

Working during Covid

When Covid first broke out and there was a stay at home order, I was not scheduled to work for 4 months. At the time, I worked at a very busy boba shop. When I was finally able to go back to work, work was harder than before. I used to work with 4 people on shift, but we slowly started to take people off the shift seeing that it was possible to get the job done with less people. Our boss had us working alone and handling the front house work and the kitchen for 8+ hours. It was still busy even with the stay at home order. People like their boba. We had to get a bell for the front so I'd hear the customers if I am cooking on the stove in the kitchen. We also had multiple online order services and they'd go off simultaneously and my boss had disabled the feature to cancel orders, which meant I dealt with impatient and angry delivery people.

The place I worked in was a food court. So, even moreso, I felt exposed. As people would pass by, they'd yell at me to go back to my country and that it's my fault that Covid has spread here. I had people come up to me with no masks and when I said I wouldn't serve them unless they were wearing a mask, so they would cough on me or try to get closer to me. One time, while I was on the outside of the store cleaning someone's spilled drink, a large man walked to the register to get some hand sanitizer. There was barely any left and that was the last bottle we had until we got shipment. When I told him we didn't have anymore, he scolded me that we are obligated to provide it. I apologized but he showed aggressive behavior and walked right up to me to tell me that he's trying to be safe. He was towering over me and I was scared. I put my hands up and told him to back away from me. Luckily, my coworker had come to relieve me from my shift and interrupted the scary man, and he walked away.

I was sad at work. I used to enjoy it. It was fun talking to my coworkers throughout the shift. I had friendly regulars I would look forward to seeing. And I didn't feel completely safe working alone. The store didn't have a front door, so the way to get in every morning was hopping the counter. Only the boss had a key to the back door.

I thought about if I should be working at all. I live with my grandpa and I wouldn't want him to get sick. No one in my family was vaccinated yet. I always felt uneasy.