

Gabriella - Age 16

April 6, 2020

### My Thoughts on the Coronavirus

Around four weeks ago, when schools started closing and we all had to start social distancing, my dad read a Dvar Torah to our Shabbat table, and what he said lingered in my mind the last couple weeks. A Rabbi from Sydney, Australia wrote to the Jewish community and addressed what was going on in our world. People's lives have been turned upside down and our sense of reality has been twisted - no one knows what to expect or what is going to happen. This is what he said regarding this uncertainty we're all feeling: "We never know what the future holds. We only think we do and keep getting surprised when things don't pan out the way we expected. Now the mask is off. We have to admit our vulnerability." This was an eye-opener and reminded me that we don't know if anything is guaranteed or inevitable. I've really struggled with that, and I miss my routines and going to school and seeing my friends. Having school online just isn't that fulfilling, and I'm not learning as much as I used to. I'm too scared to go outside and see people, but I feel suffocated inside the house. I know that these precautions are happening for a reason, and I'm just grateful that my family is healthy and safe.