

Life with COVID-19

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After a year of the first reported case of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, the virus is still spreading. Thousands of cases are reported daily all over the world and although they are starting to send out vaccines in the United States, everyone is still being affected by the virus. When the virus started spreading, there were shut downs everywhere, including here in the U.S. Throughout that shutdown, many people were out of a job if they weren't an essential worker. My family was definitely affected by this since my mom, a beauty shop owner, was forced to shut her business down for nearly a month which meant less income. Soon afterwards, my stepdad had to come home from his job in New York and leave his work site, and my dad, a superintendent welder, was also let go. In my immediate family, I was the only one who held a job down from the beginning of the pandemic until now. It has been extremely difficult, but the stress of getting an income also started to be mentally draining.

It was very difficult in the beginning to accept that we had to stop seeing our friends and to grasp the concept of not being able to fulfill any traveling plans that had been made prior to the spread. My personal psychological experience due to COVID has not been a very pleasant one. During quarantine, my partner and I found out that I was pregnant and had so much support from our family. Because of COVID, I had to attend doctor's appointments on my own while my boyfriend sat outside in his car. It was a very sad experience because they were the types of things one should not have to experience alone. Two and a half months after having found out I was pregnant, I unfortunately started to have really sharp pains and went to the E.R. where I was told I was miscarrying and had to just wait it out. I was alone in a room and felt very scared to not have my family with me. On top of that, I was so worried about my classes since it was midterms week and I wasn't planning on any of this to happen. My depression had sky-rocketed by the time I was home and I neglected some assignments and a midterm because of it.

UNTD has done an excellent job of keeping up with courses and staying on track with events. Although the beginning of the online transition was a little rough, they eventually made it easier to keep up with all of our classes. The university has taken the proper steps to keep both the staff and students safe in my opinion. The original plan was to start going back to face to face classes in spring, but because of the outbreaks starting to get worse, they made the best decision by sticking to online only. Aside from the heads of the university making the best decisions, the professors have also been very understanding of the circumstances.

As students, we have to understand how the online transition could have also affected our professors and how they have to deal with their own problems as well. But I believe the professors have also taken into account how we feel. Whether that be our mental state, our physical health or our income struggle, I think they have done an excellent job of working with us and responding to any and all questions in a timely manner. After speaking with my friends, who also study at UNTD, I have come to the conclusion that all of the department's professors have been actively engaging, as well as understanding what the current situation has been like for everyone. My only hope for all of this is that the faculty and students continue to encourage each other and communicate as well as they are doing right now!