

I can say my life has changed a lot from the beginning of this pandemic until now. When it first started, I had lost my job working as a barista at a coffee shop. This has caused me to become unemployed for half a year. It was very hard for me to find a new job because most places were closing as well and not hiring. It was a very stressful time for me because I was not prepared for it and I needed the money. I began applying to any jobs at that point. After six months, I got a job offer as a recreational assistant at a nursing home and when I applied they hired me immediately. Working at that place was very hard for me because I was in close contact with patients who tested positive for COVID-19. I had to wear hazmat suits and face shields the whole day and get tested twice a week. I witnessed many people dying and it felt like a lot to process. Everyday when I came to work, the number of patients and staff testing positive kept increasing. We became understaffed where nurses and CNA's had to come in even when they had COVID-19. Luckily for me, I managed to stay safe and it calmed down after a while. I worked at the nursing home for almost a year and it changed my perspective on what I want to pursue in my future. Afterall, I realized that becoming a nurse is not something that I would want or could do anymore. It was a very depressing environment and it was gradually changing my mental state. I wanted to quit for such reasons but I ended up leaving because they were requiring everyone to get vaccinated. Working in healthcare, we don't have much of a choice anymore.