

Diary of a Quarant-teen

My Experiences from 14 days in quarantine

Saturday July 11th - Day 1:

Since the Coronavirus lockdown began in March, I have not left my house for anything other than going to the grocery store or stopping at a local restaurant to pick up takeout food. Alike most of the country, I began experiencing lockdown fatigue and wanted things to return to normal, so on July 10th I went with a group of friends to a cabin on the Wisconsin river. On the second day there, one of my friends told us he wasn't feeling the best, but after spending all day outside on the river, we didn't think much of it. We returned home on July 11th, and later in the day, he texted us all that he had a fever of 102, and suggested we stay away from my family members. I discussed with my parents and we agreed that I should quarantine until he got his test back. My friend went to go get his test and told us it would only be a couple days until he heard back. The first day of my quarantine was spent mostly on my laptop watching YouTube and Netflix. This was not unusual for me, because ever since lockdown began, I spent most nights in my room on my laptop, either watching shows or playing video games with friends. Day one of quarantine felt strange, but overall, it was not too difficult to get through.

Sunday July 12th - Day 2:

When I woke up on day 2, just like every day before I took a shower. My brother was also living at home during the lockdown, and we normally shared a bathroom. When I went into quarantine, my parents moved him out of our shared bathroom, and into their master bath, so I had my bathroom all to myself. I saw this as a positive because he spends hours in there (somehow). I think he just sits on his phone scrolling through Instagram, or watching YouTube videos while completely forgetting that his brother asked him to hurry up 5 minutes ago, so being able to use the bathroom whenever I needed to was a nice surprise. Overall, today was especially boring. I spent most of my day on my laptop, but there was not much to do. When I get bored, I would typically go down to the soccer fields and kick a ball around for a bit, but I am unable to do that, so I had to push through my boredom. Thankfully at night, a lot of my friends were online, so I was able to play video games with them. We played League of Legends and Minecraft for about 4 hours that night.

Monday July 13th - Day 3:

Today I received quite possibly the worst news possible. My friend with the high fever received his test results today, and he tested positive for Covid-19. Unfortunately, this meant that my quarantine would not be a short 3-day room vacation, but instead a 14 day lockdown. At this

point in time, I basically assumed that I would end up with Coronavirus, because of how long we spent in such close proximity. I spent nearly 24 hours right next to him, including 2 hour-long car rides where I sat next to him. From my eyes, there was basically no way I did not end up with Coronavirus. I also heard from my friend that he was beginning to lose his sense of taste and smell, which would be an exciting side effect to look forward to for my infection. Throughout this lockdown, I have been working 6 hours a day at my job as a marketing intern. I work on creating advertising videos for the app my company produces. The mac that I use for my work I was able to bring home, so I utilized that computer for all my work related procedures every day of the week. At the very least, this meant that during my 14 day lockdown, I would have 10 days where I spent most of my time actually doing something (and making money!). After work got done at 4, I spent a lot of my time watching Netflix and YouTube (although with a much more somber attitude this time).

Tuesday July 13th - Day 4:

Throughout the lockdown, my parents have been bringing me plates of food that they would place on a little tray table by my doorway. I have found it is very awkward to have them come drop off my food, then go out and eat as a family without me. My family is very traditional in the sense that we always have family dinners together, so it felt very strange for me to eat alone. I had to have my Mom, who was also working remotely during lockdown, prepare all of my meals for me, because I wasn't allowed out in the kitchen. I trained her to become a master of all things chicken nugget preparation. 45 seconds on one side, flip them, 45 seconds on the other, flip them and 30 seconds. I thoroughly enjoy chicken nuggets, and they brightened my day whenever I got to enjoy them. Today I worked for 6 hours, then played more video games with my friend at night. Overall, it was an uneventful day (I expect that will be the norm for the rest of my 14 days).

Wednesday July 15th - Day 5:

The weekend before this, I got my new laptop for college use. The old computer that I had, which I had used since the 6th grade was an old Mac desktop computer, which could barely even start up anymore. I am very thankful that I purchased this new computer before I went into quarantine, otherwise I do not know if I would have been able to make it through. I got upset at my mac quite frequently, because it liked to forget that it was a computer and would instead act like a potato. If I had to spend my quarantine using that computer for all my free time, I don't believe it would have made it through without being thrown on the ground. Wednesday I usually took off, but this week I decided to work because it gave me something to fill my day with, as opposed to mind numbing hours on the internet. After I finished working, I continued my mind-numbing hours on the internet.

Thursday July 16th - Day 6:

Today, my Mom suggested that I go out on the deck and spend some time outside. She stayed in her room, and I had to wear a mask whenever I walked through the house. I spent about an hour setting outside on the deck, just enjoying the breeze. After I was done, I was required to wipe every surface I touched down with a Clorox wipe, then return to my room for more quarantine (yay!). This is the only real eventful thing that happened today, other than that it was an entirely normal day for my quarantine so far.

Friday July 17th - Day 7:

Typically, Fridays feel different. After working for a whole week, everyone seems happier on Fridays, more excited to be doing what they are doing, because they know that very soon, they will get two days of not needing to work. Today I did not feel that typical Friday feeling. This was probably the first time in as long as I can remember that a Friday did not feel exciting for me. I had nothing to look forward to over the weekend, other than more boredom. Instead of being able to fill my days with work, I was instead required to find something else to do during that time. Friday came and went just as the past 7 days had, boring with nothing to do other than watch YouTube or Netflix.

Saturday July 18th - Day 8:

I have 2 cats and 1 dog; the hardest part of this quarantine is that I hardly get to see my dog. We know that animals can transfer coronavirus just like any other surface can, so I must keep my dog out of my room. I still hear him barking when he is playing, and it makes me sad knowing that I can't see him. One of my cats, Domino, slept in my room every day since the start of lockdown. He would sleep in my room day and night, only leaving for food or the occasional bathroom break. At the start of quarantine, we tried to keep him out of my room, but it didn't work. I had my door fully closed, and he sat at it for about 30 minutes meowing and pawing at the door, trying to get in. In the end, my family agreed that they would avoid touching the cat, and he could come and go as he pleased from my room. Today, Domino refused to leave my room, even for his dinner. It seems he wants to share my experience of quarantine. Today I spent a few hours laying in bed, just petting Domino, and trying to pass time in any way that I could.

Sunday July 19th - Day 9:

Online people like to joke that one-minute passes more slowly when you are doing a plank than a normal minute. I would extend that to say time passes more slowly when you are trapped in your room with nothing to do than when you are able to leave. At the start of quarantine, I thought it wouldn't be that bad, I spend most of my time in my room anyways, so it won't be that big a deal. I never realized how much I left my room. Something as simple as walking into the kitchen to grab a snack was off limits to me now. This was the most difficult aspect of

quarantine for me. Today, my Father and Brother went out golfing. Though I never golfed before, during the lockdown, we had begun golfing more because it was one of the few activities you could still do while being safe. It was disheartening for me, not being able to spend time with my family, and instead being stuck in my room sitting on my computer with nothing else to do. Nonetheless, I persisted with the hopes that my efforts would keep my family safe.

Monday July 20th - Day 10:

I was fully expecting that I would get the coronavirus, however up to this day I have not shown any symptoms yet. Today, I decided to go get tested, to see if I was an asymptomatic carrier of the virus. I went to the Dane County testing site at the Alliant Energy Center, a massive convention center which they have converted to a clean room where cars can drive through and get tested. I went at about 2 in the afternoon, and only had to wait about 15 minutes. In previous months, the news had shown that testing site with waits as long as 4 hours, so I was nervous that I could get stuck for the long haul. Thankfully, I was in and out quick and got back home to do some more waiting, this time for my test. Monday I was thankful to get back to work, so other than being tested, my day was mostly full and I could stay busy.

Tuesday July 21st - Day 11:

My test results came back negative, a quite quick turnaround from the week that they said it could take for test results. I was relieved at this news, but also nervous. If I started to show symptoms now, that would only mean my quarantine would have to be extended and I would spend more time being stuck in my room. If I were to count the number of times I have moved from my chair to my bed and vice versa, I would be in the high hundreds or possibly thousands by now. Boredom is so extreme for me now. Day 11 sound so close, yet there are still so many hours and minutes that I need to get through before I'm free.

Wednesday July 22nd - Day 12:

I am still not showing any symptoms, so now my thoughts have shifted from "I probably contracted it" to "I probably don't have it". They say that 99% of cases show symptoms by the 13th day, so I am hopeful that I can make it through today and tomorrow without symptoms. Today I reflected upon my time spent in quarantine so far, and I am extremely thankful that this pandemic occurred at a time when technology is at the state it is at. Without the technology that I have today, and the ability I have to stay connected with my friends and those around me while being far away, I may have gone insane. Today I spend a lot of time playing video games with my friends. I played with everyone who was at the cabin, and it turns out that there are 4 who have Covid, and 3 of us who have not shown any symptoms yet. I am thankful that I am a part of the second group, because the descriptions of symptoms from the other 4 sounds quite unpleasant. They are exhausted, cannot taste or smell anything, and feel terrible for days.

Thursday July 23rd - Day 13:

I think that if there was ever a day that I would go crazy, it's today. It is Thursday, and it feels like the Thursday of my quarantine. I have suffered through 12 days so far, and I am so close to the end, but I need to get through today and tomorrow. It feels like I should be done, like I should be released, but I have to fight that notion. I want so badly for my life to just return to normal, and be released from quarantine, but I have a couple more days to go through. Today, after I finish working I (who would've guessed) spent my time watching YouTube and Netflix. Since the lockdown began, online content creators on YouTube have been thriving because their audiences have exploded, so as a result there was an explosion of content for consumers to enjoy. I am glad that my quarantine occurred later in the lockdown, so that I can take advantage of this explosion of content to fill my time.

Friday July 24th - Day 14:

Today is the day, the final day of my quarantine. It feels strange knowing that 14 days have passed. It's like after you drive for hours, then try and think of the time you spend driving and you just can't remember it. I feel like I have been on autopilot the past 14 days, and today I feel excited. It is the most Friday feeling I have had in a long time, because I get out tomorrow. Today, when I finish my work I happily sit down at my computer and play some games with my friends. Everything that I do tonight feels different because I am so excited for tomorrow. I am still not showing any symptoms, which means that tomorrow I will be released from quarantine, without having contracted the Coronavirus. For the first time since lockdown, I go to bed early. In fact, this is the first time since lockdown that I got to bed on the same day I woke up (Normally I go to bed at around 1 or 2 am, but today I went to sleep at 11)... The sooner I go to sleep, the sooner I wake up, and the sooner I'm free. Today is the first day of quarantine that really flew by, and I never found myself too bored.

Saturday July 25th – The Day After:

Today is that day that my High School planned its drive through graduation, and it seems very fitting that my first day out of quarantine, I get to go to graduation. There wasn't a ceremony or anything, we just drove up in our cars, they handed me a bag with my diploma in it, and I drove off. The one thing I enjoyed most about today, though was getting to spend time with my family (and petting my dog!!!). During quarantine, I missed them more than I thought I would, even though they were just a few feet away, through one wall. It's so weird to think about how close I was to them, yet how far I felt. Looking back, I don't remember too much of my quarantine time, other than knowing I was super bored and really wanted it to be day 14 the whole time.