Every news organization in the country was tested by the unexpected and widely-felt coronavirus pandemic. This was especially true at WUOT. Unlike television stations and most newspapers, our news department consists of only three full-time staff and two freelancers. Scattered to our homes and faced with the biggest story of our lifetimes, we worked intensely to coordinate coverage, report rapidly-shifting disruptions to daily life, and dig deeper into how COVID-19 affected Knoxville and its surrounding communities.

The results can be found at our COVID-19 coverage landing page, which chronicles WUOT News efforts to describe and understand the pandemic and its manifold effects from March 12, 2020, to the present day. These stories range widely: legal questions, government response, health, economics, the arts and spirituality. If digital archaeologists of the future happen across this landing page, I'm confident they will have a good grasp of how this pandemic affected the people of East Tennessee.

https://www.wuot.org/covering-covid-east-tennessee

Standout reports from this series include:

Navigating the Obstacles for Getting a COVID-19 Test in East Tennessee, by Claire Heddles, March 23

Spirit Guide: The Chady Homestead Pandemic Response, by Chrissy Keuper, March 26

Dialogue: Two Sides of COVID-19, by Brandon Hollingsworth, April 1

<u>HealthConnections: Health Disparities Reflected in the Pandemic</u>, by Brandon Hollingsworth and Dr. Carole Myers, May 5

Rebuilding Normality After Fight with COVID-19, by Brandon Hollingsworth, June 24

Knox Schools Struggle for Subs in Pandemic, by Heather Duncan, September 11

Thank you for your consideration.

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Brandon Hollingsworth News Director

WUOT-FM