

Ulrike Kurth

Family

Diary entry 04.11.2020

Our first grandchild was born today! A girl. What a joy! Mum and baby are healthy and the father is also very happy and content. Unfortunately, we can only talk on the phone. We are not allowed to go to the clinic because there are special conditions at the moment due to the corona pandemic. Only mum and dad are allowed in - after mandatory tests. Visits are unthinkable.

So, we can't hold our grandchild in our arms, can only congratulate our daughter by phone - how good that you can make a video call - and hope that all three of them get home as quickly as possible. As everything went well, it probably won't take too long.

Diary entry 10.11.2020

The little girl has been at home for three days now - and as the family lives right next door to us, we can also see the little mouse. This is not a matter of course, because at the moment we are not allowed to visit other households and people who are not vaccinated, such as the other grandparents, are not allowed to visit at all.

Diary entry 15.12.2020

Our little mouse is now almost six weeks old, but the conditions are strange: apart from her parents, us - grandma and grandpa - and the doctor, she hasn't seen anyone yet. The strict lockdown is in place everywhere and no one goes anywhere to visit or would take the child shopping. You are allowed to go shopping because you have to, but there are a lot of rules to follow and of course nobody takes a baby with them.

Diary entry 06.02.2021

What a crazy time. Today our daughter had to go to the clinic for a follow-up check-up and I offered to go into town with her to take our little mouse for a walk. No sooner said than done! With a mask. What a strange impression the child must have of her surroundings. She's allowed out of the house and is taken for a walk in the pram, but she can only see her grandma's eyes because the lower half of her face is covered by a mask. That's pretty spooky!

Diary entry 31.07 2021

Our little girl was baptised today. After nine months - but it wasn't possible much earlier because there were restrictions that prevented it. At times, only five people from two households were allowed to come together. But we were ten people from five households (at least), plus the priest and the person being baptised. So, none of that worked. And all the planning and considerations had to be postponed again and again. Now it has finally worked out, with a coffee at the young parents' house. Going to a restaurant or coffee shop would still have been difficult. Although it is now permitted again - subject to conditions such as social distancing, face masks and vaccination certificates - the regulations are changed at short intervals, making medium-term planning impossible.

These are really strange times we are living in. And the number of people that our granddaughter has met so far and that she has actually seen (without a mask or a minimum distance of two metres) is very limited.

Diary entry 16.03.2024

Our second grandchild was baptised today. What a different situation. We were able to visit the little boy and his mum in the clinic on his very first day of life. Father and big sister were able to come and go as they pleased without any tests and baptism preparations could take place without any strange restrictions.

How limited was our life for almost 24 months? And whether all these regulations really prevented infection is still not clear. Everyone agrees that vulnerable groups needed special protection, but whether all public life really had to be paralysed is not clear.

It therefore seems all the more important to learn from this experience, because a pandemic that requires special measures could break out again at any time and we should have learnt from the experiences of 2020 - 2024.

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