

Holly

Age 18

Grade 12

Somers High School

Somers, New York

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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 thought that there was a chance that it could spread to the United States, but I didn't seriously consider the possibility. I never thought that it could be this bad.

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

Everything has changed, for the most part. Neither of my parents are going to work, my sister and I don't have school, and we're all just in our house all the time.

For you, what is the worst thing about this?

The worst thing about this pandemic for me is the timing. I'm in the spring of my senior year, I only have four months left with my friends before we all go our separate ways to college. Every day of school we miss is another day that I don't get to spend time with them. We're still unsure if we'll be able to graduate and walk across the stage or have the prom we've all been dreaming about since kindergarten. It's all been extremely difficult for me.

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

It's hard to find the positives for me, I really can't think of any at the moment.

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

I was part of the musical this year, and we were at a late rehearsal one Friday night and they told us that school was going to be closed over the weekend and on Monday for a deep cleaning. It all of a sudden became so real, that this was actually happening. The next week was our last week of school and our show was cancelled a couple days after this rehearsal.

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?

I would tell them that it was very difficult. It's hard to know for sure what I would say because it's nowhere near over yet. Chances are, I would say that it will all be over soon, but I'm not sure how long this is going to last. I would say to try and think of the good things, but that it's okay to be sad sometimes.