

## My Life During a Global Pandemic

I would like to start out by saying that while I'm sure I will be complaining about all of the inconveniences this pandemic has brought to me personally, none of my loved ones nor myself has been diagnosed with the virus, and I would hate to diminish the fact that many people have in worse than me and at the end of the day I am one of the lucky ones. That being said, these past few weeks have been pretty difficult for me and will definitely be a time I will remember for the rest of my life.

This is a really scary time for me, my mom was recently diagnosed with a type of cancer that puts her at a greater risk if she does get the virus and so my family has been doing everything we can to have as little access as possible to the public. She teaches first grade so she's still been busy working from home, video chatting with her students to help them continue to learn and having meetings with other teachers and her principal in order to discuss everything happening and how it affects their work. The thing that's rough about this is that neither of us have desks in our rooms, so my mom will be working and video chatting her students at the dining table downstairs while I may be trying to do other things. Just this morning for example, I had a physics final I had to take in the morning so I went to the table downstairs to do it but it turns out my mom had a video appointment with one of her students at the same time, so while I was trying to focus on my final and solve complicated problems, I would have to deal with hearing my mom teach a six year old different vocabulary words. This made it hard to focus for me, but thankfully my dad let me go into his office to finish the test since he wasn't working anyway.

That brings us to my dad, he is a self-employed executive recruiter for major tech companies. Clearly right now not many companies are looking to hire people so he doesn't have any clients or opportunities to make a placement. About a week ago I overheard him and my mom going over the application to file for unemployment, and it was sort of surreal for me to hear the idea of my dad having to do that.

My daily schedule mainly consists of joining my online zoom classes, doing homework, watching netflix, taking naps, and playing with our three month old golden retriever puppy. That puppy, Sadie, has honestly been a major part of my life during quarantine, playing with her or having her take a nap on my lap always puts the biggest smile on my face. If it wasn't for her I don't think I would be motivated to leave my room throughout the day. It's been really fun to train her too, she's really smart and picks up on things quickly. She knows how to use the doggy door to get in and out of the house and is pretty much potty trained already, with a few exceptions every now and then. I taught her how to sit and lay down which she never fails to do correctly, and I even taught her how to stay and wait for a treat that I would sit down in front of her until I tell her it's okay to go get it.

One thing that bothers me a lot about this quarantine is not being able to see my friends. I have close friends in college that I'm used to hanging out with every day and even friends here at home that I still can't see, granted we can still talk to each other via zoom, it's not the same. We just got news that my college, Sacramento State, will be doing mostly classes online for the fall semester which was heartbreaking for me to hear. I really couldn't wait to go back and see my friends in August and now I'm not even sure when I'll see them again.

I'm really grateful that I have such a good relationship with my parents and sisters. Pretty much all of my friends have been telling me how hard this quarantine has been for them because they can't get along with their parents or siblings and they are constantly getting in arguments with each other. I honestly can't remember the last time I got in an argument with my parents, I'd consider them my best friends and I'm lucky that I get to spend this time with them. The same goes with my sisters, although there is of course some bickering every now and then, but being stuck at home with them has also in a way brought me closer to them. So, for the good and the bad this pandemic really has been a life changing experience for me to go through.