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East Carolina University 26 April 2021

My COVID-19 Experience

When COVID-19 first came about I was a senior in high school. We first started hearing about COVID and there were rumors that they were going to shut down the schools in my county. On the last day of my senior year, my principal came on the intercom and announced that we would be out of school for two weeks. As a high school student, hearing you get two weeks from school was pretty exciting. Well, that two weeks turned into not coming back for the rest of the year. When I first found out we weren't going back I was devastated. I didn’t even realize that day was my last day of school. The restrictions started getting stricter and our parents did as well. My friends and I

weren't able to see each other for weeks. I missed out on my senior picnic, graduation, and the end of my senior year. Our senior picnic was planned to get all the seniors together one last time to hang out and have lunch together before we all left. I was extremely upset because they're people I know I might not ever see again, and we never got to say goodbye. My graduation was held in the auditorium with just my principal's, family, and me. This was nowhere close to a normal graduation. I didn’t get to have the other seniors there with me, walk across the stage with friends, or throw up my cap. Those may seem like little things that don’t matter but to a senior in high school it’s a big deal, we’ve been waiting for that since elementary school.

Although missing out on everything was extremely upsetting, my small town still managed to make my senior year special. The town held a senior parade for us the day we were supposed to graduate. We all got to ride through the town in our cap and gowns with the town cheering us on with love and posters! Another thing that the amazing teachers from my school did was set up and a mini-parade in the parking lot we went through to pick up

caps and gowns. The teachers cheered on while we drove through the cap and gown line.

COVID-19 has made me and the people around me upset and scared. I find it scary not knowing what more will happen with the virus. Even though COVID has ruined a lot of things, it has brought together my friends,

family, and town.