

As a society, people all around the world had different experiences throughout the pandemic. Life during COVID-19 felt like the world stopped spinning on its axis and time froze. I sometimes believe that I'm chasing time trying to get back what was lost during quarantine. For me personally, COVID-19 was one of the biggest challenges I've faced in my life because I went through an experience I never believed could've happened to me. Of course, there was quarantine and people couldn't keep in touch with their family or see their friends, but for me, this experience was taken to another level. During the pandemic, I volunteered to work at a COVID-19 testing center. Healthcare was something that I've always had a passion for so giving my time to help others during the pandemic was the least I felt I could do. Through my volunteering, I came in contact with many people with the virus which resulted in me getting sick. While I was ill, my family helped by taking care of me and I ended up infecting my whole household. My father, who is one of the healthiest people I know, was severely taken down by COVID. My father was taken to the hospital in the middle of the night on August 22nd of 2021 and did not return until almost a month later. By just living with my sister and my mother for a month not knowing if my father was ever going to come home was a devastating experience. It became a constant cycle of relief everytime I would hear his voice over the phone. For the future generations, I want them to know that COVID-19 wasn't just "two weeks off from school", I want them to know and realize that life was troublesome for many people and families still haven't recovered years later. Overall, COVID helped me appreciate the people around me and how important it is to share your time on this Earth with the people that mean the most to you.