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Prompt #5

The Impact of Covid-19 to my family.

It's been two years since the pandemic started, Covid-19 cases were extremely high and dangerous. An event that no one was prepared for and that affected millions of people, including my family and I. The government could've done a little bit more in helping those with much less resources.

It impacted me very heavily and affected me mentally and emotionally. Having to start taking classes online and staying home was like a different life to me. I didn't quite enjoy taking classes online, it wasn't the same as when you go to your school classes in person. I got very distracted with my surroundings and less social with people. When it first began I was half way finishing my junior year in high school, so it didn't really impact me very heavily at first. It began when I started my senior year, it made me realize that my last year of high school wasn't going to be like how I imagined it to be. My grades weren't looking so well, but I always tried my best to get a good score on test, and get homework done on time. Because of Covid-19 I was very much afraid of going out. Every time the news or social media would mention it, I would just get traumatized of the outside world and everything I touched. Not going outside made me feel more alone, and depressed. I eventually went out one day to take a text for a class, in person. The next days I began to get a weird symptom, I went to get tested for Covid and came out positive. That made me more scared of going back outside, and fear of interaction with people besides my close's family.

I wasn't the only person to be affected by Covid. My family, both my mother and father, having to go to work knowing that there's a contagious virus was very scary. There was a time when both of my parents got sick in mid November of 2020. It first started with my father, he got sick, and this was the first that I saw my father weak, he refused to eat his meals sometimes and would only get up from bed to go to the bathroom. My father told one of his co-workers to let the boss know that he wouldn't go to work because he felt sick. He also refused to go to the doctor, both my parents scared of going to the hospital. It affected them mentally as well, the reason was because people started rumors that if you go to the hospital, patients don't come back and get diagnosed positive with Covid-19. My father soon got better in 5 days, but then the nightmare wasn't over. My mother got sick a week later after my father, her sickness was worse and scary. My father and I didn't know what else to do in order to make her feel better. She would constantly cough a lot. We told her that we should take her to see a doctor at a clinic instead of a hospital, but she also refused. My mother was very worried about her condition, it wasn't getting any better, we eventually took her to see a doctor once she told us that she felt shortness of breath. Eventually they told us it wasn't Covid-19, it was a huge relief knowing that it wasn't that, instead the reason she was feeling like that was because, since she was a janitor at a factory, she would constantly use cleaning liquids with scents that were so dangerous. My mother got better 4 days later. Then a week later I got sick, I only had the symptom of loss of smell, which I got better in 5 days. The amount of stress that we were in those weeks was so bad. My family and I felt hopeless and worried at the same time.

It was such a rough year, it was also difficult to find and purchase hand sanitizers, alcohol, disinfecting wipes and sprays. Here in the track we got a lot of help from schools, the administrators of the racetrack and including the government. The school districts provided us

with food everyday, and the people from the track were giving out masks and hand sanitizers. The government only sent some checks to people who had children from ages 0-18 years old. The Illinois government gave out EBT cards to students. I do think the government should've helped more people, not only specifically some groups of people, I'm referring to helping those that have less resources such as families, homeless people, and small businesses. Small business owners were also struggling to sell their products. Let's also remember that the number of people getting Covid-19 could've been prevented, if the quarantine happened sooner. The government could've also helped families who couldn't pay their rent because they couldn't work during the pandemic. People were out finding jobs and it was difficult for them.