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Age: 43

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1. When did you first hear about the Coronavirus?

I can't remember for sure. I do remember hearing a media blurb about it maybe in January and that it was occurring in Wuhan, China, and likely came from an animal intermediate host to humans via the "wet market" there.

2. What was your reaction then?

I remember thinking that sounds like it could be serious, but it'll probably stay over there. I felt like it would be kind of like SARS where we never really felt the effects of it here in middle America.

3. Who all lives in the home? and what challenges or changes had to take place specific to who lives in the home?

Myself, my husband Nathan, and 2.75 year old daughter, Neva, live in the home. The only big change we had was that Neva spent Mondays and Wednesdays with her grandparents while Nathan and I worked. They are both in their 70s, and we all felt it wasn't worth the risk for one of us to bring COVID to them, so Neva can no longer spend time over there, which is a little tough on everyone involved. If we do go over to the grandparents to deliver something, we meet in the yard and stay at least 6 feet apart.

4. When did the virus first become "real" to you? Or, when did it first affect your life?

I think it was late February when the media was really kicking things into high gear by covering literally nothing but COVID-19. March Madness was cancelled, the state high school basketball was called off, and it just seemed society was going off the deep end! At that point, I began feeling pretty nervous about it. My brother had gotten a work-from-home order by his company, and he was concerned. At that point, Neva stopped going to the grandparents and we really stopped any unnecessary travel.

5. What things changed right away? How did you feel when the schools closed?

We had Neva full-time, stopped traveling, and only one of us went on a grocery run. That was no longer a family outing. Work also changed pretty quickly as employees became anxious about who might expose us or whom we might inadvertently expose to the virus. We tried to social distance with clients at work and struggled with how to serve them while continuing to do business safely. As far as the state school closure went, I felt then and still feel that it was unnecessary and over-reaching. With the data about the virus we had then, and continue to have now, young people are rarely affected and mainly asymptomatic. That is the population we need to get exposed and develop immunity to the disease. Instead, we let them out of school to spend more time with family, possibly grandparents, continue to congregate outside of school, put more pressure on parents to supervise their kids' learning and to care for them while they are still trying to work to support the family. I think we'd all be better served to keep the kids in school and use common sense regarding vulnerable populations. Perhaps let older school employees or those with co-morbidities work from home/zoom classes, etc., cancel events where people congregate like sporting events and music programs, and avoid travel/exposure to older family members.

6. What things changed so slowly you weren't aware of it at the time?

I can't really think of anything that changed slowly. It sure felt like changes to our way of life were all happening at least on a daily basis.

7. What is your job/business situation right now?

Luckily, as a veterinarian and my husband as a rancher, we are both considered essential. My work hours and amount have not changed. We have locked the front office door. Clients call when they get here, and one of our staff members will go get their animal in the parking area, bring it in, and we examine the animal. The owners never enter the building. Our only exception is for euthanasia. We want people in that situation to be able to be with their pet, and they come in and do that. As far as large animals go, it has been more business as usual as far as the owners can still be in the barn with the staff and their animals, but we do try to stay 6 feet away from each other.

The situation with the cattle markets and the packing plants running reduced hours or being closed for a period of time due to COVID is scary. Ranchers and cattle feeders are going to lose a lot of money and many of them likely won't survive financially. The big 3 packers will be fine. They've been jacking up prices to

retailers during this whole ordeal. I've heard an investigation by the Trump administration of their response is in the works, and I sure hope that is the case.

8. When do you think life will get back to normal and why at that time?

Geez! I don't know. I hope by July, but that may be a dream. I feel like certain segments of society want to prolong it until November if they can. I agree the pandemic is real and we need to be deeply concerned, but at some point the cure is worse than the disease itself. If the economy crashes, many more people will die from the impacts of that actually globally, than will ever die of COVID-19.

9. What things do you think will temporarily change in a "new normal" and what things do you think will change long term in the "new normal"?

Temporarily, I think we'll see continued social distancing, limiting numbers of people at events, maybe even wearing masks in public, possibly events broadcasted without in person spectators. Long term, I'm afraid small businesses and retail stores in general may be things of the past. We are all getting dependent upon huge corporations such as Amazon, Wal-Mart, etc. as we can't shop in person, or we must utilize curbside pick-up. The huge businesses will have the advantage of weathering the storm where many smaller stores will likely go belly up especially if this goes on much longer. Clothing retailers have really taken a hit. I heard on CNBC that JC Penney stock was worth \$0.03 and they missed a \$12 million interest payment! Neiman Marcus and Macy's are struggling too, and I guess they all were before the pandemic. This sector of retail stores may be headed for oblivion. I do hope as a positive, the American people will be more cognizant of what we buy and where it originates. Since China is a global exporter of pandemics, maybe we don't need to buy the rest of the crap they sell! We need not depend on them, or any other country for that matter, for medications, medical supplies, food, and other essential items.

10. What is your reaction now?

I've gone back and forth on how much anxiety I have about COVID. At this point, I just want to get it, get over it, and develop antibodies to it! I don't want people to die from this disease, but if we will use common sense in regards to gatherings, remain vigilant in regards to at-risk groups, continue to social distance, etc., why can't we get parts of the country back up and running? As I said before if this goes on much longer, the cure is going to be much worse than the disease. Globally, if our economy combusts, more people are going to die from starvation than ever will from the pandemic. For example, famines in Africa are predicted and without charitable responses from the USA, the largest funder of any humanitarian aid,

people are going to die. If we can't afford charitable donations, the world's vulnerable populations (at home and abroad) will suffer greatly. Let's get this over with already!!