Eva – Age 16

April 3, 2020

A few months ago COVID-19 had a minimal impact on my life. I discussed it with my parents and read a few articles about it, but it just felt like another piece of news that didn't really affect my life directly.

It wasn't until school closed down that it truly hit me how largely the effects of COVID-19 would impact my life. Our entire lifestyle shifted. Suddenly, I had to learn how to do school in my small house with five loud people and an unstable internet connection. I had to learn how to maintain friendships and stay entertained while isolated within the limits of my home. My parents started wearing gloves when they entered grocery stores and would make the whole family wash down all the groceries before bringing anything inside. I haven't left the house in a month except for the occasional walk around the block.

Aside from the obvious lifestyle changes, so much in my life has come to a halt or radically changed due to this pandemic. The leadership development program I intended on being a part of this summer has been cancelled. I can't receive my drivers license and my permit is expiring. A family vacation for a while now for spring break has been cancelled. But most significant is how it has affected my parent's jobs and our family economically. As a TV writer, my father's movie, which was supposed to be filmed this summer, has been postponed along with his paycheck for it. And mother is the boss of her non-profit and is being forced to take a pay cut so that her organization doesn't go under.

I think the scariest part is that there is no time limit. No one knows when this will all be over. It could be a few weeks. It could be a few months. And it could be even longer.