

Ellie – Age 17
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I've known about this virus for a long time. Probably since mid-January. But I never expected it to get this bad. No one did. No one thought school would be canceled, or that restaurants would close. No one thought that going to the grocery store would become the most exciting part of the week. Sure, there were some people who thought it would be bad--but they were few and far between.

When I asked teachers in school if they thought class would be canceled, most said "ohh, I doubt it," or "maybe, but only for a week or two." For so long we believed that we would be fine. No one thought that society would shut down.

At some point, I stopped following along; reading the news is a waste of time. Things move too quickly for any of the information to really be relevant, and it is just depressing to watch the economy crumble and the reported cases and deaths rise.

The other thing is, is that when this all ends, life won't be the same. People are going to be hesitant to have big gatherings-- or even hug their friends. We aren't going to wake up all day to this all being over. It's going to take a long time for the world to recover from this.