

My Experience with Covid-19 as a Healthcare Worker

Everyone has had a different experience with Covid-19 in the way it has affected their daily life, including situations regarding not knowing when your next paycheck is going to come, as many people lost their jobs due to guidelines being put in place not allowing many to continue



working at their jobs. I myself on the other hand was in a completely different situation as I was working as a CNA back in my hometown of Green Bay. Working in the medical field during this pandemic allowed me to experience first hand how scary this virus was, especially for the older folks I had the honor of taking care of. As soon as the news broke that the number of cases in the United States was rising, the precautions in which needed to be taken in my nursing home increased almost immediately. The safety of the residents and staff was now more than ever the top priority of everyone working,

and we made sure to do everything we could to keep our residents safe as many of them were considered family to so many caregivers. For me personally, I was always more worried about keeping the residents safe rather than myself, as I knew that my body would be able to fight the virus off much better than that of a 90-year-old resident whose immune system was not up to par. As the virus continued growing in numbers, so did my hours in which I was being asked to work and help out at the Nursing home. One thing that many of us first responders/healthcare workers never understood was the fact that so many Americans were getting hazard/bonus pay for working during a pandemic, but in my situation at least we were expected to be working first

hand with the virus and never received any compensation for it. That itself would never cause me to stop working because I was working to help people rather than focusing on the money coming in, but it was more interesting to me more than anything.

Covid-19 caused my senior year of high school to end much earlier than anticipated. The whole school was sent home for two weeks in the middle of march, which was then extended to



the rest of the year a week later. Because of this, I missed out on many great activities, that last year students may have taken for granted. For example, my graduation was changed to online because we were not supposed to have gatherings of more than 10 people at a time, which put a damper on the end of my senior. The worst part about not having a graduation ceremony in person, was the fact that it felt like all my hard work that I put into getting good grades in high school didn't mean anything. Graduating high school is something that sticks with you for the rest of your

life, along with the memories made with all of your family there cheering you on, and because of Covid-19, myself along with all of my friends and classmates were unable to experience that. Switching to online school at the time felt like a whole new environment in which I needed to adapt to, to end my senior year off on a strong note. That being said, being able to adapt to online learning before I went off to college in the summer helped me to know what to expect, because I only have one in-person class as of now in college. Although my senior year was cut short

because of Covid-19, I was still able to try and make the best of it by keeping a good mindset and focusing on keeping both myself, and my family healthy.

My experience with Covid-19 has been a rollercoaster of experiences, which most recently resulted in me being quarantined on my own college campus. When my roommate



tested positive for the Virus, we were both immediately sent to quarantine in a different building on campus, in a room on our own. This is something that no one looks forwards to, for some pretty obvious reasons, but the main thing that made this difficult was not

being able to have any human interaction for so long. Being told that you have to stay in a small dorm room by yourself for an extended period of time makes you realize how important every little interaction you have in a day is, and it isn't until you don't have that luxury that you realize it. I was delivered one bag of food per day, which consisted of a hot dinner, a bagel and cream cheese for breakfast, and a sandwich with a bag of chips for lunch. We weren't able to choose anything that we wanted for any meal and had to resort to hoping that the food we were given tasted decent enough to eat, which is what I looked forward to at least. Another thing about being in quarantine is that you would think you'd be able to get a bunch of homework done and get ahead in schoolwork, but the reality is that you don't have much motivation to sit down and get homework done although there aren't many options to keep yourself busy. All in all, quarantining was far from an enjoyable experience, to say the least.

