

Communities for Immunity: Stories about COVID The Peale, Baltimore | 2022

Malia (00:06): Hi. As you've heard, my name is Malia. And I just want to say before I start that I've always been really good in school. This was in elementary school, so it's Es, and Gs, and stuff. So, I've always really had Es.

Malia (00:28): So, when COVID started, it was still okay. But, then when we had the virtual school, my grades, they were still Gs. Then I got bored, because it's virtual school, and I just sat on my bed, on my computer. So, then I wasn't really paying attention to that. Then my grades dropped even lower.

Malia (01:04): Then maybe a week or a few weeks, or something, after that, my family wasn't doing so well. My parents were just really sick and stuff. So, I wasn't really bothered by it, because it was just a cold.

Malia (01:32): It really wasn't because it never got better. So, my parents decided to go to Patient First, and we found out that they both had COVID, and my mom, she had pneumonia. And my dad... He was... It's not really that deep. He was just hospitalized, but I was really scared, because my aunt called me saying, "Hey Malia, your parents have COVID." And I thought, I know he's going to die. Because, I couldn't really see him. And when I did call him, he couldn't really talk.

Malia (02:41): My mom, she stayed in the hospital for a few of days, but then she could come back home. But, she couldn't really do a lot of stuff when she was at home. So, I had to help take care of her since, she couldn't do anything. And then I had to take care of my sister, [McKayla 00:03:09], because, I think she was like five or six.

Malia (03:17): Also, I'm 11 now. Maybe, I was like nine. Or 10, because I have a late birthday. I just, helped her up with her at school and stuff and I made sure she was okay. And going to bed at a good time. But she doesn't really like being told what to do. It was okay, taking care of her, I guess. But I still had my own school to do, so that was actually the hard part. And then taking care of my dog was fine because I was used to it. It's just having to do all that in one day.

Malia (04:18): Then my dad, he was able to come back home, but he had this machine. It's like this tall around, and it rolls, and it has tubes connected to his nose. So, we had to monitor his breathing and things like that. And it was hard to make food for him, because all he could eat was really just soup and stuff. And if I did try to ask him what he wanted, he couldn't really talk. So, he could only mumble and stuff.

Malia (05:06): But I was just really scared and... If you were wondering how we did get food, it's because my, either my aunt or one of my mom's friends, they had to come to deliver food to the house.

Malia (05:29): That was fun because I liked seeing people outside of my house. My sister, she did make it better for me because she is fun and she made me happy. I liked spending this time with my dog, but he would be a distraction for me, as well as my phone, for the online school.

Malia (05:58): My grades, they dropped. But this is like, I don't know. But we were allowed to go back at school. So I got them back up again. My dad is healthy now, and I got back to doing the things that I could usually do.

Malia (06:28): I was also feeling really sad because I couldn't see my friends, and just because of what was going on in general. And since my friends weren't there to help me, I didn't really have anybody to talk to I guess. And I couldn't talk to McKayla because she was really young. And I have a hard time reaching out to people. I'm not going to say anything else about that topic.

Malia (07:09): Sorry, this is short. I know it wasn't like any of theirs. That's, oh.