

The day in a life of a teacher during the Corona Pandemic:

This pandemic has been a bit of a blessing for this teacher. My Dad died on April 1st and I have been needed by my mom for so many things that I would not be able to do if I were in the classroom. If you are not social distancing, please start. Dad was in a freak accident but we weren't allowed in the hospital to see him. When he died from his injuries, we couldn't have our family from across the country come to show their love for our missed father. We were allowed just 10 friends/family members in the church to say our final words of love. It was heart wrenching.

My day starts much later than it normally would. The team meeting starts the day at 9 a.m. I do not need my normal wake me up mug of tea and I can gaze out the window while doing my work. I see birds and bunnies and watch the wind whip through the trees. I plan lessons that normally would take an hour to write but now it takes two or more because I have many distractions. Over my lunch break I do a variety of tasks that are household - related. I can see Mom all day long and add a comforting word, look or hug whenever it is needed.

I miss my class. I worry about them all the time. I can't see them unless they join me on zoom. When on zoom there are household interruptions. Someone's at the door or the phone is ringing, or Mom needs help. There are a lot of different kinds of interruptions now during my teaching time. I no longer have kids interrupting to ask when lunch is or ask if they may use the bathroom. I also don't get to see the light bulb gleam in the eye when a concept is now understood. I don't see the troubled look on the face of a struggling student and I don't get to give hugs to those kids who need one. Life for an online teacher during this time is about providing work but not teaching in depth. There are no spontaneous learning situations that come up and get the class thinking. Not only do I miss giving the love that they need but I miss the love that I get from them-from their smiling faces or notes.

As I said, this new working situation is a blessing for ME to be able to be there for my Mom but I still hate it because I miss my "kids" ever so much!

Tracy O'Neill
Sunridge Elementary Teacher