

Joseph: Hello my name is Joseph. I'm a freshman, and I'm a psych major. When I first heard about Covid, this was around the end of my eighth grade year, and to be honest, I didn't really think much of it. I actually, we had a grade-wide meeting, and while they were talking about it, I was actually sick. So people were like, "yo, does Joe have it?" And I was like, oh, I actually might have had this thing. But as time went on I realized that it was way more serious than I thought it was going to be. And I just feared for older people in general, and younger kids.

Academically, it was definitely hard. I would say that while I was in school I definitely wasn't getting the best learning experience, and I was taking the easy way out. I usually would cheat, and not take school as seriously as what it needed to be at that time which definitely affected me in tenth grade, because I took the ninth grade as a complete joke and I wasn't prepared. Personally, I'd say that, personally covid 19 affected my ability to build relationships and socialize and do what I'd like to do.

My biggest challenge was definitely being able to play sports. At the time I was playing football and baseball and I wasn't able to go out and practice and do anything with the team, so I would just go in my garage. I had to set up a little batting cage area in there and I would practice in that. But it wasn't the same as getting the team connection practice dynamic. But for high school, we would get on zoom and build chemistry that way. But other than that, I'd just say being active and being able to physically play sports in person.

For close friends, covid wasn't that big of a problem because I had an Xbox and we would socialize and play with each other that way. But for family, I wasn't able to travel to see my grandparents, my aunts, cousins. It was definitely harder to visit my family outside of my parents and my one cousin who lived with me. So that was definitely a big challenge when I wasn't able to see them.

Covid made me realize that anything can happen in life, and you just have to prepare yourself for potential outcomes. And you have to make sure that you're well prepared in terms of having different resources, because you never know if, lets say you just ran out of food, and then, boom you're locked down. SO you have to be prepared because anything at any time can happen.