

How did the pandemic affect your ability to continue your education? (If you were in high school or college at the time)

- What barriers did you experience to completing your homework? (If you were in high school or college at the time)
- How did the pandemic affect your employment at the time?
- In what ways does the pandemic still affect you and your peers/our campus/your community/our society?
- How do you think the pandemic will affect your future? (Economically, professionally/careerwise, personally)
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I was in high school during COVID-19, and transitioning to online classes wasn't that hard or bad. I had wifi, a laptop, and a place to sit while taking class. That seat was outside in the living room. Despite having a room, I wasn't allowed to sleep or go there unless it was to grab something quickly. In the beginning, I was confused, and nobody would tell me anything. My mom kept telling me to stay away and to try not to be in my room for too long. I had my door shut at all times, like my parent's room. My mom never told me why, but I could piece together the details. With COVID-19 being declared a pandemic and everyone being forced to stay at home, I rarely saw my dad. My mom would prepare us all separate plates of dinner with one extra to bring back to her room for my dad to eat. Being sick with COVID-19 and being too scared to bring him to the hospital, we quarantined him in our home. It was hard to create a social life during covid. The shutdown started during the first year of high school when we were supposed to be meeting new people and making friends. Instead, I was at home, all alone, like I was in some broader kind of quarantine. I do think the shutdown degraded my social skills, and I had a harder time reading social cues, which eventually led to developing social anxiety. I'm still dealing with social anxiety and have difficulty talking to new people.