

Lillian: Hi, I'm Lillian Tenbarger. I'm a freshman chemistry major, and I was 14 in the eighth grade when COVID started.

Zippy: Hi, my name is Zippy Volson. I'm an anthropology and psychology major and a freshman here at Butler. And I was also in eighth grade when COVID hit.

Lillian: What was your first reaction when schools and businesses started shutting down due to Covid 19.

Zippy: I was surprised, but also I had heard about COVID happening in China, because my dad had talked about it in about December 2019, we all thought he was crazy and that we didn't think it would become so global, especially because he was stockpiling, ordering stuff in toiletries in like January and February of 2020, but it turned out that he was right. So that was still pretty surprising for me. What was your first reaction when everything started shutting down due to Covid?

Lillian: My first reaction was that was very surprised, and I didn't know that a virus could affect our daily lives so much.

Zippy: Did you learn any new hobbies or habits during lockdown during Covid?

Lillian: I started cooking a lot more with my mom. I would help her out, help her out with dinners and come up with recipes.

Zippy: I did help my mom as well a little bit, but I taught myself how to ride a bike because I had never learned before that for whatever reason. And that's also kind of when I started drinking coffee more regularly. I would make myself like an ice mocha most days or lunch in between my classes. And then I would also go on a lot of walks or bike rides every day just to get out of the house and get some fresh air, because I kind of felt cooped up and like I was going crazy in there.

Lillian: When schools opened back up, what were the rules or regulations they made in regard to COVID?

Zippy: My school opened up pretty early. It was the fall of my freshman year, and I remember us being the only school in the area that was open, because it was a private school, and we were a lot smaller and we weren't at full capacity. So we could spread out more and stay open longer or earlier than most schools. We would have Wednesdays online. So basically we had a day off in the middle of the week. But if there was like, a rise in cases or an outbreak at our school, we would be online for like a week or two. What about you? What were the regulations that you had in your school?

Lillian: My school was closed down in March and didn't open up until August of my freshman year. We were fully in person, but we did have a lot of mask regulations and six-foot rules in the classrooms.

Zippy: Yeah, it was very serious in line as well. All of the desks were spaced apart, and we were forced to stay in kind of like our advisory or sort of crews for lunch. We weren't able to see our friends. There were some people that didn't take the mask seriously, and they just kind of hung them down by their nose. Did anyone close to you contract COVID? What was your experience with that?

Lillian: I had COVID once, actually, at the beginning of this year. To me, it didn't feel like anything more than a cold or the flu, but I do remember my grandparents getting COVID in 2020 and they were very sick, and it took them a while to get better. What about you?

Zippy: I got COVID My sophomore year, and I got it from prom, which was really sad, but it makes sense, because it was one of the bigger like outings that I had been on kind of a bigger group of people than I had in a while, and it just spread a lot. It was really bad because I played softball in high school, so it was in the middle of the season. It was like the beginning of May, when I got COVID. So I was out for a while, and I couldn't play, and I was behind. And I remember having the first when I before I knew that I had COVID, I just had, like a sore throat, and I didn't think anything of it. Then the next day, I woke up with like a high fever, like 102, and I was very congested. And I just remember sleeping a lot, and I

wasn't hungry for like days, and I also it was harder for me to taste things as well, so I was probably sick for almost a week.

Lillian: Has COVID affected your mental physical health at all?

Zippy: For me, COVID affected my mental health a lot. At the beginning of COVID was when I first developed my depression, and I struggled with it a lot for two years before getting on medication my junior year of high school. So the sort of isolation and everything that went along with it, and how unmotivating online school was was really hard for me. What about you?

Lillian: COVID, especially the lockdown, did affect my mental health. It was really difficult because I couldn't leave the house and I couldn't see my friends or some of my family, so I kind of fell into a slump, like most people did. So that definitely was when I my depression kind of started as well.

Zippy: In what ways do you feel COVID impacted your learning experience?

Lillian: Once my school was shut down, the homework assignments for the rest of the year were optional, and most teachers didn't know how to use any zoom platforms. So I did miss out on a lot of education that year. Personally, I didn't feel very set back from education due to the pandemic, because a lot of my teachers freshman year, were very understanding, and they helped me get caught back up. But I do know a lot of people who struggled with feeling set back from the pandemic. What about you?

Zippy: I would say that I missed a lot of opportunities to learn during COVID, especially my freshman year, because I learned during this thing that online learning did not work well for me at all, that it was important for me to be able to connect with people, and that it just wasn't the right setting for me. I don't really remember most of what I quote, unquote, learned my freshman year, but also that was partially due to my mental health. I just wasn't doing well in general. So I do feel like I was set back by COVID, but some of my teachers were pretty understanding, and there was some things that were waived for our class that

probably wouldn't have been from other schools. How did you try to still see your friends during lockdown?

Lillian: During lockdown, my friends and I couldn't see each other, but we would always FaceTime and text every day. Once everything started to settle down a bit, we were able to see each other a little bit more. What about you?

Zippy: I was at our cabin that was about an hour and a half away for the whole spring of 2020, during the school year. So I felt especially isolated because I wasn't in town. But I would FaceTime my friends every day, especially during lunch, and we would talk a lot because we finished school by around lunch most days, and then in the summer when it was back I would meet friends outside a lot, and with masks. I had a friend that lived in my neighborhood that I would meet at a playground that people were close to and we talked there.