

AS FAMILY MEMBERS TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, STUDENTS PREPARE TO LOSE LOVED ONES

# DIAGNOSIS

As positive COVID-19 diagnoses rolled in for themselves and their family members, some students confronted the possibility, and sometimes the reality, of death.

For senior Julia Gonzalez, who never contracted the novel coronavirus herself, it was her family who kept her worried.

"It was really scary knowing my dad had COVID," Gonzalez said. "I was unsure of what would happen to him because he is 50, but I was also assured that my dad is a very strong and fit man who is active, so that kept me hopeful that he would be OK."

Despite her positivity about her father, she maintained concern over her grandmother, 70.

"The scariest part was hoping my grandma would not get it since she lives with us," Gonzalez said. "Thankfully, my dad fully recovered, and no one else contracted COVID."

Like Gonzalez, junior Daniel Yaacov was most worried for family members after receiving his positive diagnosis.

"I wasn't scared for myself," Yaacov said, "but there were a few high risk people in my household, and I didn't want to spread it to anyone, so I had to quarantine myself."

The desire to protect those who were most at-risk, was at the forefront of junior

Katherine Rosa's mind too.

"I didn't have time to feel scared for myself [once I was diagnosed with COVID-19], because my grandma was in the hospital at the time" Rosas said. "I was also worried about my mom because she has a weak immune system, so I had to live with my grandpa for a month to make sure she was safe."

Rosas recalled little about that time in her family's life, attributing it to the emotional toll of losing her grandmother.

"It all happened very quickly, so we all didn't really have time to process everything, because within a week my grandma passed away," Rosas said. "I'm not really sure how I was feeling at the time. It's like a blur."

Her personal experience with the pandemic will stay with her, Rosas said, long after other signs of these times disappear.

"I'm scared to go back to 'normal' life, because others lost nothing," she said, "and they will feel like nothing happened, and that's good, but I just feel like they will forget. And for me, it's something I won't ever forget, and my life will never be the same. I won't ever forget the feeling of being weak and helpless. I lost the woman who raised me."

Story by Cerasela Hanseter,  
Illustration by Alanna Jimenez

**"I never got COVID, but my dad did. I was constantly tricking myself into thinking I was sick, or looking out for all of the symptoms."**  
- Senior Julia Gonzalez

## SYMPTOMS optional

Students either do or don't feel COVID-19 symptoms

**"I tested positive on May 4, 2020, and I was sick for about four days. I felt very fatigued and weak, lost my appetite and couldn't stand for too long because I felt like I was going to pass out. I spent most of my time laying down. I also had mild fever."**

- JUNIOR  
KATHERINE  
ROSAS

**"In November 2020 over Thanksgiving break, I tested positive for COVID. I was sick for a little over a week, with body aches and headaches, and no energy. Oh, and no smell. I was bedridden for most of the time."**

- JUNIOR  
DANIEL  
YAACOV

**"I was diagnosed with COVID on July 22, 2020. My brothers and I didn't really feel anything, but we all got tested because my sister was feeling symptoms, as well as my mom and dad."**

- JUNIOR MELODY  
JAMNESHAN