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Congenital anosmia, the chronic inability to smell, is a rare condition — approximately 1 in 10,000 people had it according to 2016 figures.

But now, millions more have lost their sense of smell due to COVID-19. Many haven't regained all of it.

<https://t.co/fLri7CV6Rg>



At a minimum, the pandemic has highlighted the everyday struggles of people living with what some have termed an “invisible disability,” one that makes life more difficult but might not be easily detected.

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The increased attention afforded to smell loss as a chronic condition has prompted new studies, piquing the interest of olfactory researchers bent on understanding more about the coronavirus.

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“I was made to feel invisible because people don’t understand, so a little part of me has had a lot of validating experiences” during the pandemic, Alex Pieraccini said. “Another part of me is like ‘Why did it take this long for it to be a visible thing?’”

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