“It’s Hard to See Through These Goggles” by Nick Ryder
Tuning: DGDGBE

This song emerged out of my experience adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. I remember when the word “pandemic” hadn’t yet permeated my society, and everything felt so uncertain and scary. It was breaking my brain. Now, the challenge is continuing to work/survive/thrive amidst this uncertainty and extra necessary precautions.

This song highlights two vignettes: 1) buying toilet paper and 2) beginning to wear a mask. It is dedicated to everyone who has been or currently is struggling with mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Intro + Verse #1:

D          G
It’s hard to see through these goggles
D          G
It’s hard to breathe through this mask
D
Everything’s changed, and it’s breaking my brain
Bm        F#m       G
And we don’t know how long this will last

D          G
Will I get COVID?
D          G
Or am I already immune?
D
No nasal swab yet, but I’m placing my bet
Bm        F#m       G
That I’m gonna have to get one soon.

A
And I know
G
That no one knows
A
We all know
G
That we don’t know
Verse #2:

D
At first, toilet paper was the domestic debater
D                G
I was buying it by the roll
D
And then our local gas station made a price elevation
Bm          F#m         G
And somehow, it still got sold

D
And wearing a mask became such a big ask
D                G
And I admit, it was hard to do.
D
But my Mom sent me three, and she educated me.
    Bm        F#m        G
And I wear it to protect me and you.

    A
And I know
    G
That we don't know
    A
I don't know
    G
What we know.

~ Instrumental Interlude ~

Outro/Reprise:

D                G
It's hard to see through these goggles
D                G
It's hard to breathe through this mask
D
Everything's changed, but one thing in my brain says
    Bm        F#m        G
We know that this too, shall pass.