

COVID-19

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COVID-19 came with many challenges I had to overcome, whether it be with school, work, or family members. It was very difficult to face the obstacles, especially since I had been so used to the same routine that I had been doing for so long in my life. COVID-19 caused a very big shift in my everyday tasks, and I had to learn how to do those tasks differently because of it. I'm sure the pandemic caused struggles for everyone, but this is how it most affected me.

When the pandemic hit it was the second semester of my junior year of high school. Like everyone else I had no idea what was going on, school shut down and I had all online classes. This was very different from going to school every day and being face to face with the rest of my peers. Having done online classes prior to this I thought it was going to be easy, boy was I wrong. I struggled to find the motivation to get up and do my work because we didn't have a specific time our classwork was due. I thought that being able to sleep in and do my assignments whenever I wanted to was amazing. However, because there was so much freedom, I stopped doing my assignments altogether. This led to me getting in trouble because I was so far behind in my workload.

The pandemic also caused many shifts in my family life as well. I have an 11-year-old brother who has autism. He was used to getting help in school every day from his Exceptional Children teachers with his work. So, when schools closed, I had to be the one to help him with his learning. This was a difficult obstacle I had to face because

I had to help him do his assignments as his EC teachers did. I had to learn how to make time to help him with his assignments while trying to do mine at the same time.

Moreover, I have a very large family on my dad's side, who all love to be with one another on holidays. Every year my great aunt has a Christmas Eve party with all the members of our family. The pandemic led to her not having the party, because of her health status and fear, which was a very big change from years before. A lot of us didn't get to see family members that we would see every year, which was very saddening. A few family members even ended up losing their lives to the battle of COVID-19.

COVID-19 also drastically affected my work life too. I started my job during the pandemic in August of my senior year. I had to wear a mask when I was working at all times because many of the customers were elderly. This was very difficult for me because being masked meant that they weren't going to be able to hear me very clearly. I also talk very quietly so I had to learn to talk louder so they could hear me better. Although this was a major struggle I had to endure, it helped me learn how to speak more loudly so people could hear me.

Many of the effects of COVID-19 I had to go through really taught me lessons that were very hard to learn. With that being said, complete your assignments before they need to be done, spend as much time with your family as possible, and talk clearly and loudly in masks so that everyone can hear you.