Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When a Health Crisis Changes Everything

Noah R. - Bethesda, Maryland

***That's Medicaid** shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.*

When **Noah** began a prestigious fellowship in 2019 teaching English in Colombia, he expected to have health insurance for the duration of his participation. But when the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly cut short the program, he returned to the United States without a job or health insurance.

"I was already acutely aware of the importance of having health insurance," says Noah. "But with COVID-19, I knew it was especially important right now."

Noah was able to quickly sign up for coverage through his state's Medicaid program, signing up days before he would have become too old to stay on his parents' plan. He has only been enrolled in the program for a short time, but it has already brought him peace of mind during a difficult time.

"It's been a huge weight off my shoulders, especially with the health crisis that's going on," Noah says. "Without insurance I probably would not have been totally honest with myself in acknowledging potential symptoms. Now if something were to happen, I know I'm not going to financially damage my family."