The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

A Moscow Family's Experience in Coronavirus Confinement

By Sofiya Voznaya for Coda Story

March 15, 2020



Rushing past hazmat-suit-clad officials in the Moscow airport. **Sofiya Voznaya / Coda Story**

Sofiya Voznaya, a visual artist for Coda Story based in Moscow, has been under self-quarantine with her husband and two children after returning from Berlin during the coronavirus outbreak.

She took to Coda Story's Twitter to share their experience of home confinement "with Big Brother watching" in a time of global pandemic:

Embed:

> I'm @SofiyaVoznaya, Coda's visual artist. Right now, my two girls, my journalist husband and I can't leave our flat in Moscow. So I am taking over Coda's Twitter account to share what #Covid19 quarantine is like with Big Brother watching.

> pic.twitter.com/Pdd5gQA93r
>
> — Coda Story (@CodaStory) March 12, 2020

Sunday, we flew home from Berlin to surprising news: Moscow put all travelers from Germany on a Covid-19 quarantine list. So here we are, headed for a 14-day confinement.

As we arrived, officials in hazmat suits were only checking passengers from Italy in the middle of the airport crowd. We grabbed our luggage and dashed out. We were ordered to self-isolate. But here's a weird thing: there was no one stopping people from taking public transport.

We learned from Moscow's hotline the terms of our bizarre "imprisonment": don't go out under any circumstances, except to take the trash out. Break the rules, and you face supervised quarantine, fines and prison.

Embed:

> How would authorities know? Moscow has a network of facial recognition cameras (our reporting: https://t.co/DPpD7QmXmp)
>
> Friends say police have banged on people's doors for not registering their arrival. About 100 Chinese students got deported for violating self-quarantine rules pic.twitter.com/kMtlDMcTDd
>
> — Coda Story (@CodaStory) March 12, 2020

Thankfully, Russia's online shopping sites are in full bloom and we could fill our fridge and cupboards with 80 [kilograms] worth of food, drinks and cat litter. But...NO! I forgot milk and coffee!

Embed:

> Working from home isn't easy with stir-crazy kids. My husband @alfalf normally works with a big team of journalists. Now, he has two small girls on his lap. Here he is, trying to write about Russian constitutional reforms that will keep Vladimir Putin in power until 2036. pic.twitter.com/UuD1n9DfMm
>
> — Coda Story (@CodaStory) March 12, 2020

Self-confinement changes everything. Take trash: far from a chore now. We toss a coin on

who gets to go on a 20-meter walk. Rules are tight: has to be at night, in a mask. Moscow's cameras are watching.

Embed:

> Plus side: without distractions of the outside world, I've been doing more exercise than usual. Beyond our four walls, authorities cancelled flights, warned people against taking the metro and banned large gatherings.
> pic.twitter.com/8p5y6gTqnB
>
> — Coda Story (@CodaStory) March 12, 2020

Embed:

> But as it so often happens in this country, it feels like we don't really know what's going on. Officially there are a handful of cases in Russia. But is the government lying to us, Chernobyl style? So many questions... pic.twitter.com/3uMJAWvWBJ
>
> — Coda Story (@CodaStory) March 12, 2020

Embed:

> What is your quarantine experience?
>
> Share it with us in the comments or a DM, and we may animate your story, too!
> pic.twitter.com/JsyZNKigUq
>
> — Coda Story (@CodaStory) March 12, 2020

Embed:

> #SelfQuarantine in #Moscow #COVID2019 day6: i had an argument with my 2 years old over a puzzle: «You!», «No, you!». We are stubborn.
> https://t.co/hUJfSJLZwf
>
> — Sofiya (@SofiyaVoznaya) March 14, 2020

Embed:

#Coronavirus : #Moscow #quarantinediary with @alfafp DAY 7: Taking pleasure in the little things https://t.co/I9btzNB6Hj pic.twitter.com/6pCPYx8ubg

— Sofiya (@SofiyaVoznaya) March 15, 2020

Embed:

Day 8 of our #QUARATINE's diary with @alfafp was tuned to the one song our girls wanted constantly to listen to: YMCA... It's turning into the song of our quarantine, bloody ear-worm. #Moscow #COVID2019 #коронавирус #карантинбезпаники pic.twitter.com/ZMlmBIMqi6

— Sofiya (@SofiyaVoznaya) March 17, 2020

Embed:

#Putin says "the situation is under control" but "the risk high". Whatever that means. We spent our 9th day in #selfquarantine #coronavirus with @alfafp. Follow our #diary on #Facebook: https://t.co/2mE5SwMRjQ #Homeoffice #Homeschooling pic.twitter.com/4J5N1HsH97

— Sofiya (@SofiyaVoznaya) March 17, 2020

Embed:

#COVID2019 #selfquarantine with kids. 4 days left! Will I want to go out then? #Moscow #coronavirus #uncertaintimes pic.twitter.com/2vT7lgVx2Q

— Sofiya (@SofiyaVoznaya) March 18, 2020

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