

A Wish and a Worry: From a Doctor in Palliative Medicine to the Families of Those Dying from COVID-19

Amy Grace Stephanie Taylor, MBChB, MRCP

I wish that things were different.
I wish you could be here too.
I wish that this hard thing wasn't being made harder.
I wish I could change this part for you.

I worry that what I can tell you
Keeps changing from day to day.
I worry I am uncertain, unsure of the answers.
I worry you see this in what I say.

I wish I could sit down beside you
And talk with you face to face.
You see my eyes as I tell you we really do care
And I'm sorry you are both in this place.

I worry that you will ask, "what if?"
More often than you normally would.
I worry accepting that it is what it is
Will be unexpectedly harder than it should.

I wish I could tell you what to expect.
I wish I had that crystal ball.
I wish there was an understanding, a vaccine,
I wish we knew enough, not even it all.

I worry that even though I'm speaking
Carefully chosen and thoughtful words,
After "COVID," they lose all their meaning,
That you just hear panic, fear, the worst.

I wish I could let you say goodbye
In the way that you thought you would.
I worry that if the rules change again
We took away the chance that you could.

So I use a wish and a worry
To say that I'm sorry and I'm sad too.
And I wish that these times would pass quickly,
But I worry that wishes don't come true.

Address correspondence to:
Amy Grace Stephanie Taylor, MBChB, MRCP
Northern Ireland Postgraduate Medical
Training Scheme in Palliative Medicine
Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency
Belfast, Northern Ireland BT8 7RL
United Kingdom

E-mail: amygstaylor@gmail.com