

## **In This Together**

### **Documenting COVID-19 in the Commonwealth**

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**Date of Submission:** 2020 April 23

**Biography:** I was born in Kentucky in 1951. For my husband's career we lived in a number of different states over the years but we moved back to the Lexington area in 2014 to be near our grandchildren. Our son and daughter-in-law both work at The University of Kentucky as a law librarian and archivist respectively. My sister also works at UK as a pathologist and director of the tissue bank.

**COVID-19 Experience:** Sheltering in place during this pandemic has had both good and unfortunate consequences for me and my family, though overall we are thriving. Our compassion goes to all those who have lost family members, jobs and incomes during this crisis. My husband traveled extensively on business every week for his pharmaceutical company until the Corona Virus restricted him from doing so. In early March he attended a symposium in Colorado and was later notified that the area he was in had a spike of Covid 19 cases at the time he was there. Two days after his return home he developed a cough and a low fever. There were no available tests at that time for his mild symptoms and he was better in just a few days. We quarantined ourselves and have continued to shelter at home since then. My husband and I are both enjoying this opportunity for him to be home for such an extended period of time. Being together has been joyful and, in one sense, is a lovely preview of what retirement will be like in the near future. What we both agonizingly miss is gathering with our family, especially our grandchildren. We have 2 grandchildren in town with whom we have just begun to have yard visits that include social distancing. We miss their hugs! Our other grandchildren are all in Texas and we Face Time regularly. We had to cancel a visit to see them in mid March. I have initiated a weekly Art Show to stay engaged with our grandchildren, aged 21, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, and 1. Participation is also open to their parents. At a designated time we all post our creations on Instagram and post comments on each others' works of art. So far we have created self portraits, pet portraits, Easter bonnets or bunny ears, Indian ponies, and photographs of Springtime. To motivate one of my out of town grandsons to read more, I am in a book club with him which we conduct on Face Time. The adult Book Club of friends that I host at my home monthly is now a zoom meeting, which we all agree is not as good as meeting in person but is certainly better than not meeting at all. My husband and I enjoy driving around the beautiful Kentucky countryside to see the horsefarms with their grazing thoroughbreds and Spring foals. The blossoming trees and flowers remind us that there will be a new beginning for all of us...this pandemic will not last forever. For the time being, we have canceled multiple domestic and international trips this Spring and Summer. A quote by Winston Churchill during World War II can also be applied to



the Covid 19 experience of today: "It would be foolish to disguise the gravity of the hour. It would be still more foolish to lose heart and courage."