

My covid experience:

During the Covid pandemic, many people suffered and many people enjoyed time off work. But for me I had to work overtime during the entire pandemic. I work in a convenience store and due to the pandemic, many people were getting unemployment relief (which I am not against), but for me and my dad owning the store, this meant that we both had to work extra hours. Like many people before this pandemic started, I had wanted to make some serious changes with my life, but never worked towards changing anything. Working in the convenience store was a weird experience because, you hear all the stories from healthcare workers that work in the hospitals and from your customers about people who got sick. Occasionally someone would come in and tell you "Hey you remember ... and then you say OH YAH what happen to him?" just to hear he got covid and passed away. I think the seriousness of this pandemic really hit when someone who worked with us for years and was a close friend to us, got sick with covid himself and was on the brink of death. At first when he didn't show up, we thought he was maybe overexaggerating and wasn't actually sick with COVID and wanted more time off. But when he called us and you can hear the pain in his voice, and the facetime showed him in the hospital you knew how real this virus was. I felt awful for him and there is nothing worse than hearing what maybe someone's last words to you. It was moments like that that helped me put my whole life into perspective and reminded me how tomorrow is never guaranteed. It really motivated me to start making changes in my life today, and helped me be more grateful for what I have and take advantage of the opportunities provided for me. After that I decided to go back in school and made deans list twice for the first time in 6 years of being enrolled in Brooklyn college. I am still working to better myself and have really been thankful to be alive and all that I am blessed with due to this pandemic.

To those who have lost their lives, may they rest in peace, and to their loved ones that they are not alone and God has a plan for them and to stay strong.