

MY COVID STORY

In late March, just a few days after Governor Walz of Minnesota declared a shutdown, I spoke with one of my nieces who is a nurse on the surgical ICU floor at a hospital in west central Minnesota. She had been feeling ill and had a hard time breathing. She got tested for COVID-19 and isolated for 10 days. At that point, there were not many tests, and the results took forever to get back (over a week). Fortunately, she tested negative, but I am continually concerned for her as the cases and case load continue to worsen.

As April came and went and then May rolled in, I started to go stir crazy. I could not see my family and friends face to face although some of us had Zoom meetings. I got out and did gardening. I also did a lot of crafts such as knitting, and crocheting out on my patio this summer. Being in lock down gave me a chance to get some projects done that had been previously put on the back burner. I am semi-retired, so I only work a couple days a week, but it was still difficult to be confined.

I finally got back to work in July but was hesitant and anxious, because I had seen too many people either without masks, or wearing them incorrectly. That for the most part has passed, but I am very, very diligent about wearing a mask, washing my hands, and using hand sanitizer.

What has kept me going during this pandemic has been my friends, family and my handcrafts. All of this will probably help get me through the winter, too.