

SENIORS TALK : Even if they avoided Covid, there is an emotional toll and worries about others

Description

default watermark

Although the worst of the pandemic has apparently passed, Covid remains an important concern for seniors. SeniorBeat went to the Dr. George W. Davis Senior Center in the Bayview district and asked seniors how Covid has affected their lives, the lives of people close to them, and what they are doing to stay safe. (Photos by Colin Campbell)

Was I doing the right things to stay safe?



Geri Hill, 83, never had Covid, and although a few of her neighbors came down with the disease, none of her family members or close friends became seriously ill. â??Emotionally it was very concerning. I wondered if I was doing the right things to stay safe. I spent a lot of time in my apartment, keeping busy with my painting and working in the garden.â?• Sheâ??s not wearing a mask as much as she did at the height of the pandemic, but said itâ??s likely that she will get the new Covid booster this fall. A retired elementary school adviser, she lives in the Bayview.

Lost 20 lbs. and several good friends



Albert â??JJâ?• Jackson, 70, lives alone and became seriously ill with Covid last year. â??I was so weak I couldnâ??t even dial 911. I dragged myself to the street. Luckily, a neighbor saw me and helped.â?• He lost 20 pounds and several good friends. â??Covid just took them away.â?• Heâ??s not taking many steps to remain safe now: â??Iâ??m 70. I have to live my life.â?• Even so, he expects to get the new booster. â??Iâ??m no fool,â?• said Jackson, a freelance artist who lives near Twin Peaks.

Church closure was the hardest



Linda Powell, 76, did not have Covid but knew people who did, including a few who died. But for Powell, the most difficult part of the pandemic was the temporary closure of her church, where she spent much of her free time. The church managed to stream some services, but listening was never satisfying. â??I stayed six feet apart and had no social life.â?• She no longer masks, is back to hugging close friends, and frequently goes to the Davis Center, where she feels the safest. â??Iâ??m not a

medicine person, and donâ??t know about the booster,â?• said Powell, a retired school bus driver who lives in Daly City.

I was afraid to go out



Lynn Wilson, 69, did not have Covid, but the pandemic was a terribly frightening period for her. â??I was afraid to go out and stayed alone. You couldnâ??t tell if someone next to you had Covid.â?• A friend came down with Covid but recovered. Wilson wears a mask these days and said, â??I think the new booster will help. Iâ??m thinking Iâ??ll get it.â?• A retired bank customer service agent, Wilson lives in the Bayview.

Too busy to get Covid



Dennis Billups, 70, claims he was â??simply too busy and too active to get Covid.â?• But he lives with his mother and sister and was very concerned for their safety. He would mask, use hand sanitizer, and order food out to avoid outside contact. His family remained healthy, but one friend â?? a cab driver

â?? died from the disease. He continues most of the precautions he utilized during the pandemic and will probably get the booster. Billups, who is blind, said he is still active in the fight for disability and civil rights. He lives in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood.

Category

1. All Posts

Date Created
23/10/2023
Author
snyder

default watermark