

Hi! My name is Sienna Lichtenfeld and I experienced a worldwide pandemic called coronavirus (aka COVID-19). I'm 14 years old and I'm an 8th grader at Evergreen Middle School in Colorado. I first heard about it on any other day. I do theater, and it was a few weeks after my first show of 2020 ended. I had another show coming up but thought nothing of it because I didn't quite know about coronavirus yet. The day I first heard about it, I was scrolling through Tik Tok, like any other teenager may be doing these days. Some people liked to post new clips on there to tell people information fast. I was thinking, "*Who cares! It's just some random virus in China, doesn't things like that happen to them all the time? Their population is 1 billion after all!*" I was blind-sighted to the idea of any virus hitting the U.S., for I was so happy enjoying finishing off my school year. As time went on, I didn't even have the idea of the virus in my head. All I was focused on was school and my show coming up. I was overjoyed to be the lead. Then I noticed something else. Coronavirus started hitting other places in Europe and Asia and moving around that area quickly. I may have been being a dumb teenager, but I still thought that it wasn't a big deal and no one should be worried. That changed very fast. I started seeing a small number of people in the United States getting coronavirus and started to question whether we were gonna take action or not. It spread very fast (as in the course of a month)! I started seeing people on Tik Tok posting videos that they were starting online school and would be out for a while. I was nervous that it may happen to us. As another week passed, I was peacefully skiing with my friends one day when I fell and ended up breaking my thumb. That was what I was focused on. I ended up going back to school two days later when at the end of the week, my teachers announced that we would start doing online school. I was immediately worried. It had finally hit me, everything. My thumb, my friends, school, this deadly virus, I wasn't sure what to think anymore. They planned for online school to only happen until they sent out an email saying it would be over. At first, it was only supposed to be a week or two. That quickly changed to a month, and then eventually the rest of the school year. The week we started online school, we had so many things coming up and I had so many things happening to me all at once that I was so stressed out. All my friends were telling me about how they were bored out of their minds because all of their sports and activities were canceled. I was so sad that I couldn't see anyone. Now it's May 6th, 2020 and we started this whole quarantine business on someday around March 20, 2020. Things are starting to get better. Things are reopening slowly, people are starting to see each other again, and I'm getting happy. I got to see my friends for the first time the other night, and it made me really happy. I think, in the end, this virus was a good thing. For instance, it helped with the amount of pollution produced, fewer

cars were being used, people were using more hygiene, and it made people more appreciative of the abilities they have each day.