

2020

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I could hear my phone going off in my pocket but I was at work and still had an hour before my break.

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I looked at my watch which informed me that I had several missed calls from my mother. Finally, I went to the bathroom and called my mom back since it seemed like whatever she was calling for could have been an emergency. She picks up the phone and responds “Chey”, her voice is shaky and I can hear the worry in her voice. She begins again, “Chey, I need to stay calm and listen.”

“Okay”, I respond, my heart beating so fast that an alert comes up on my watch telling me that I need to breathe.

“Your dad, grandma, and I all just tested positive for Covid so I need you to let your supervisor know and then go straight to the office to get tested.”

Out of all the things I would have thought my mom was going to tell me, that was the last thought going through my mind. My next thought was to go grab another mask and go talk to my supervisor to let him know that I needed to leave.

After I informed my supervisor I walked up the hill to the parking lot to get to my car, all I could think about was the friends that I had been with the night before and hoping that I did not expose them or their families.

Worry was the worst part of all of this, there were more what if statements going through my head then there had ever been before and all I could do was cry because the emotions that filled my body were so overwhelming that the only way I could function was to let some of that emotion out. I sat in my car that day going through all the scenarios in my head and hoping that my parents and elderly grandmother were going to make it through this. Both my dad and my grandmother had just had surgery and were at very high risk.

For the two weeks that my family was contagious I did what I could to help out as all of us were very sick and at one point my grandmother ended up in the hospital. I could only thank God that my entire family survived this and came out of it without any long term issues. Covid had caused me to be more scared about anything that I had ever before because this was a threat that could not be seen nor could anything be done, all I could do was sit, and wait, and pray.