

## **“This Virus is a Beast” West Jordan Resident Shares Story after Contracting COVID-19.**

Sitting in her daughter’s home, LuAnn Schroeder fights through her airy, dry cough hoping she’ll start feeling better soon. Two weeks ago, the 65-year-old West Jordan resident contracted COVID-19. Schroeder says she believes it happened when she and her daughters visited her brother’s gravesite.

“I’d taken all the precautions up to that point,” Schroeder said. “I wore a mask while outside, shopped during senior hours, and stayed home as much as possible.”

Today, Schroeder is recovering in her daughter’s home, who also contracted the virus, working to start feeling better.

“I just want to feel good again,” Schroeder said. “I’ve had some bad nights, it’s horrible. I wish people would just be careful out there.”

The most common list of symptoms that come along with the Coronavirus consist of:

- Fever and chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Not everyone who gets the virus experiences all of the symptoms listed above, in some cases an individual experiences no symptoms, despite testing positive for COVID-19, but Schroeder says she’s experienced it all, from a cough, to body aches, even losing her sense of taste and smell.

“What they say is where the virus lands is where you have your symptoms. So, if it’s in your upper respiratory, kind of like a cold, then you have cold symptoms. Or it can be gastrointestinal, and I’ve had both. I’ve been very nauseated, and I’ve had to get some medication to stop that,” Schroeder explained.

She says her daughter, who also got COVID-19, started feeling better just days after she began feeling symptoms. The risk for severe illness from the virus increases with age. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports people in their 50s are at a higher risk for severe illness

than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at a higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s.

“My daughter and her boyfriend, we are all here isolating together, they’re getting over it a whole lot faster than I am. People like me, we’re not getting over it as fast as the younger kids are.”

In the past few weeks, the Mayor of Salt Lake County has mandated the use of face coverings while in public. Schroeder, who says she’s always worn one while out and about, doesn’t believe masks should be mandated, but does wish people could make the decision themselves to wear one.

“It’s like everything else,” Schroeder said. “When you have your kids, you give them a chance, you give them a chance and then you have to make a rule. We’ve had horribly high numbers and they’ve got to slow down.”