

A Timeline of My Year in a Global Pandemic

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Taryn Boyd

March 6th, 2020

This was the day that officials announced the first case of COVID-19 in Minnesota. This was the first time that it really hit me that this was getting serious. I remember going home and telling my parents how scared I was of actually getting this virus. My mom tried to make me feel reassured because of my bad anxiety by telling me everything would be okay, but it only got worse from here on.

Health officials confirm first case of novel coronavirus in Minnesota

Patient is recovering at home; health officials working to prevent additional cases

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has confirmed Minnesota's first presumptive case of novel coronavirus, COVID-19, health officials announced today.

The case is an older adult resident of Ramsey County who recently traveled on a cruise ship with a known COVID-19 case. The patient began to develop symptoms on Feb. 25 and sought health care yesterday. Samples were collected from the person and sent to the MDH Public Health Laboratory for testing today. The test was found positive earlier today. MDH is awaiting confirmatory testing from CDC, but health officials consider the presumptive results actionable.

The patient is currently in quarantine at home and is recovering. MDH is working with Ramsey County Public Health and health care partners to identify and contact all those who may have come in contact with the infected person. These people will be asked to isolate themselves for 14 days from their exposure and will be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms.

March 13th, 2020

On March 13th it was announced that school was going to be online for most Minnesota colleges. This was also my last day at Blaine High School, even though I didn't know it at the time. At the time I had thought that we would go on Spring Break and maybe do online school for a few weeks like the colleges. I didn't expect this to be the end of my senior year.

COVID-19

U of M suspends campus classes, moving instruction online over COVID-19 fears

MPR News Staff St. Paul March 11, 2020 6:39 p.m.



March 16th, 2020

This was the day I flew to Mexico for my Spring Break trip. It was so weird seeing some people at the airport with masks on, and my dad was making sure we used hand sanitizer before and after touching anything. I was super excited to go to Mexico for a week as my senior trip. However, it didn't end up going as planned.



March 19th, 2020

Throughout my trip I was checking the news all the time because things were getting very serious not only in the US but other countries as well. I remember being out to dinner with my family on this day and asking my parents if we would have to go home early. This was the first time my parents told me they weren't sure rather than reassuring me all would be well.



March 21st, 2020

On March 21st we left Mexico three days earlier than we had planned. Everyone was worried and there was talk about closing the borders so we decided to get onto one of the last flights back home. This experience at the airport was crazy. I saw people in hazmat suits taking temperatures, as well as a room of people in quarantine. This time around there were way more people wearing masks and it was extremely busy with tons of tourists trying to fly home.

To slow COVID-19, Trump administration closes southern border to nonessential travel

The border will be closed for all crossings other than commercial trade and specified reasons such as medical care and education.

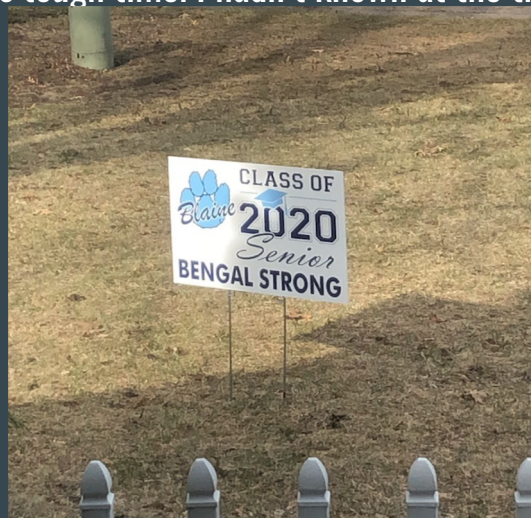
BY JULIÁN AGUILAR MARCH 20, 2020 UPDATED: 1 PM

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April 11th, 2020

I had been home for a few weeks at this point and resumed school online while self-quarantining with my family. This day in particular is special because after waking up I looked outside my window and saw a Class of 2020 sign in my yard. It was really heartwarming seeing support for my class during this tough time. I hadn't known at the time who put it in my yard but I later found out it was my neighbor.



June 1st, 2020

After over a month of online school and leaving my house only to go to work I had technically finished high school. This was the day I had to go pick up my cap and gown and diploma. It was definitely a very weird and sad experience and not like anything any of us could have expected.

June 9th, 2020

This was supposed to be the day of my graduation, instead my friends and I took graduation pictures in our caps and gowns and my parents hosted a mini ceremony at my house. I definitely cried on this day and it was a really hard time.



June 20th, 2020

After lots of going back and forth my parents and I decided to keep the original date for my graduation party, which was June 20th. We did end up having a much smaller party then planned but I am so grateful I still had the opportunity to have one. My parents put a lot of hard work into this and it was awesome to have one normal graduation experience.

August, 28th 2020

After the weirdest summer of my life, August 28th was the day I moved into my dorm at UW- Eau Claire. I had been so worried that move-in would be cancelled and I wouldn't get to experience my freshman year of college in a dorm or on campus so I was very excited for this day. It was definitely different than previous years and was very tiring moving all of my things up four flights of stairs in a mask.

September 2nd, 2020

This was the first day of my freshman year of college. All of my classes ended up being remotely online but I was still excited to start. While online learning is definitely difficult for me I have managed to make it work and adjust just like everyone else.

October 2nd, 2020

On October 2nd, I made the decision to move home for the rest of the semester. COVID-19 cases were rising in my area and most of my friends had already moved back as well. My family and I decided this would be the best and safest option for me. I'm glad I did have a few weeks on campus as a freshman.

November 10th, 2020

This is the last part of my timeline of 2020 so far. On November 10th I found out that a vaccine was discovered for COVID-19 that proves to be over 90% effective. This was a very happy day for me and the first time that I've had hope for normalcy in a longtime. While the vaccine will take awhile to develop and distribute everywhere, I'm just very excited for the day that things can go back to normal.

Pfizer's Early Data Shows Vaccine Is More Than 90% Effective

Pfizer announced positive early results from its coronavirus vaccine trial, cementing the lead in a frenzied global race that has unfolded at record-breaking speed.