



Pharmacist on the Front Lines of a Pandemic - Q&A with Scott Dyer

How did you find yourself needing to prepare for an unexpected pandemic?

School was getting so busy that when the pandemic hit, the increased number of APSA meetings was really quite overwhelming. Once we made the decision to cancel all APSA events my workload really decreased, and I found myself with a lot of free time on my hands to catch up on my classes.

How is life at your store different from normal now?

As a student, I haven't spent that much time in a store before the pandemic, therefore all of the changes have really come in stride to me as I wasn't used to something different beforehand.

What kind of safety measures or PPE are you using to do your job? How are you staying safe?

Our pharmacy has plexiglass shields, we wear facemasks, have a hand sanitizing station at the front door, and make sure to soak the counselling / injection room with disinfectant before and after each use.

What have your interactions been like with customers/consumers/patrons?

Some patrons are really nervous, while others don't seem to care. I find it really important to meet patients where they are at and treat all people with respect no matter what their views are as long as they are showing respect back as well.

How are you managing the extra cleaning practices?

They almost seem like normal cleaning practices to me as someone who is so new to the profession.

What do you want people to know about your job?

Pharmacists work really hard to ensure patient care. Many pharmacists stay late after work unpaid to make sure that their patients are getting taken care of.

How has your family been affected by your work?

I avoided visiting many family members for a long time when the pandemic first started as being in a pharmacy could possibly have led me to increased exposure. I have been able to get in some visitation now and things are starting to get a little bit more back to normal. My Grandmother was probably most affected, quarantine in a 1 room seniors home all alone must have been terrible. On top of that she had problems with her air conditioning, and it was really tough on her. I am glad to see her getting to visit some friends and family now.