

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the world. People were told to stay home, restaurants closed, and stores ran out of basic household supplies. Sports were cancelled. There were no concerts, movies, or plays. Countries closed their borders. Families were forced to stay separated, and friends did not visit each other. When we did go outside our homes, we stayed six feet apart, wore masks, and washed our hands frequently. Schools closed and children learned remotely as tiny boxes on Zoom. Many people worked from home. Even though life changed dramatically, communities stood strong and people worked together to adapt to a new normal.

As the virus spread, infection rates rose, and thousands of people died. Hospitals struggled to keep up with the number of sick people. I did not feel safe going outside my house. How could I stay safe from a virus I could not see? I was lucky, though. I was safe at home, had a family to help support my learning, and I had all the food and supplies I needed to be comfortable. Staying home was hard, but I really enjoyed spending so much time with my family. Even our two cats enjoyed all the attention.

This was a very scary and sad time for the world. What I most want people in the future to understand about the COVID-19 pandemic is how quickly it changed from what everyone thought was a small sickness, into a worldwide pandemic that led to a complete shutdown. I really thought the world was going to come to an end. Every day the news reported how many people were getting infected and dying. It scared me. I feared that if I got the virus, it would be the end of me. I also believed if my friends or family ever got it, I was never going to see them again. My friends and family worked hard to stay safe, and thankfully, they did. Everyone made it through the hard times. To this day, I know we were blessed to stay healthy and well.