

Mom and Dad,

My roommate tested positive for COVID today. Even though I've been begging her to stay safe, she went to the beach with friends and brought it home with her. I know you were planning on coming down to visit me this weekend, but I think it might be better for you to stay home. I'm moving into an alternate apartment, and I'll be in isolation for at least a week, maybe more. Can you send me some paper towels? I had to pack everything up in 20 minutes so I forgot to grab them, and I'm only supposed to leave my new room for emergencies.

It's lonely down here. I understand how important it is to stay safe and healthy, but at the same time, I feel like I'm being punished for good behavior. My roommate is the one who went against the guidelines; why did I have to move out of our apartment? I'm so far from all my friends, and until my test results come back, I'm not allowed to see anyone. I wish she would've just stayed home that weekend, but I guess it's not worth thinking about. I just hope I can get through the next few weeks without getting it, and without giving it to anyone else I know.

I really miss you guys, especially the grandparents. How's Grandma doing? I know things have been hard for her being so isolated, especially when the lockdown started just days after Grandpa died. Is she starting to move on, even though we never got to have the service? Maybe a year or two from now, when everything is back to normal, we can all get together and give Grandpa the memorial he deserves. I know he'd want all of us to be safe, it's not our time to be with him yet.

Besides all the COVID stuff with my roommate, college is going great. Remote instruction isn't as bad as I thought it would be, and I'm still making a lot of friends despite the limited interaction. This year has taken so many important milestones from me, I'm glad I at least get a semi-normal college experience. Without having actual graduation or prom, it still doesn't really feel like I'm in college all the time, but some afternoons I take a walk around campus to remind myself that everything will work itself out. All we have to do is give it time.

Love you,

Emilie