

COVID_{IN THE} HOUSE OF OLD



March 2020 my father was hospitalized due to a broken hip.

All of a sudden, the rules changed and because I had been out of the country, I could no longer visit him for 14 days. My mother could not visit with him either. She was so worried. The care home was closed to visitors so I could not go and hold her hand when I told her how sick Dad was. It was communicated over the phone.

It broke my heart. I felt so helpless. My parents were always there for me. I could not be there to comfort them and make them feel safe.

The effects of COVID were and are profound. The care home went above and beyond trying to cope and provide the families with the ability to contact and see, albeit virtually, our loved ones. In the end my father passed away days after the care home opened to close family. My mother was able to spend time with him and so did my brother and I. His grandchildren did not. The memorial service was very limited, and if my mother attended, she would have been in isolation for 14 days after. Extended family could not come. The effects of isolation continue. I don't believe my mother has recovered. Over a year is a long time for an elderly person.

FAMILY MEMBER, WINNIPEG 3 May 2023 – Story 10

STORIES FROM A NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS