

## **Megan**

Age 16

Grade 10

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 originally heard about it in January and thought that it would be confined to just china or maybe even just a few surrounding countries. Until it started to spread to other countries rapidly I did not think that it would reach the US and definitely did not think it would get as bad as it has.

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

My mother has wanted me to be in quarantine since school stopped, so I have barely been able to leave my house besides going right outside. It's very hard to not talk to people and actually see them like I normally do every single day. My mom is much more stressed and I notice that me and a lot of my peers and friends have really messed up our schedules (sleep wise). I could name at least 5 people that wake up after 2pm every day.

### **For you, what is the worst thing about this?**

Not being able to leave my house and see people is definitely the worst thing for me about this. It seems very vain but no one I know is in danger of this so It not really a worry of mine. But having to be in my house for much longer than the month and a half it's already been would be a very big challenge for me. Another thing on my mind is the AP exams and how much colleges will count this year.

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

I have been able to very much reconnect with friends I did not talk to for a little while before because of school work but it's mostly been a neutral or negative experience. I'm very scared I will not be able to get back into the school work schedule again if we do have school this year.

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

There is nothing in particular that comes to mind, I guess it because I don't care about this as much as I should besides the fact that people are stuck in quarantine but something that was a very odd feeling was checking the number of cases one night and then waking up the next day and seeing it increase a tremendous amount the US to I think 2 times the night prior and realizing that that number is actually representing real-life people. That's something that people don't realize. It's so hard to imagine that huge number representing that many actual people.

### **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 to stick to a schedule and try not to let it get messed up. Its so easy to just get into a slump because you're confined and not able to see people if you're like me. And the most important thing is to not let that slump happen. Also to call people like older relatives that won't be having much contact at all and just check on them.