prom, and graduation. I remember when the Coronavirus began to spread in the United States and everyone began to talk about it, but we did not think much of it. We all knew it was starting to get worse and spread quickly, but we did not know how much it would affect us. A week before my school got shut down, I remember my teachers talking to us and preparing us in case we had to close and learn virtually. Everyone thought if we had to close it would only be for 2 weeks and then we could go back, no one ever thought it would be for the rest of the school year and months after as well. Unfortunately, I missed out on many events I had waited for throughout high school.

When it came to going out and leaving my house, I did not get to at all. My mom always went out to the grocery stores, because she did not want my brother and me to go out. My dad only left the house to go to work because he was an essential worker. I did school from home and did not get to leave my house for months. Every day we would watch the news and look for updates on Covid-19. Quarantine kept getting moved longer every day, and we never knew when we would be able to get to do normal things again, we still do not. I went months not being able to see my friends and family, and we had to do Zoom and Facetime calls.

It was fun to see different ways people would see and talk to their friends and family by social distancing. People would do drive by car celebrations for birthdays, graduations, or any kind of celebration. I remember going to a few drive-by celebrations, and I would make signs and honk the horn as I drive by the houses. It was a fun way to get out, stay socially distanced, and still be able to see my friends and family.

While being quarantined, it made me realize to not take little things for granted. Just being able to leave the house whenever I want and not worrying about who is around me and where they have been. Wearing a mask every day, no matter where I go is difficult. At first, it was always hard to remember to have a mask with me, but now I never leave without one. I always have hand sanitizer with me, and I try not to touch as much when I am out.

Living through this pandemic has been crazy. Waking up and seeing death counts rise every day was scary, not knowing if I would get it or if my family and friends would get it. It was also scary not knowing much about the virus. Many doctors and nurses do not know much about the virus and many people have died because at first, they did not know how to keep it controlled. My senior year of high school had to get cut short, without being able to say goodbye to everyone. My freshman year of college is also being affected due to all the

restrictions and social distancing. I am very proud of everyone who is following all the rules and wearing their masks and social distancing. Seeing everyone listen when this pandemic hit us is great to see because it was such short notice. One day we were living our lives like normal and the next day all of the businesses are closed, we can't leave our house unless we have a mask on and stand 6 feet from each other, school is closed and we have to learn from online, and we cannot see our friends and family for months. We were living our lives with uncertainty. No one knew what the next day would bring us, we would just hope this virus would end. I pray every day that this virus will end and we can all go back to our normal lives.