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measures and online classes, Paz admits friendships have changed. "Something so striking and unprecedented changes our vision, our way of seeing people. Now I appreciate one friend much more, and others are less important than I thought they were," he said.

Francisco, 20, Argentina, love under lockdown

Francisco Avalos only managed to celebrate one month with his new girlfriend Guadalupe before lockdown was imposed in Buenos Aires. He recounts how she baked him biscuits and wrote: "One month and counting. I love you." By the next monthly milestone, they were stuck at home. There were no more celebrations for the couple, who live 40 kilometers (25 miles) apart. By the fourth month, Avalos felt he had to find a new way to say "I am still here." So he started ordering food to be delivered to Guadalupe: breakfast, tortas (similar to pancakes), burgers and once, even a dozen donuts.

Now taking the pandemic in their stride, the couple plan video calls a couple of times a week. "It's a way of getting around the lockdown," said Avalos. "At the beginning we would talk a lot about how bad we felt, but now we are trying to avoid that and make the best of it." Looking to the future, Avalos says: "The first thing I want to do when I get out is to spend an afternoon together, go to the park and drink (traditional Argentinian beverage) mate, from dawn to dusk." — AFP



Uruguayan Felipe Paz (front) poses with friends before playing football amid the new coronavirus pandemic.



Argentine high school student Jazmin Islas poses in her bedroom in La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Argentine youth Francisco Avalos, poses for a photograph while using his smart phone at his home in Bernal, Buenos Aires outskirts, Argentina, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.