



Social Distancing: A Never-Ending Engagement That I'm Thankful For

I kicked off March counting down the days until my May wedding between work meetings, happy hours and workout classes with friends and a weekly date night with my fiancé. Two weeks later, my May wedding was moved to August, and instead of spending the majority of my time with coworkers and friends, I was only seeing my fiancé in our small apartment.

While I love my fiancé, I never imagined spending 24/7 with him for weeks straight. Our relationship felt strong and successful because we were both independent and had robust lives outside of the partnership. When that sense of independence was stripped away with the recent stay-at-home orders, I admittedly felt nervous. Despite some initial arguments (most related to the stress around rescheduling a wedding), the arrangement has drawn us closer as a couple.

We've been challenged to problem solve together daily — from minute issues of who gets the living room for a conference call to larger issues like redistributing wedding invites and communication styles during stressful work days. It's pushed us to approach obstacles as a united team.

Sure, frustrations have ran high with the stress of lockdown, but we've had much-needed conversations about how we can best support each other both short and long-term, as well as what areas of our relationships need work. With social distancing in place, we have time to fully commit and work on these issues without any distractions.

Finally, quarantine has pushed us to dive into deeper conversations now that we have more time to sit and talk and be. After years of dating, there are still endless things to learn about each other, and it's fun to continue to grow and evolve and learn with each other.

While I'm still sad that our wedding date has been pushed back, I am excited that we are entering into this new union and new commitment with an even stronger sense of partnership. Who knew social distancing would have such a beautiful, hidden silver lining?