

A travel story that involves no travel for me during the COVID pandemic was when my grandmother in Denver passed away. My grandmother had been living in assisted living in Denver for almost a year before the COVID pandemic erupted in the US. When the lockdown took place, she went from being able to interact with others in her community to being isolated in her apartment. She was a very social person and this isolation was devastating to her. It led to her mental decline. She ended up falling in her apartment and breaking her hip. She underwent surgery and died just days after surgery, doctor's attributed much of it to a loss of a will to live.

My immediate family, including myself, lived in South Dakota at the time when we found out. My mother who is a kidney transplant patient, which makes her immunocompromised, wanted to be at her mother's funeral. It was not advised at the time because of the fourth wave of COVID going through the country. My aunt and uncles were, also, very hesitant to have my mother traveling, so it was decided that the funeral would be livestreamed through the funeral home website. We sat down as a family to watch the funeral, but it wasn't the same as being there in person to say goodbye. So, because of COVID we were prevented from travelling to my grandmother's funeral and it's a major regret and a personal tragedy suffered by family during the pandemic.