

Daniel

Age 17

Grade 12

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What were your thoughts when the first COVID-19 cases were being diagnosed in China? Did you expect it to spread to the US?

I did not expect it to spread, believing the virus to be just a foreign outbreak that would soon die down. I even told my friends once that it only had garnered just a few thousand cases in China, a country halfway across the world, so it wouldn't be at all a problem.

How have things changed for you and/or your family since the outbreak?

We cannot go out to do much, inside almost all the time, my father must work from home, etc.

For you, what is the worst thing about this?

As a senior, I'm most upset about being unable to see friends at school; Because school closed so abruptly, I don't even know if I'll be able to say goodbye to everyone I've known since a small child.

In your experience so far, what, if anything, has been positive about this?

I can focus more on AP exams and college preparation. Being so unoccupied has also given me an opportunity to be still and reflect on my life and how I can change myself and my habits for the better.

Tell us about a moment or experience during this time that you will never forget.

I'll remember the quarantine as a whole, consisting of spending more time with family and reflecting on my life.

Pretend it is the year 2050 and another pandemic is looming--what would you tell someone who has just asked what it was like to live through the 2020 pandemic?

As the experience isn't ended, I don't yet know completely how I would respond; my optimism in a future pandemic and level of encouragement to someone living through that would depend on the outcome of the current pandemic. Regarding the enduring of the experience, though, I would tell that someone to use the time as an opportunity for quiet reflection and self-betterment, as you may later be caught up in the business of life and be unable to do so again.