

Interview Transcripts:

Bailey Borg

First Interview: April 6th
New Hampshire Cases: 715
US Total Cases: 375,348

Second Interview: April 21st
New Hampshire Cases: 1,491
US Total Cases: 824,229

Information retrieved from the NH Department of Health and Human Services and Worldmeters.

The following are responses from Bailey Berg, a 21 year old student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute living in New Hampshire.

1. What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Here it kinda of lacks clarity, it's like you should stay at home but a cop wont come up to you and stop you if you are walking down the street. Restaurants are open for take out, liquor stores, gas stations, walmart, so pretty much only really non essential things like clothes stores are closed.

Restaurants are still open for take out and the regular stores like walmart and grocery stores are open. The liquor stores are open. None of the non essential like clothing stores are open. But we aren't on a complete lock down like you can drive around and no one's gonna stop you. You kinda have freedom but nothing is open.

2. Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? (Could authorities do more/less to mitigate spread)

I think in my area specifically because it isn't very concentrated with people i think it's an appropriate response. If it was a more concentrated area of people then a stay at home order may be more appropriate but here there aren't as many people so it's not too hard to stay 6 feet away from people at the grocery store.

Yeah I think my area specifically we are all staying inside and not going anywhere and you won't get arrested for going on a job. I think it could be a lot more strict in other areas like i hear they

just reopen a beach in florida and considering the number of cases I think that was the wrong move I think it's better to be safe and be in quarantine.

3. Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, what have been the largest changes?

I guess the hardest change has been trying to manage my own schedule like getting up in the morning without having anywhere I need to be is difficult. I feel like I thrive with structure and need that to get work done. Also, not seeing people in person, friends for instance, its hard to feel like you're getting the same connection as when you are with them in person.

Not seeing friends in person. I'm pretty privileged in that both my parents still have their jobs and I still go to school so life is pretty normal. So just like not seeing people in person is making me feel disconnected because zoom is just not the same.

4. Is there any lesson you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I guess philosophical wise, I guess just that the world doesn't revolve around you just because you're healthy and won't be affected by (covid) doesn;t mean other people won't be affected. I hope that a lot of Americans learn the lesson that people need health care for *everyone* to be healthy. Just because you have healthcare doesn't mean you're automatically safe. So I hope a lot of people look into universal healthcare as a solution.

I just hope the people protesting for the right to do what they want with 'their bodies' recognize the irony in their actions. Women are told all the time what they can and can't do with their bodies by these same people. It just doesn't make sense that they're protesting. It would make sense if they were protesting for a good cause like they lost their jobs or they wanted health care but their main arguments are that they want to get a haircut or go clothes shopping.

5. When do you think your region will be able to eradicate the virus (if they haven't already)?

Looking at other countries right now I have a lot of hope because a lot of Asian countries are through it by now. America is a lot more lax than other countries in policies and testing but we will probably hit the worst by late April and we will probably be through it by early Fall.

In my area it's pretty spread out and rural so I think it will go to normal a lot faster than say like mass. But i still think it will maybe take another month. Because even after a month people won't act like it's normal because it will feel weird to go out without disinfecting things and there will still be trace cases for probably a year.

Harold Poskanzer (4/6)

Henry: So, first I need you to officially give me permission to record the interview. Please state, "I give permission to have my video recorded."

Harold: I, Harold Poskanzer, give permission to have my video recorded.

Henry: Good. Now, please tell me your age, occupation, and location.

Harold: My name is Harold Poskanzer. I am 54 years old, and I'm in the bathroom.

Henry: By location, I meant city.

Harold: I'm in Palo Alto, California.

Henry: Thank you. What is life like where you are?

Harold: It's, you know, people are managing okay. Some things are not very fun, like going to the grocery store. It's kind of an ordeal. No one gets to see their friends, which is kind of sad. But other things I actually find nicer. Like, there's no pollution. Other than worrying about the virus, people seem less stressed because they're not commuting, and they're perhaps working fewer hours and spending more time with their family.

Henry: How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Harold: It's interesting. A lot of them are getting very creative. Some of them have just shut down entirely. Like, there's a bunch of restaurants which just have closed, and they're just gonna ride it out closed. Other restaurants are, you know, doing a lot of meals to go. Some restaurants are selling their stock like a grocery store. Like, I went to pick up a pizza a couple weeks ago, and they're selling full bottles of wine because they have all these bottles, and they can't use them. So people are really getting creative about how to stay in business and make money. And then I haven't been to hardware stores or anything. I went to one hardware store. It was pretty normal. Grocery stores are, you know, trying to be very safe, but at varying levels. So, one grocery store is very good about not letting people into the store and keeping distance inside, but they're not doing anything like disinfecting shopping carts between each person. Another grocery store I went to is very bad about keeping the store uncrowded, but it's tried to do one way aisles, but nobody's paying attention to that. So, it really varies from store to store.

Henry: You said you have a job.

Harold: Yes.

Henry: How has your business responded to the pandemic.

Harold: Well, I'm a software engineer, and my company does work in fraud investigation. Our business is booming because in times of crisis, there is generally a lot of fraud. At least for the engineering teams at work, life isn't that much different. We've always worked at home one day a week, and now we're just working at home five days a week. But we're still being very productive and collaborating well. That hasn't really affected us or slowed us down much at all,

except for, you know, the social aspects. I don't get to take a break and go hang out in the kitchen with my work friends.

Henry: Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more or less to mitigate spread?

Harold: I live in California, which was one of the earliest and strictest states. And I think California's generally doing a really good job, especially around where I live. They've, you know, they've closed a lot of stuff. They've closed parking lots at most parks. They've really made a good effort to prevent the spread of the virus. So I'm pretty happy with how our government has responded.

Henry: What about the national government?

Harold: Oh, I think that's terrible. I mean, you know, you hear stories about parts of the country and how they're not responding very well or responding too late or responding, but still doing things like allowing people to go to religious services. And that's worrisome, but on the national level, I think the federal government, especially the president, is doing a terrible job. He, you know, delayed for a month and called it a hoax and hasn't released the strategic national stockpile of equipment and all sorts of things that are really just making the situation a lot worse. Oh, and giving unsolicited medical advice. So, I think the office of the president has been actually counterproductive and quite dangerous at times.

Henry: Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Harold: Yeah, there's probably a lot of lessons I hope people learn from this. There's the lifestyle stuff, like I hope people learn to value a more relaxed life and less time commuting and less, you know, value the lower pollution levels. I'm curious to see when it's over how much of that stuff comes back. I'm hoping people work at home more often, but you never know. I think in terms of the medical situation, I mean, there's this, you know, health insurance in this company is tied to your employment, which is in many ways a tool to tie into your job and prevent you from switching jobs, and is also a real tragedy at times like this when many people are losing their jobs and now have no way to get health insurance or get medical care. So I'm hoping that out of all of this . . . the one thing I would really hope to get out of all of this is a single-payer nationalized healthcare system, so that we don't have to get in this kind of situation again. Yeah, that's probably the main thing I would like to see come out of this.

Henry: How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Harold: Well, locally, I'm hopeful that the measures we're taking will have an effect, and there's some evidence that they already are, and we will flatten the curve, as they say, and prevent overwhelming the healthcare system. I think other parts of the country might not be so lucky because they've been slow and reluctant to take action. I think there's going to be a lot of suffering and death in parts of this country. The part that really worries me is other countries. That makes me very sad because as broken as our healthcare system is, it's a lot better than many

countries. If this pandemic ever really spreads in India or sub-Saharan Africa, I think it's gonna be pretty gruesome. Not really looking forward to that.

Henry: Thank you. That covers all of my questions.

Harold: You're welcome. I'm happy to help.

Harold Poskanzer (4/22)

Henry: Please state, "I, Harold Poskanzer, give permission to have my video recorded and published on archive at WPI."

Harold: I, Harold Poskanzer, give permission to have my video and audio recorded on archive at WPI.

Henry: Thank you. And do you wish to remain anonymous?

Harold: No.

Henry: Okay, I'm going to get started with the interview now. Uh, what is your age?

Harold: I am--wait, what year is this--I'm 54 years old.

Henry: And what do you do for a living?

Harold: I'm a software engineer.

Henry: And where do you live?

Harold: I live in Palo Alto, California.

Henry: What is life like where you are?

Harold: Um well, for me personally or just in general?

Henry: why don't you start by talking about, uh, you yourself personally, huh?

Harold: Alright, well my life is ... is not too different from what it was before. Since I'm a software engineer, I used to work from home pretty regularly anyway, so the shelter in place isn't that different for me. Um, it is quieter in that I'm not going out as much. I'm not going out with My friends. I'm not going out to restaurants. Um, but, you know, I still manage to get out of the house for walks and things. So, my life isn't that different. It's a little different, but not too bad. Um, I think a lot of other people in the area are affected much more than I. I know a lot of restaurants have closed, and so restaurant workers are out of work. You know, gardeners can't work. The people, you know, a lot of the service industry people, I think are really much more affected than I am. And, uh, you know, I read on Twitter and Facebook of people with a lot of

free time on their hands because they can't--they're not working. That's not the case for me. I'm plenty busy with work.

Henry Okay. How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Harold: Um, some of them have just closed. Outright, some restaurants are just closed. Um, some restaurants have gone under. Like, you know, they're not in business anymore. A lot of them are still open, just doing takeout and delivery. Um, and I think they're doing okay. It's hard to tell. Um, other stores are, you know, similarly, a lot of the, you know, required stores like hardware stores are still in business and I don't know how well they're doing. But they're still in business. I think the ones that are open are mostly doing a pretty good job of helping with social distancing. So, the grocery store, they only allow a certain number of people in at a time. And they, uh um make you stay six feet apart. They've got one way aisles, um, and they've got protective gear up around the cash registers now. So they're really doing the best they can with that sort of stuff.

Henry: Are there any restaurants that still allow people to eat in the restaurant?

Harold: No, that's against the rules right now, so that's not allowed. Oh, well, I have also read about some restaurants that are closed for food preparation. They're not even doing take out, but they've got all this food sitting around their fridges, and so they've essentially turned themselves into grocery stores, and they've been selling off their stock of food and toilet paper, too. I've heard of restaurants selling off industrial rolls of toilet paper.

Henry: And the grocery stores. You mentioned that they've implemented a lot of rules to keep people safe. Do people follow those rules?

Harold: Um, for the most part, yes. I've only been to two different grocery stores during the shelter in place, and in one of them, um, people were not very good about following the rules. And in the other one, people are very good about following the rules. But even at the one where people are good, there's almost always like one person who just comes barging right through, not paying any attention. So, people are mostly good, but there's almost always one person who's not.

Henry: Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more or less to mitigate the spread?

Harold: Um, I think the authorities in my area and California in general are doing the best they can, which is the shelter in place orders. And I think that's really, really good, and that's definitely necessary. Um, I would like it if we were to do more widespread testing, but the tests aren't available, so we can't. So I think the authorities are doing the best they can with the resources they have.

Henry: Okay. Do you think the federal US Government needs to do more or less to mitigate the spread?

Harold: They have done very little to mitigate spread. So, yeah, they need to do more. They haven't really helped the states it all with, you know, either tests or personal protective equipment or anything. They're not really helping out at all. They're letting the states do it all themselves.

Henry: Uh, what about the international government? Do you think the World Health Organization and/or the United Nations needs to do more or less to mitigate the spread of coronavirus?

Harold: I don't know, actually, because I haven't been following the international response very closely, so I don't know what WHO is doing or the UN. So, I don't I can't really say whether or not they should be doing more.

Henry: Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic since the previous interview? If yes, what have been some significant changes?

Harold: Um, I don't remember exactly where we were the last time you interviewed me. Um, but we've definitely gotten more strict about wearing protective gear when we go out to the grocery store and limiting our grocery store trips to once a week, max. Um, so those are definitely changes since the last, you know, changes I've had to do, obviously. But the last time we talked, I still wasn't--I wasn't going out for coffee or dinner anymore, so that's still the same. But I think we've gotten stricter about protective gear. I think since the last time we talked, we actually got masks from a friend of ours who made them. Um, so now we wear those when we go out shopping.

Henry: Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Harold: That's a good question. I mean, ah, pandemics will happen. I hope that people learn that we need a stronger federal government response the next time it happens. And I hope also, people learn that, you know, life is quieter now in that there aren't cars on the road, there's no real pollution. And I'm hoping people will learn that those were nice things that people work from home more often and not drive as much. And I think we've learned some nice things out of this as well.

Henry: So you said that working from home is related to leading a quieter life. Do you think it could--do you think working from home could be more stressful than working from an office in any way?

Harold: Well, I think for some people, it really is. I mean, people who have small kids at home or who don't get along with their spouses. That would be pretty stressful. And the nature of your job. I mean, if your job involves a lot of interacting with other people, um, it would probably be harder at home. Um, I think the Bay Area is fairly unique in that a large portion of our workforce is easily capable of working from home just because the large number software engineers around here. But it's clearly not for everyone.

Henry: How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Harold: Oh, man, I wish I knew that. I mean, I can't predict anything that's gonna happen the next day. I mean, if I had to guess, I'd say that the states are going to start loosening up the restrictions slowly. Um, and then there's going to be a second wave of infections, and they're gonna tighten things up again, and then, you know, then they'll start loosening up again. And hopefully after, you know, a round or two of that, we'll get to the point where we don't have to worry about it as much, and we can really loosen things up and go back to socializing in public. But I don't think this is over.

Henry: Okay, that answers all my questions. Thank you for participating in this interview. I'm going to stop recording now.

Harold: Okay.

Andrew Visocan

Date of Interview: April 7, 2020

US Confirmed Cases: 380,744

Virginia Confirmed Cases: 3,333

Source: <https://ncov2019.live/data>

So, to start off, could you just tell me a little bit about yourself? So your name, your age, your occupation, and where you are right now.

My name is Andrew Visocan. I'm 20 years old and I'm currently living in Blacksburg, Virginia. I used to work production services, but we downsized and stopped doing setups for meetings after the most recent recommendations and quarantine guidelines for Virginia.

So are you a student?

I'm currently a student, and Virginia Tech is still full time, but we've transitioned to having all classes and office hours online through Zoom.

What has been some of the most notable change in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19, and how has that affected your daily activities?

I'd say the biggest change for me is not having in person instruction. Because, especially for classes that are more advanced, like combinatorics and advanced computer science classes, the in person instruction gives an opportunity to ask questions and hold more fluid conversations with the teacher. Online conferencing is good, but it just isn't able to capture the same amount of information.

How has your social life and your relationships with your friends and family changed or been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19?

Prior to COVID-19 I would remain in Blacksburg for the entire semester, and I wouldn't really visit home much during the week as I live four hours away from school. That still remains in place. However, there's a lot more calling family in case something were to happen to them. Also, my social life in Blacksburg has changed quite a bit. I'm getting less social interaction, as is everyone due to online classes. And we would usually host a small party or kick back at our house twice a week and we're not doing that anymore.

Could you talk a bit about what the reaction was for you and your peers when you first learned that Virginia Tech was going to be moving to an online teaching system?

One of my roommates was quite excited because his plan was to just move home and live there for the rest of the semester, which he's done. For the rest of us, we were a little bit more concerned about whether or not we would be receiving the same amount of instruction and being able to understand our material as well. And we were also a bit sad because we weren't gonna be able to hang out with friends as much and host parties anymore.

Do you have any predictions about how this pandemic might progress? When do you think things will return to normal?

So up until a couple of days ago, I was a little bit more pessimistic about it because there was no new information regarding vaccine developments or drug treatment developments. But within the past 24 hours, there has been information released about a vaccine starting human trials sponsored by Bill and Melinda Gates as well as a variant of hydroxychloroquine that's used in Japan being a safer and more effective treatment than the other widely used version of it [chloroquine]. This, combined with the ongoing vaccine research as well as a general community effort to make surgical masks out of whatever they can find at home, including cloth and 3D printing parts, means that I think that the United States is gonna hit the peak of their curve and start decreasing cases pretty soon.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

I think this is gonna go in textbooks as several things. I think the United States is unfortunately gonna be near the forefront of how to not manage a pandemic. As will other countries such as China and the U. K. But other countries that have really come together and effectively shut down Coronavirus such as South Korea and Japan, will be looked to for advice in future pandemics. I also think that this is going to spur a great trend in finding maybe potential ways that existing viruses can mutate and then trying to prepare vaccines that are more wide spectrum if that even is a possibility. Because now we've seen what virus can do when there's absolutely no vaccine for it. And it's, I think, really woken up the public and shown people what a world without vaccines would be like.

Asha Sherring

April 7, 2020
Interview Series (1)

Please tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is Asha Sherring. I live in Hopkinton Massachusetts. I am a mom, a wife, a sister, and a friend. I am also a healthcare worker, an optometrist. I also volunteer and work in different areas, senior center, food bank, and raising money for many causes very near and dear to my heart.

What is life like where you are?

Well where I live it's actually not too bad because we are lucky enough to live in a safe environment with beautiful surroundings. I am also fortunate enough to be able to walk safely outside, I try to do that every day. We have shelter, we have food, we have a community that is eager to support and help us. In the greater surrounding it is not so good, many people have lost their income and homes perhaps. So for many people it is not a good place to be.

What businesses are open/closed and where are you allowed to go?

So grocery stores, restaurants for takeout, and some other essential places. And of course hospitals and medical clinics.

How have local business responded to this turn of events?

So I think every business is impacted by it. I'll give an example of when I went to the grocery store. We have some cleaning products available and many people are wearing masks. We are not allowed to bring our own reusable bags, we have to use what's provided. There's spacing now between people in lines and there are no returns on any items so they're being very strict on what comes in, or I hope they are.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area?

I think authorities should have done more, absolutely, to mitigate the spread. So I am really disappointed with how the federal government responded overall. States are implementing their own policy and I think our state did a pretty good job early on with shelter in place and closing down non essential businesses. So for my particular area, yes, Massachusetts did a very good job. Overall, not good.

Have you had to adapt due to the pandemic?

Well the most significant is that I am not working the same schedule so that's a big impact on how I live day to day. I only go in once a week and protocols are in place now. Part of my job is being very close to people, very near their face and eyes, so that has changed as much as we can. We wear protective gear and many of my patients have now rescheduled. The only cases we see are urgent cases, so the people who need routine care or non urgent care we cant see. That's the

biggest impact I think and as well as the day to day changes in how we move around and how life is more constrained.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Yes, there's a bunch of lessons I hope we all learn from this. The first is to really appreciate what matters, articulatory when it comes to what's most important, your family and friends. The second is how unstable our medical system is, our healthcare system is, in terms of implementing policy. Also as far as coverage, people who don't have adequate insurance, this is a time to really pay attention to that, the people that don't have healthcare. The other thing is the policies in place, it is unfortunate that we do not have a national or federal guideline that we can count on for how to handle pandemics like this.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

So I think we will have an immediate change in how we interact with other people. Once the death toll drops and hospitalizations drop, there will be some reserve in how people act. Very cautiously I'm sure, people will still wear masks outside, and eventually come back to a normal or comfortable level of interaction with other people or businesses. Long term once the vaccine is developed I feel that we will become more self assured about not infecting ourselves or others. But that vaccine is a year and a half or so away, so until then it's going to be a big change in large group gatherings.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Yes, I'd like to say how impressed I am with how people have stepped up and really helped out others during the pandemic. Friends and family, people are really showing how caring they are and how much they are willing to either sacrifice either their own wellbeing or do extra work to help other people. That is really an impression on me and given me hope.

April 28, 2020
Interview Series (2)

Please tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is Asha Sherring. I am an optometrist at a reliant medical. I have been working there for over 26 years. I am also a volunteer at the senior center, the food bank, and other charities. I am a mom, a wife, and an avid dog lover. I like to garden and I like to stay active politically.

Where is it that you live?

I live in Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

What is life like where you are?

Life in Hopkinton, in particularly my neighborhood, is good; not a lot to complain about. The COVID rate in hopkinton is relatively low. We've been fortunate for the most part. There was one death recently, but there's not a high rate of infection relative to the population. We live in a very safe and beautiful environment and we have shelter and food so life is good.

What businesses are open/closed and where are you allowed to go?

So we have grocery stores, pharmacies, and medical facilities open. I don't think anything, as the governor said, non essential is open, so I haven't been anywhere except to the grocery store and work, and once to CVS.

How have local business responded to this turn of events?

So that has been tough. I know most of the business, particularly the restaurants, the food industry, have reached out and tried take out so the businesses can get support. We also have been noticing that there have been efforts for financial support for small businesses across the state and we hope that will keep many of the businesses open once this changes or resolves.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area?

I think right now authorities are doing what they can. In our state they're basing decisions on the data of infection rate, hospitalization, deathsm, and I think they're focussing p[artiucularly on the population dense cities: Boston, Worcester, Springfield. Particularly areas that have high risk patients such as nursing homes, jails and other facilities. I think the local government has been doing a very good job since they are basing their decisions on science. I wouldn't say the same necessarily about the federal.

Have you had to adapt due to the pandemic?

Yes I have! Certainly it has curtailed my practice. I don't see patients on a routine basis, I only see them on an emergency basis. The whole interaction with the patient is different, so it is really focussed on safety for both the healthcare workers and the patients that come in so it changes the dynamic. The type of cases we are seeing now are very different, because they are all emergency cases. So that has changed. Myu day to day living has changed because like everyone else I can't do any leisure activities. I can't see friends and family, at least not in the way I'd like to. I have had an opportunity to see a few friends in the neighborhood in a socially distanced way or on video conferencing. So the biggest impact has to do with how I practice optometry and eye care and also how I interact with people that I love.

Have there been any significant change since the last interview?

I think the most significant change has been a sense of acceptance and a realization for all of us that this is a virus that's here to stay and it's going to change how we adapt and function going forward. It's not going to disappear in the hot weather, it's not going to be some type of magic. If we're smart and base our decision making on science we will be able to adjust.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Absolutely yes. I hope we learn that we cannot control nature in the way that we thought and we should be prepared and it makes sense to invest in government agencies that do the hard work of protecting the general population. It makes sense to elect leaders who are basing their decisions on science, and not fear and ignorance. It makes sense to stay informed, to function in a way that will help us going forward with decisions and how best to congregate with people, how to go forward with business practice, and to stay safe. Mostly I hope this gives us a better sense of what is important in our lives; not the superficial aspects but more the day to day realization of who matters and what matters.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

I think it will have an impact on all business and all social events particularly until a vaccine is found. In the near future we'll have to maintain our social distancing. We'll have to, I hope, rely on testing so we know who has the virus and who had it with antibody testing once those become available, and therefore can make some decisions on what makes sense; which business should open and which should stay closed until it's safe for the general public.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I'd like to say that I'm very proud of the students at WPI, particularly my student, who has done the hard work to make this topic so important and giving light to current events.

Benen ElShanks

First Interview: April 7th
Massachusetts Cases: 15,202
US Total Cases: 409,225

Second Interview: April 28th
Massachusetts Cases: 58,302
US Total Cases: 1,035,765

Information retrieved from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Worldmeters.

The following are responses from Bennen ElShaks (right), a 23 year old student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and EMT living in Worcester MA.

1. What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Stay at home order, non essential businesses are closed

Everything is still closed except essential businesses

2. Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? (Could authorities do more/less to mitigate spread)

I think it's an appropriate response right now. As far as what I know.

Yeah I think it's proper. Hopefully we can start back up again soon. Mass has had four days of decreased cases so according to the guidelines we should have ten more days of that.

3. Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, what have been the largest changes?

School online is a big difference and now I live alone because all my roommates went home. At work we have done a bunch of new training and have new protocols to wear more PPE.

School at home and I don't really see anyone and I've been working way more recently on the ambulance. They increased staff and we are losing people to areas that are worse off and some people are afraid to work. Today is the first time I've been home for more than 12 hours in a week and a half. I worked 96 hours last week.

4. Is there any lesson you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I hope people learn to be better prepared for stuff like this because obviously we weren't prepared for stuff this time. It seems like that's the responsibility of the governments but they obviously were not under pressure to do this and now we all know we weren't prepared.

I hope in general people in the county realize that a collective response with solidarity is important to solve problems that are issues for everyone. That's one of the resistances about climate change like everyone has to suffer to help everyone but I don't have to suffer. It's not my problem and this is a similar situation that happens way more and way more dramatically. I think it is so relevant because they are both tragedy of the commons problems and I think the issue with climate change is that it's a long timeline problem and people hear projects of about '50 years from now' for the impacts of climate change and don't care but with Coronavirus people hear that there will be impacts in two weeks and start to care. Climate change is another example of things that happen slowly and make it easy to look away but it's a problem everyone faces and everyone contributes to and can help with.

5. When do you think your region will be able to eradicate the virus (if they haven't already)?

Seems from what I hear that the peak is gonna be April 15th then if it starts to wind down and people take everything seriously the pandemic will be over in a month and a half two months but the economic implications will take a lot longer. But if we don't take it seriously it could come back. I also think a lot will change in the world in general like people will want to work from home more because they do it now and all of that kinda stuff.

I don't know, it seems like the gov has been saying but mass is planning on following federal guidelines but we need at least 14 days of declining case number. But I do know mass is doing the most rigorous program on contact tracing so hopefully within two or three weeks. But could be longer.

Ramona Bago

First Interview: April 7th
Massachusetts Cases: 15,202
US Total Cases: 409,225

Second Interview: April 21st
Massachusetts Cases: 41,119
US Total Cases: 824,229

Information retrieved from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Worldmeters.

The following are responses from Ramona Bago, a 22 year old student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute living in Andover Massachusetts.

1. What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Stay at home order, allowed to go outside for walks can't be in groups, people only go out for groceries and medical supplies

The only places open now are grocery stores and I'm guessing medical places? There's not really any big medical places anywhere nearby. I go on like a 1-½ hour walk everyday or else i'd lose my mind. Things got a little more gloomy just bc two weeks ago they said it would be better in two weeks and here we are and it's not and in two weeks i dont know whats gonna happen. Besides that I do homeworks the rest of the time.

2. Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? (Could authorities do more/less to mitigate spread)

Part of me thinks this is reasonable because we do need to go out and buy food and medicine if necessary. But part of me thinks that if people were 100% inside all the time then maybe this would end sooner. My parents work for proctor and gamble and are considered essential workers even though they aren't nurses or anything so maybe if that kind of thing stopped this would end sooner. I know in China they had a lot stricter rules for leaving the house but I understand that wouldn't really fly here because we are more of a democracy.

I feel like seeing how things have been for the last few weeks I dont think at the moment I don't see how more drastic measures would do anything for the better. I see people outside a lot which

is weird because if this isn't happening not that many people would be outside because they'd be doing other things. When I go on walks and stuff people keep their distance and I don't see big groups but sometimes the parks are busy. But I honestly have not left this town in I don't know how long.

3. Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, what have been the largest changes?

I definitely don't go out to stores - usually when I was back home I'd be back during breaks and I'd go out and see my friends or go on car rides with them or go to random stores like Target and browse. Now I only go outside for fresh air. Even on the weekends during the term when I was back home I would still do stuff with my parents like go for a drive or go to the park. But now I just stay inside and don't go and browse at stores. The biggest adjustment is definitely doing school at home because in the past I would come back to get away from school and now school followed me. It's weird because there are only so many places (in the house) that you can go to get a change of scenery.

I guess I realize that having more time because I'm not involved in all the extracurriculars at school doesn't really give me more time to do school work. I still feel stressed even though I do have all this time because I have to motivate myself to work. I don't know school is pretty stressful right now even though professors I'm sure are trying to be better. But I guess a positive part of this is that I walk a lot now. But I miss the fast paced life at WPI. I feel like if I was back at school and everything was normal I'd feel done because I would have presented my final mqp on Friday.

4. Is there any lesson you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I guess I hope I can learn more things I can do without having to go out and spend money. Because I have been saving a lot of money through this. Or maybe how to be patient? I think I'm starting to learn that.

I don't know if we could have known this from the beginning but maybe take some more preventative measure from the beginning. I know there were a lot of theories about how the virus came about. I don't really read the news or list because it seems like rumors. But I hope if the government knows stuff they take the proper precautions in the future. I can't imagine what it would be like to be a small restaurant that can't take out or deliver because they haven't had income in months and their bills won't be put on hold.

5. When do you think your region will be able to eradicate the virus (if they haven't already)?

Realistically, I'll give it a year. I'm trying to be optimistic but I don't think COVID-19 is just going to die because the weather gets warmer.

Honestly, the other day I was trying to look up some website that has a statistical trend with the peak of the virus and I couldn't find it. I can't make an educated guess backed by science but I'm hoping that maybe by the end of the summer because I heard that Florida has started to open again but I don't know if that's true. I heard about Germany reopening but we have so many more cases than Europe so we shouldn't compare ourselves to them. But I hope we reopen soon because I'm worried about my job next year.

6. Anything else?

I hope when we have the next pandemic we handle it better and learn from the lessons of this pandemic.

Ruth Iwelumo

I've rebranded! Taking care of my hair, my skin, my mind, my body.

Transcription of a series of audio interviews conducted by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Interview 1: April 7, 2020

U.S. Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

Washington D.C. Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Date of Interview 2: April 21, 2020

U.S. Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

Washington D.C. Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

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I, Ruth Iwelumo, give permission to have my audio recorded and published through WPI.

(04/21): I, Ruth Iwelumo, give permission to have my audio recorded and published through WPI.

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

My name, as I have previously stated, is Ruth Iwelumo. I am 20 years old and a pre-med student (junior) at Howard University in Washington, D.C. I'm currently living in isolation with my aunt and uncle in northeast D.C.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Just being unable to go outside and having to leave the place I was staying [on-campus dorms] to look for housing/accommodation somewhere else. And yeah, just being alone.
(04/14): My mental health is also clearly derailing.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

That has changed a lot because I don't really get to see anybody again, and I don't like contacting people that much because I personally feel like I'm disturbing them. So, I guess it's changed in a negative way but like. . . yeah. It's changed because, for me, not being in my own space just brings out lonelinessahaha, next question.

(04/21): I think some are worse and some are better, I guess it's 50/50. It just depends on how each person is dealing with it.

Would you like to elaborate on that?

No.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I guess, not knowing if I'll have like an internship or something in the summer, or not knowing if that's going to be factual, so. . .

(04/21): My professional life would be like school life and I would say that has changed for the worse for me. It's hard for me to do stuff relating to school and sometimes I just forget. And sometimes it's just too much and just overwhelming. . . There's a lot of questions in the air, like if school is going to keep being online? I just don't think that I will be able to do that.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

It's good, it's ok. That's all I can say.

(04/21): Life is just life. I guess people are just adapting to the current life and current situations. My personal life is just um... okay. I'm just dealing with like not being in my own space. I just have to adjust.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

I wouldn't know, just because like I don't usually live around here so I can't say.

Can you speak on the location that you usually live?

I think most have closed down but I also can't really say because I haven't really been back there [Howard] in a while.

(04/21): I do not know. . . oh, yeah before you go in stores you have to wear masks and then you have to put on gloves. . . they are basically still open just like different policies. Like the essential ones I guess. Just like food and groceries and that's all I know about

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

I don't think so. Like every time I go outside, there's like so many people outside. And then most of them aren't wearing masks. . . and like I don't know, though, because I can't tell if authorities are doing the right thing. Just because it's not like a total lockdown and people are still allowed to like go outside, so it's like what more can you really do? But I think because they don't have the. . . yeah, I don't know.

(04/21) I think authorities are doing as much as they can because like people have been told to stay in and if you're coming out you have to be protected.

By authorities I just want to be clear, do you mean local, state or federal?

I do not think they can or they have the ability to do more...Talking about all levels, I think they are doing as much as they can.

Could you walk us through some of the policies you know are in place in your area?

Um not really any to be honest (hahaha). . . It's just like self put policies like people just know they are not supposed to go outside. The only thing I can say is a policy is that if you go outside you have to wear a mask. They won't let you in some stores if you are not wearing a mask.

(04/21): Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic since the previous interview? If yes, what have been some significant changes?

Yes, I have had to adapt the way I typically live. Everything is different and it's just getting more different. There's no certainty in almost every situation in my life right now. . . I am learning to just go with it and not be too stressed and anxious about what is happening. To maintain my emotions with more intentionality.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I honestly don't think so for me, just because I have always felt like life could be like this at any minute, so now that it has happened. . . Maybe for other people, yes! I've learned to put other people. . . or think about other people before doing things. I definitely feel like this could have been way less if people had, at first, listened and not only thought

about themselves. Like people going on spring break and all that. And also, maybe this is for me, to take life more seriously. . .

(04/21): Like I said before, I already knew life was this fickle but I just didn't think It will be a thing that will come into fruition for everybody else that didn't look at life that way. I guess the only lesson will be just live your life to the point that you will be happy with your life. Just know the system we were living before all this is trash, I do not think that is a lesson but It's just something everyone should know. Just like try to always think about other people... know that your actions can have effects on other people's lives and other people's well-being, and just love in everything that you do.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Near future? It's going to get worse. I feel like it's going to get a lot worse before it starts to get better, not even like only where I am, but like other countries that are just beginning to see the beginning of this pandemic. And also, the places that have fewer resources to take care of the crisis. . . like even though the U.S. has some resources there's places like way worse off. Also, I don't think that the measures being put in place in the U.S. (or in the west in general) should be used everywhere. Because like asking for a lockdown in a place like Nigeria, for instance, is like. . . with the levels of poor people there how are they supposed to eat, and how are they supposed to survive? I think like different measures should definitely be looked into. But I don't think that's going to happen, so I definitely think it's going to get way worse. Also, the U.S doesn't care about other places anyway, so whatever progress they make on their own probably won't even like change much for other places.

(04/21): Some people may believe that it has reached a peak and it's going to take a downward spiral. . .It might get better in the United States of America, but other countries are reaching their rise. . .It's just going to get so much worse. People are going to have to choose between if they are going to die of hunger or if they are going to die from the virus. Even the distant future we are going to be seeing the effects of the whole thing. I feel like maybe even till the end of this year till next year, everything is going to be bad for a while before it gets better. I hope it gets better.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

I think it will be remembered to be much more efficient than it actually was if that makes sense. Like the U.S. would try to paint themselves in a better light, and it's just like. . . ugh, it's just stupid. Because like even the "healthcare workers are heroes" thing is like, you're not doing anything to protect them, so it's just like. . . I think they'll focus on that part maybe and be like " people risked their lives to save other people" and like "what a beautiful moment, humanity came out!" [sustained laughter followed by deep sigh] I don't think it will be remembered correctly, or like it will be remembered as only like, obviously, only in the west's point of view. Not like how it actually affected other places. Maybe there'll be like one or two lines about other places but I think it'll just be like "yeah, we lost a lot of people but like humanity really came together!" and I think that's how it'll be remembered.

(04/21): I think it will be remembered really wrongly. Just knowing there could have been other measures put in place, and that this could have been prevented. I think that will not be talked about.

Van Harting

Ruth Iwelumo

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Transcription of a series of audio interviews conducted by Chioma Onyenokwe

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Date of Interview 2: April 21, 2020

U.S. Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

Washington D.C. Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

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Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

My name, as I have previously stated, is Ruth Iwelumo. I am 20 years old and a pre-med student (junior) at Howard University in Washington, D.C. I'm currently living in isolation with my aunt and uncle in northeast D.C.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Just being unable to go outside and having to leave the place I was staying [on-campus dorms] to look for housing/accommodation somewhere else. And yeah, just being alone.
(04/14): My mental health is also clearly derailing.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

That has changed a lot because I don't really get to see anybody again, and I don't like contacting people that much because I personally feel like I'm disturbing them. So, I guess it's changed in a negative way but like. . . yeah. It's changed because, for me, not being in my own space just brings out loneliness ahaha, next question.

(04/21): I think some are worse and some are better, I guess it's 50/50. It just depends on how each person is dealing with it.

Would you like to elaborate on that?

No.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I guess, not knowing if I'll have like an internship or something in the summer, or not knowing if that's going to be factual, so. . .

(04/21): My professional life would be like school life and I would say that has changed for the worse for me. It's hard for me to do stuff relating to school and sometimes I just forget. And sometimes it's just too much and just overwhelming. . . There's a lot of questions in the air, like if school is going to keep being online? I just don't think that I will be able to do that.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

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How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

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(04/21) I think authorities are doing as much as they can because like people have been told to stay in and if you're coming out you have to be protected.

By authorities I just want to be clear, do you mean local, state or federal?

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(04/21): Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic since the previous interview? If yes, what have been some significant changes?

Yes, I have had to adapt the way I typically live. Everything is different and it's just getting more different. There's no certainty in almost every situation in my life right now. . . I am learning to just go with it and not be too stressed and anxious about what is happening. To maintain my emotions with more intentionality.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I honestly don't think so for me, just because I have always felt like life could be like this at any minute, so now that it has happened. . . Maybe for other people, yes! I've learned to put other people. . . or think about other people before doing things. I definitely feel like this could have been way less if people had, at first, listened and not only thought about themselves. Like people going on spring break and all that. And also, maybe this is for me, to take life more seriously. . .

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your life. Just know the system we were living before all this is trash, I do not think that is a lesson but It's just something everyone should know. Just like try to always think about other people... know that your actions can have effects on other people's lives and other people's well-being, and just love in everything that you do.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Near future? It's going to get worse. I feel like it's going to get a lot worse before it starts to get better, not even like only where I am, but like other countries that are just beginning to see the beginning of this pandemic. And also, the places that have fewer resources to take care of the crisis. . . like even though the U.S. has some resources there's places like way worse off. Also, I don't think that the measures being put in place in the U.S. (or in the west in general) should be used everywhere. Because like asking for a lockdown in a place like Nigeria, for instance, is like. . . with the levels of poor people there how are they supposed to eat, and how are they supposed to survive? I think like different measures should definitely be looked into. But I don't think that's going to happen, so I definitely think it's going to get way worse. Also, the U.S doesn't care about other places anyway, so whatever progress they make on their own probably won't even like change much for other places.

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How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

I think it will be remembered to be much more efficient than it actually was if that makes sense. Like the U.S. would try to paint themselves in a better light, and it's just like. . . ugh, it's just stupid. Because like even the "healthcare workers are heroes" thing is like, you're not doing anything to protect them, so it's just like. . . I think they'll focus on that part maybe and be like " people risked their lives to save other people" and like "what a beautiful moment, humanity came out!" [sustained laughter followed by deep sigh] I don't think it will be remembered correctly, or like it will be remembered as only like, obviously, only in the west's point of view. Not like how it actually affected other places. Maybe there'll be like one or two lines about other places but I think it'll just be like "yeah, we lost a lot of people but like humanity really came together!" and I think that's how it'll be remembered.

(04/21): I think it will be remembered really wrongly. Just knowing there could have been other measures put in place, and that this could have been prevented. I think that will not be talked about.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe (04/08/2020)

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location, etc).
[redacted], 33, Business Consultant (healthcare technology), London UK

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Working from home in isolation everyday instead of the usual 3 days - it's felt like work never really ends and I have no break from the pressure/tedium.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Harder to maintain some due to lack of f2f interaction, but the good and meaningful ones carry on :-). I don't get to workout with my trainer, meet friends or just get fresh air, which is a negative. I didn't value it as much as I do now

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Not much. I can still work and do everything I need to do.

What is life like, generally, where you are?

Very quiet and quite lonely.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

They've moderated their services and a lot have closed - I stay near a lot of "non-essential" retail outlets. The only things open are hospitals, pharmacies & grocery stores atm. Even those operate differently by controlling what you can buy and how many people can go in etc. Very utilitarian.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

I think my local area is okay, but I'm only seeing a very small part of LONDON that's somewhat privileged and in a bubble.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Yes! Wash your hands everyday and don't cough/sneeze anyhow! Also listen to authorities' guidance, research accordingly and stay calm. The worst of the pandemic after the deaths/illness, was that the people who needed certain resources couldn't get them due to others stockpiling...

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Hopefully the work market will become more flexible; I would like to think research collaboration will increase in scope, but fear isolationism particularly from the USA. That's across the board for the US. I think the way we conduct business transactions will change as well - prices for goods/services are likely to change (go down) with less emphasis on luxury goods. Healthwise I think there'll be more focus on wellness individually and at an organisational level. I also think it may become more challenging to move between certain countries once it's all over too.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Probably the same way we look back in time at eras of Plague or smallpox outbreak, thinking “why were they so dumb”?

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

[response] It was just an interesting story to me, but related to the previous question - this article highlights how people think certain behaviours are reasonable at the time... <http://iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol.%2021%20Issue4/Version-2/H2104025054.pdf>

Margaret Odili

Written response to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe (04/08/2020)

JOINT RESPONSE: Hi, I'm Dr. Margaret Odili, a 65-year-old anesthesiologist at the Delta State Teaching Hospital in Ughelli, Nigeria, and I give my permission to have my video recorded and published through WPI. Currently, we have 12 holding centers in Delta State and Ughelli is one of them. There are four treatment centers and the nearest one to Ughelli is in Warri, located about a 15-minute drive away from Ughelli. There are ventilators in these isolation and treatment centers. They have PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] also, and the entire state is supposed to be on lockdown (even though people are still moving). Of the many cases that came through our hospital, only one (a Warri resident) has tested positive so far. It is likely that he will have to shuttle back and forth between our two cities to retrieve adequate care. We now have way too many suspected cases popping up for the state government to continue screening people strictly according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization. Instead, they've adopted a protocol to begin treatment based on mild symptoms, as opposed to simply relying on people's self-described travel history (among other things).

NOTE Dr. Odili has agreed to provide video documentation of life in the frontlines to supplement the written statement above.

Sydney Messey

April 11, 2020

Interview Series (1)

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

My name is Sydney Messey and I am a junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts studying Aerospace Engineering. My hometown is Milford Connecticut and I live with my mom, dad, and my older brother. I enjoy hanging out with my friends, listening to music, drawing, fencing and playing with my puppy.

What is life like where you are:

We do not have a shelter in place but all non essential businesses are closed. There is no travel ban either. Not many people are in the stores, only about 10 at a time, not because it is being

restrained, that is just how it is happening. Our beaches are the only ones left open in Connecticut and some people are taking advantage of that. They are getting really busy, there will be hundreds of people at once, more than I've ever seen before this happened, and touching arm to arm using it as a big reunion.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events:

Restaurants that did not have delivery options now have implemented them. Some places are only letting a few people in the store at a time for takeout and others will bring it right out to your car so you don't have to get out of your car.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area:

Authorities should definitely do more, if they shut the beaches and things like that the disease would be spreading as fast especially in our area. Maybe even implement a shelter in place.

Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Yes, some significant changes are just not being able to go out and see friends as well as having to do my IQP project online. Other changes are generally living at home instead of at school and having to make a new workspace for myself there. Additionally in general when I am watching TV and things like that sometimes my thinking shifts and I'll think "why are they not quarantining," but some of my friends say they do that too so it is just normal thinking now.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience:

I think not taking what you have for granted is a very good lesson because in general in America we have it better than places that have no resources to begin with. Personally, I am lucky that I live in a neighborhood where I can go on walks still and a backyard to leave the house, which my friends in the city cannot do. Also thinking about others in a time of need is important. Just because you are at low risk doesn't mean other people are not, like grandparents.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future:

In terms of the near future, I think for Connecticut the peak will be sometime in the next month, so I hope it peaks and then starts to go down. They say it might be over by the middle of June so I'm hoping for that. People will still probably be cautious using gloves and masks. For the distant future, hopefully there will be a vaccine in the next year, but I think there is a fear of that in winter when the weather is cold the virus may come back.

April 28, 2020
Interview Series (2)

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

My name is Sydney Messey and I am 20 years old and I live in Milford Connecticut. I am a

junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts studying Aerospace Engineering.

What is life like where you are:

We do not have a shelter in place order but most businesses are closed except for the essentials and restaurants. However restaurants close early or on certain days for example one of the diners closes at 3pm every day. I think I heard today that the golf courses are opening in Connecticut as well.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events:

I know stores have lines outside where you have to remain 6 feet away from each other. Some stores have people monitoring that you remain 6ft away. Some stores you aren't even allowed to enter without gloves and a mask.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area:

Authorities should do more, I don't think the correct things are happening. Our beaches, although not as many people go anymore, there are still people walking around, and I feel like closing them would help because it's more crowded than other areas. Most people stay 6 ft apart, but in some areas it's harder like on the sidewalk. Additionally I don't think they should be reopening business this soon. Right now we are still in the peak so authorities should wait until the curve of cases levels.

Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

One of the most significant changes is that my internship was moved to online, so I know that will be a change for summer. I had to change my mindset because of that because it made me realize how much longer this might be going on. In general I am also being more cautious in terms of maintaining good social distancing, and it's starting to feel normal. I also assume things are unclean to touch rather than clean.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience:

I hope that people realize the impact that they have on others, and how much staying home and inside can make a difference. I heard a politician say that we won't know if we take too many preventative measures, but we will know if we don't take enough. People should air on the side of being overcautious. I feel like overall people should learn to be more cautious in general in public places. Lastly to make the most of the situation and not dwell on the negatives.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future:

I know that the projections that I read get extended every day, so I feel like we will be in this for quite some time. I'm not sure when it will be "safe" to go out again, but I presume at least things won't change too much until mid summer. As far as back to normal I hope a vaccine comes in a

year but I know it can take longer. I do not think that school will reopen in the fall and classes will be online again until 2021.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 12, 2020

U.S. Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 554,849 [21,942 (4.0)]

Connecticut Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 12,035 [554 (4.6)]

Stamford Confirmed Cases: 1,289

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/CTDPHCOVID19summary4122020.pdf?la=en>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location, etc.).

[redacted], 42, Management professional, Stamford CT USA

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Not going outdoors - my work has allowed me to periodically work from home for the past 13 years so this is not new to me. Given the physical distancing - I'm rarely going out of my home - approx. 1x per week when I must get groceries or get the mail. Without school, sports, play dates/birthday parties, etc for my child or social activities for me, that's the biggest change. It's both hard and not hard for me because we need to limit getting with others to mitigate a worst-case scenario of this disease spreading to even more people. Also given anyone could be an asymptomatic vector of the disease, it makes even more sense to stay at home.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Not much in that family and the real good friends have reached out by text or phone or video chat to see if I'm doing well. And I the same. So, it's just that I cannot see anyone in person. Even my church diocese has put in place online resources and live streams so we can celebrate mass, Easter, etc,

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I somewhat feel in my element because I like dynamism - I'm learning new things to adapt to the new way of working where everyone is home vs. just a few.

Work is different too because, in US culture, folks greeted each other with a 'hello' and if on Monday, 'how was the weekend' or on Thursday / Friday 'have a good weekend' ... now, US folks take time to ask deeper questions about how one is faring during this outbreak like the

Europeans / Brazilians / Asians always did - much better level of empathy being shown before diving into the subject of the meeting. Curious if this will be a permanent change in US culture or not - the COVID19 does not discriminate and everyone is affected in some way.

More stressful being in management I have to worry about my employees and our business is looking at various scenarios of how this outbreak will slow down the economy to a recession and there will be a lower level of business for all the global economy. We also have to pivot on face-to-face education now being delivered digitally (recorded) - how to be effective at this is new to everyone.

Work is also quite flexible in that I've communicated the need to manage a child's homeschooling as long as I deliver my work in a timely manner. My child has seen me work from home so many times prior to this outbreak. My work also is asking employees not to postpone taking earned vacation days to later in the year so I will take advantage of this to space out some downtime

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc.)

Shelter in place but not a forced quarantine - Stamford being 1 hour from NYC, one of the worst-hit cities in the US, is getting the aftershock of the infections. Many people work in NYC and live in Stamford. Also, many areas around NYC are seeing folks leave NYC and bring the COVID19 infections into the surrounding towns - the metro NYC area has millions and millions of people so this fanning out by out-migration from NYC is inevitable and yet saddening.

Groceries, pharmacies, gas stations and other 'essential goods' providers are open. Restaurants cannot allow dine-in; only take out and delivery service. I've also struggled to get online grocery delivery scheduled - wait times are like 2-3 weeks, so I have to constantly think 1-2 weeks out

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

They are complying with state and local government orders. I don't know how the solo-entrepreneurs will survive in the long run. When this is done, I expect many small businesses will close in my local area and make way for other businesses to open. Creative destruction according to economist Schumpeter.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Measures being taken are reactionary - public health message is to stay home. it takes time to see the decline in new infections, hospitalizations etc and the data available has a lot of lags so I don't believe even the state govt has the full picture at any point in time. The local hospitals know best their own situation but no one really can give accurate data in entirety at any point in time. There is not enough testing available and anecdotally, I understand contact tracing is not the norm anymore. So more could be done to mitigate the spread of the disease.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Prepare, prepare, prepare at all levels - individual, city, state, federal, cross-national. The catastrophic loss of life was avoidable - we were all asleep at the wheel. Instead of binge-watching online tv, we should stop and reflect what can be done better to prepare for another pandemic and how to go quickly into 'shelter in place' or strict quarantine to arrest the spread of disease.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

We have to be resilient and get used to reduced in-person interactions in the near term.

Graduations will be virtual, birthdays virtual, no retirement parties, no congregating for religious services. We have to re-define what makes us human - social animals - in the near term.

Therefore, at the first sign of easing of disease spread, we need to stay physically distancing because there could be a resurgence of infections. In the next 6-9

months we will be in flu season again and may have to physical distance in the fall / winter to prevent infection spreading in the absence of a proven vaccine for the COVID-19 disease.

In the long term, we have to rethink how we live, how we can learn self-reliance in our food supply chain - should every household be ready to farm the basics?; do we need to buy so much things from Amazon and Walmart that are sourced from around the world? How do I diversify my income stream so I can work in-person or provide services to others digitally (via internet)?; will prices of internet go up to cover the extra costs now incurred to ensure system uptime and provide free services to poorer households? Each town and state has to prepare itself locally and not wait for the Federal govt (US) before they act in support of it's citizens; Each nation needs its own manufacturing capacity shored up to handle alternate use cases - e.g, car makers now are producing breathing ventilators; engineering schools now producing PPE face shields; high-end cosmetics makers are now making hand sanitizers (not very chic); clothiers are producing non-medical grade masks and hospital gowns

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

It would be interesting to document how people changed their day to day lives - what was eliminated? What was started? How were relationships strengthened? How did business, civic life change? I will remember this time as a time where people looked out for each other - how to get food, toilet paper, sharing jokes to lighten the mood, calling to check on one another.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes. Anonymous - redact my name.

Lindsey Zabelski

April 13, 2020

New Jersey Cases: 64,584

US Total Cases: 594,693

This information was retrieved from NJ.com and Worldmeters.

Well, I give you my full permission to, um, record the audio and share it, however you like and publish it whenever you need.

OK. Perfect. Great. So then can you, um, tell me a little bit about yourself? You know, like name occupation where you are.

Okay? Sure. Uh, my name is Lindsey. Zabelski and I live in Southern New Jersey. Um, and I am a wife and a mother of six Children. Um, I'm a an educator of 20 years, and I'm a school counselor at a local elementary school K-6 and an adjunct professor at Stockton university and I'm also a doctoral student in the dissertation process. Um, and I have six Children, three birth Children, one adopted and two foster Children that will hopefully be adopted soon.

Mhm. Exciting.

Yeah!

Okay. Yeah. Um, cool. So, um, just like, what has been, um, maybe the most notable change in your life. Or how have you seen your relationships change? Um, since that you've been home with everybody and that kind of thing.

Um, well, this has definitely had a huge impact on my family. Um, probably starting first with my husband who's had a business for over 20 years and also worked at a local high school as an assistant with special needs students. Um, and he was basically they just let everybody go. So, um, he lost that job and his business is a recording company for concerts so he basically has no no bookings for the next six months.

So. Um, yeah. So for the first time ever, we've had to collect unemployment in our lives. Um, you know, my husband and I are really hard workers, we both have two jobs, so for that we're trying to navigate that for us. Um, was very interesting, But thank goodness my husband, like the first weekend of quarantine team, put in all of his information. So we were able to get, um, the money in a timely manner. I know that other people are not as fortunate and are still waiting. So you know that that was first like the financial. Um, I am lucky that my teaching jobs, both my teaching jobs are still paying.

Um, and my job has changed drastically, so I'm 100% online for both of my jobs now. And as the school counselor and mental health specialist, it's been really, really difficult.

Um, sometimes I feel like I'm working around the clock, contacting family and Children and and try and make sure they have what they need. Also trying to prove to my school district that I'm still earning my paycheck.

Mhm.

and, um, and now, basically, like they wanted us to call. I was supposed to call every student. I see in a group and check in on them and their family, which is over 100 students.

I I am a helpful for over yeah, I'm a counselor for over 700 students. But, I'm supposed to make personal contact and and also, I was supposed to make personal contact with every staff member check on their mental health. So, um, they wanted us to cover our phone numbers, you know, so people respect our privacy, but no one was picking up the phone. So, um, that wasn't Yeah, so that wasn't helping me. So now basically, all my students have my phone number. Yeah, it's it's been okay. Um, I also have, like, a google classroom for me it wasn't so hard to make that transition because I was already teaching a hybrid class, and I've I have taken classes online, but I know a lot of my friends have really struggled with that

, um, also as a counselor I've had to help many families who are newly homeless, and, uh, because a lot of they they they don't They don't want to go to the shelter for obvious reasons. So I'm trying to keep them in local motels, Um, and try to keep all that at bay as well as having my five older Children, which are 16 14 14 12 and 12. Um, be on their online courses and make sure that they are completing their work.

So they've been, you know, they've been very good, and they made the transition pretty easily.

I'm I'm really lucky. Um, with that, um, we we have had some issues with sharing computers because we don't have enough, so they all take Yeah, they all take the computers and shifts. Um,

yeah, and then the teacher, since I have so many Children and the schools are trying to be really vigilant, like their contacting to make sure things are okay, But for me, I'm being bombarded with, uh, phone calls from their school. So I almost feel like saying put us on the no no contact sheet we're fine. Like, I don't need five phone calls a day from the school. Um, and then we have a four year old who is now home and stuff. She's probably been the most difficult because just trying to keep her busy and stimulated, and she's used to going to preschool. Um, and I still have to work. So I'm you know, I I try to close myself in my bedroom for about 3-4 hours in the morning and get done as much work as I can as the Children pass her off. But my husband, he tries to help as much as you can, but he recently broke his ankle

Oh no!

, so Yeah, I know. Yeah. Yeah. So he can only do so much. Um, but also as a parent and, you know, provider, Um, I usually really like to go food shopping. I, um I guess it's a very primal mother thing, and it's been a totally different experience. Um, going out. Um, I'm used to -I plan out every single meal, everything before. I leave to go shopping every week because I'm cooking for 8 People a day. So if you don't do that, it wouldn't be cost- cost efficient. So now it's really weird. I I just make a list of things I need, and then when I go out, I just see what's there. Um, sometimes there's no potatoes. Sometimes there's no no, um, cheese products. Um, we don't eat meat, so that actually has been a really good thing. Uh, because a lot of people don't know how to how to cook quinoa and veggies and all that stuff. So, you know, we're we're we're certainly getting enough food. It's just you never know what kind of food it's going to be and and the first few weeks when I went out shopping, Um, because I I have to buy a lot of food. That's just like our norm. Um, I I was literally afraid to leave my basket anywhere like my my cart because I thought, People would take things out of my cart, um, it's it's a it's a yeah, it's a very different feeling being out with everyone and, um, and not knowing and and when you return, when I return from the shopping, too, I I actually feel kind of traumatized by it, because you go through and there's aisles with nothing. Um, and it's just a very just. It has made me also look at our privilege and how fortunate we are that we you know how much access we do have and how spoiled we are on a day to day basis.

Um And then on top of that, you know, I'm at the end of my dissertation, and I'm doing data collection and analysis and my teacher decided that she wanted more data, and, um and she wanted me to have more participants in a population that's really difficult to find. So I started off this pandemic needing to find Six more participants. So I've been trying to do that-

laughter

on top of everything. I was trying to find people that are willing to do it. And and the first few weeks, of course, I found no one, and I didn't want to to push too hard because this is not a nonessential thing, you know, And, uh, but now, in the last, you know, it's it's only essential to me, you know, it's it's a very selfish thing to be doing right now. And but in the last week, I I've actually found my participants, because I think that people have started to get a little bored and, um, another like,

Laughter

yeah, no, Am interview? . That's okay. Um, but, you know, you know, they're they're have been wonderful things, you know, my husband and I are really, really busy. Um, people and I have found that since we have been home, I've been actually able to play with my Children. Like like the kind of play for, like, hours outside where I'm not looking at the clock. I don't You know, we're just doing it like one. Once our work is done, the day is like, really, really ours. We're not going anywhere. We're not doing anything. So that's been a wonderful thing. Um, I have felt bad. Three of my Children have had birthdays over this period of time, so still still trying to make them special and and basically tell them that they're that we're just postponing, you know, their festivities and what they want to do and just trying to make that special. Now, um, other ways it has this has affected us is also like our foster Children. You know, we were hoping to have them adopted by August, and that probably won't happen now because everything the courts are being affected. Everything is being affected. so It's just kind of making all of those things even longer.

Wow.

So that's the basics of how this has affected us.

laughter

Yeah, that's a lot you guys are so busy and you have so much going on.

We do, you know. And it's just, you know, there's some fun things that that have come out of it and like one thing that that's been really important, like having a lot of Children like we do and trying to stave off depression and sadness is we've- We've tried to really plan a lot of things. So we have planned competitions and planned, fun things and every other night we have a movie night like you pick out of a a bowl of what movie were gonna watch and then we have special snacks and and I thought the kids were going to, um, loose interest in that, and they haven't They've kind of held it close, and it's really important to them that we do ti.

Wow thats cool

Yeah, and every day now I have I usually have one child. Help me in the kitchen. Anyway, during the year, every day a child has a day where they clean up dinner, but now they're my sioux chefs. So now they actually have to help me like like here's all the food we have, what can we make today. so they help me with all the meals and cleaning, cooking 'Cause cooking for eight people three times a day, and I'm the one that that enjoys cooking. is-is that has just become a lot, um, the one thing you know, I I definitely miss time alone, Like even driving in my car to work and back. There's, like, no alone time. Um, but I'm grateful because I, you know, my kids are all most of them are teenagers. So I'm trying to just, like, try to soak up this time because we know it's temporary.

Yeah, for sure.

You know everything. Everything will go back to normal, and then we'll probably- Im hoping- that we will look back at this time and try to only remember the good things that had come out of it.

Yeah, that's really nice. Yeah, that's great that you guys have got the full, The restaurant going full speed you know three meals a day for 8 people

*Laughter

Yeah. Yeah. So it's we're trying. We're trying to make the most of it. You know, at least my kids, you know, they're all really learning how to cook now. And they've all been pretty self sufficient. Anyway, we have a lot of chores for everyone does their own laundry, those kind of thing, but trying to get like some fun things done to so trying to get outside, you know? So you know

Yeah the weather has been pretty nice down there

Yeah, I think that we're very Yeah, well, except for today. It's torrential rains. Any day that its sunnier outside is always a better day Like you know, it's gonna be a better day because you can get outside.

Yeah, Yeah.

And and And I feel very fortunate, because I I have a lot of students that are stuck in apartments, so I know how they're really, really struggling like there's no and all of the parks are changed. So you're not aloud to go to the parks.

I think I thought about that. Yeah, Yeah, I heard about that Thats tough

Yeah, we've actually, we actually have been outside playing like badminton or basketball or volleyball, and we actually have had people slow down their cars and give us really dirty looks because they think that we are not social distancing.

Yeah. Yeah, because you look like a whole badminton team instead of a family.

That exactly we're we're a multi racial racial, um, family. And, you know, they're thinking that we're doing something wrong, and it's like, No, we're all in the same family in the same house we're all trying our best. I mean, yeah, we're all trying, but that's that's how our lives have changed in a nutshell

Yeah, no, it's good to that you also see it as like a time for reflection. I've definitely been doing like, a lot of reflection reflection on how, like my situation isn't perfect, but it's better than a lot of people situations. And you're also in the unique position that you get to hear about a lot of the worst situations and help people through them. So that's really interesting.

Yeah, absolutely, absolutely. You know, and there's there's been a lot of good things that have come out of this because there's been some not so good things come out of it. And, you know, I'm, um I might have to go and help a family moved from a hotel this week. You know, like you know, those those are the things where I'm spinning plates trying to keep people where they are, Um, and make sure that they're okay. Yeah, it's not. It's not a good time- t's not a good time to be

homeless. Not that there is ever a good time, But right now, it's a really really tough time. And especially because trying to find, um, help for people in need. Right now, a lot of the agencies are closed. Um, yeah some are virtual Yeah, but some are just closed. They're just closed.

Wow.

So it's been a struggle to try to, um, find some people help.

Wow. Yeah. I didn't even think about all those things. You know, there's a lot to juggle for Sure, but thank you for giving time out of your busy busy schedule to share with me.

It's my It's my pleasure. Have to get some good karma, right? That's me. Like, hopefully people will be sharing with me for the next few weeks so I can finish my work and and the funny thing is also with that, is is I wanted to be able to be hooded this this may, um and I was killing myself to be able to do it, Um, because you can't get hooded until you've already defended, and now they're not even having graduation. So it doesn't matter, they're they're pushing it off. So it just shows you some of those things, are like so- so silly, you know, that we, um we anchor lives to some of these things that it doesn't really even matter.

Yeah, for sure definitely interesting.

and all those. All those things will eventually happen, you know.

Mhm. Yeah.

So mostly I'm just hoping that we all stay healthy. Well,

yeah. Yeah, definitely. Well, thank you so much. I hope everyone's doing well. I'm sorry for the three that have their birthdays, but I know summer will be a great time to celebrate.

Yeah, no, we did do take out. You know, my parents came and sang at the door, and he, um they got some little presents and in the summer, we'll we'll do our normal things, so

I can't believe every time I see pictures of them, I can't believe that they're so big. I remember, you know, baby sitting all of them. So its so funny to see

I know they're so big, you know, Ava's looking at colleges. And thinking about what shes going to do, and yeah, really, it's it. And it's affected them because she was supposed to possibly go to a big program in DC in the summer for Quantico? And, um, and my mya was supposed to go spend a month at Princeton for another program? Yeah, and she, you know, and their programs were cancelled.

Awww

No, you know, so you know. So it's affecting them in these ways too. And, um, you know, just and Ava has been very upset because she wants to go start visiting colleges.

Mhm.

So it's trying to as a parent, like not- it's going to happen. It's just not going to be right now, you know?

Yeah, it's tough, but I hope everyone stays safe, stays, obviously you'll stay busy but stays happy and healthy

Yeah, healthy, healthy is the most important thing. I laugh when some people like we're so bored we've read 100 books and, I'm like, really, because I've seen 5,000 episodes of Peppa Pig and I've been cooking.

laughing

Um, yeah, I'm like I haven't gotten bored yet. I haven't gotten bored. That would be really nice to be bored, but But it's okay though as long as We're healthy. There's nothing worse than if we were in this and got sick. So if we're here and we're healthy, we can we can deal with being bored

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 14, 2020

Nigeria Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths] / [No. (%) of recoveries]:
343 [10 (2.9)] / [91 (26.5)]

Lagos Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths] / [No. (%) of recoveries]:
187 [5 (2.7)] / [61 (32.6)]

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_Nigeria

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location, etc.).
[redacted], 21, student, [usually] Washington DC, nationality Nigerian.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

School being cancelled and me having to move back home to Nigeria.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

It has deteriorated.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?
I have no motivation to search for jobs or attend webinars. It seems inauthentic and forced.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc.)

I haven't been out, but Nigerians are on a lockdown. People are hungry, so I heard people are raiding shops and supermarkets and the government is planning to bring military personnel. It's scary.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Some have closed down.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Yeah, the people are doing the best they can.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

All these things; jobs, plans, all these things are ephemeral. A little virus has shown us that. I hope next time the world sees something like this, we act fast.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

I don't think it's abating anytime soon.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

People died, social distancing, the upheaval of the economy.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes. Anonymous - redact my name.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Chloe Kaenzig

April 16th

New Jersey Cases: 75,317

US Total Cases: 682,454

This information was collected from NJ.com and Worldmeters.

My name is Chloe Kaenzig, and I give Emi or whoever permission to post this video and audio.

Okay. Perfect. So then can you start by just like, telling me a little bit about you? Like, um, your age. Like what you do. Um, where you are right now and that kind of thing.

Oh, it just froze. But you're good now. So, basically, I am a 20 almost 21 year old college student, and I'm a junior at Jefferson University East Falls campus. Um, I'm studying marketing and fashion merchandising, and normally I would be living up in Philly in my off campus apartment, but because of everything going on with Coronavirus I had to move home so I'm back home in South Jersey, in Mays Landing. Living with my mom and my brother. So that's been definitely a big change um, And I'm kind of just trying to navigate through my newly found online classes that are super hard now, Um, um, yeah,

cool. Um, so do you want to tell me a little bit about, um, like, how you started making masks and how it's been doing that?

So I started. I usually make scrunchies, and I have a scrunchie business and, like, headbands and stuff like that. And then when I guess it was like mid February was when there was, like, a massive shortage of masks and, like, medical grade masks. So there's surgical masks, and then there's N95 masks, and both of them obviously protect you from germs, but, um, the N95 masks are normally what, like medical professionals would use. So I was trying to see, like, how I could help and my moms a nurse So she had asked me, you know, like, do you think you could figure this out? And I had people sharing like on facebook, um, links to me about other people who had made them and just like, different ways, you can make them So I ended up finding a video that the CDC had posted of, just like a basic surgical mask you could make with cotton fabric and elastic so I was like, alright, like I used this stuff when I make scrunchies, like I already have a lot of this stuff. So I was like, prototyping for like a day just to see kind of the fit because not everybody's face is obviously the same size. So that, like, took a little bit. And then finally, I figured out, like, perfectly how to make them. So I had just posted a bunch. I think I made, like, 30 to 40 masks, and I posted them on Facebook and my mom had shared it and so a bunch of, like, her nurse friends and stuff like that were messaging me, and I was making them for free. I wasn't asking for any money. I was only asking that they cover the cost of shipping, which was \$4. um just cause that can add up. And so I was doing that and then once those masks ran out, everyone was like, Oh, like when you making more and I was like, Well, I don't really plan on it, but I guess I'll have to figure that out. So then I was ordering, like yards and yards of fabric and elastic, and if you didn't know there's an elastic shortage right now so it's like really hard to get elastic. But so, I was just like ordering so many supplies and like months later, I'm still doing this and I've hit like the 1000 mask mark. I have been donating them to, like hospitals and doctors, offices and people who are still working. Um, actually, a lot of people that work at the wawas that are still around here, like are constantly asking me for masks. And so I try to do essential workers and like help workers first, Um, and then if I have extra masks or extra time, I focus on like families who have someone who's immune system is compromised or stuff like that, just so that I'm kind of like distributing the wealth amongst everybody, so that's been kind of hard to deal with, because it's like a lot on top of school. So it's, um it's been a task, but we're taking it day by day.

yeah, and so, like, what have People's like reaction's been, um, like on social media. I know you mentioned that. Like, um, like some people were asking for a lot. Oh, and also, you're taking donations too right? like,

Yes, I'm taking donations for, like me to buy more fabric and elastic and stuff like that because I'm constantly ordering stuff, so I constantly need supplies. So, uh, yeah, people's reactions have been really positive. For the most part, people are like loving that I'm doing this. Some people just ask, like, for my Venmo or something just to donate they don't even want masks they're like here, keep doing what you're doing. So I think that's like, really sweet. And it's also eye opening because you realize that, like, it's not just about you at that point, like it's about literally everyone in the world. So that has been pretty positive. But there's also like I'm the only one doing this, and so it's hard because I can't always get the amount of masks made and shipped out as I want. So I know like filling and shipping orders has kind of been an issue, and some people like are not so nice and so they like, which I get it like they want something to protect themselves when they have to go out and leave the house. But, like also like, I don't think they realize that, like I'm human, like I have feelings. I'm a one woman show like it's hard work and especially to like sit at The machine all day, like my back hurts so bad. But I mean, for the most part, people are like, pretty supportive and they're they're okay with, like, being put on a wait list. I think last week I had a wait list of like, 100 people, but I've like halved that already, So it's like it's very up and down.

Well,oh my gosh that's a lot.

I know

A 100 person wait list. That's crazy!

I know and I would tell people that they're like like they like, don't answer right away. And I'm like, are you just as shocked as I am? Because I don't like this doesn't feel real,

Um, yeah, that's crazy. So what has it been like like being home like, Do you like being home and like, have you seen like your relationships with, like, your friends change or your family changed since you've been home.

Um, I like being home Normally. I'd come home on the weekends anyway. So, like I'm used to being home, I still have a room here. It's not like my parents, like, were just like, Okay, bye when I went to college, so I still have my setup here, but it's definitely weird because I I'm so used to being in my apartment or at school in such like an academic environment. Um, like during the week and then weekends I come home and that's kind of how my mind knows two separate like work from play. And now that I'm just home all the time, I find it hard to kind of like find the motivation to do things and especially, like I have a younger brother who, like always, just like just, you know, he's a little brother, like he just running around being crazy, so like that and I have a bunch of dogs that bark at the wind, so they're just like, constantly noise in the house, which I've kind of gotten used to do. But it's definitely an adjustment because I'm so used to just like being kind of by myself and like, getting work done. And now that I have to kind of accommodate everyone else's schedule, I'm like, Oh, this is different. But I think for the most

part, we're all, like, getting along and trying to, like, respect each other's boundaries and stuff like that.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 16, 2020

U.S. Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 554,849 [21,942 (4.0)]

Pennsylvania Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 12,035 [554 (4.6)]

Philadelphia Confirmed Cases: 1,289

Sources: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

[redacted], Junior Finance Major from Lagos Nigeria, currently residing in Philadelphia PA.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

I actually only leave the house about once a week now. And I'm genuinely super cautious about everything. My sleep schedule is messed up now as well.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

My love languages are physical touch and quality time, it's been rough 😞. I've started using social media in more ways though, as regards how I express certain things. It's also causing me to isolate more sometimes, if I'm sad I just don't interact with anyone and I avoid everything.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

School has taken a severe hit tbh. Concentrating is almost impossible, staying on top of deadlines all that.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Thankfully, I'm with a cousin in his apartment. Haven't slept on a bed in like a month but besides that I really can't complain. It's hard on everyone, cooking more, longer work hours all that.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Grocery stores enforce distancing and have wipes for carts and hand sanitizers available to use. Restaurants do delivery or drive through, smaller businesses are either temporarily closing, sticking with delivery or disinfecting people as they come in.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

No. I heard from a friend that the park was full last week.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I hope the government learns that healthcare for all is necessary.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

More cases, I don't think it's peaked yet. I also think there will still be a good number of cases but the government will let us out because the economy would start failing.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Very significantly, it's affected the whole world. I just hope the rhetoric is slightly kind to China.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes, just hide my name and email thanks.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Chantal Kellard

April 16th

Massachusetts Cases: 32,181

US Total Cases: 682,454

This information was collected from the Mass Department of Public Health and Worldmeters.

Uh, my name is Chantal Kellerd, and I give permission for my audio to be published-uh- recorded and published on the website

Cool. Thank you. Um, and then if you want to tell me a little bit about yourself, um, like your age, like if you're a student, your occupation, um, and kind of where you are and what life there is kind of like,

Okay, um, I'm 21 years old. I'm a student at u Mass. Amherst. Um, I took a leave from, um the from the spring 2020 semester. So it wasn't in school when the pandemic started, um, I was employed and we had the education industry, so I was working as a substitute teacher and also for an after school program for kids. Um, I live in Andover, Massachusetts. Um, which is, um,

about 20 miles outside of Boston. I believe, um, and, uh, was that all the questions? Sorry

Yeah, Yeah, that's about it. Kind of. So, what is life like, where you are? You know, um, are there a lot of businesses, closed and that kind of stuff?

Um, yeah. So pretty much the whole town right now is on lockdown. Um, all the businesses are closed. Um, our town thrives on small businesses so it's been struggling a lot in that sense. Um, and, um, I know we have, like, a lot of education workers like me in the town who have been, um, out of work- or a lot of independent education workers I should say, It's just I think teachers are still working online and remotely, but, um, independent workers, um, education workers like me who aren't teachers, um, are not working. So I know. Um, we're struggling, um, through loss of business through small businesses and through education. Um, because I know that makes up, um, a huge part of the towns. Employment.

Yeah. So, um, do you- could you give me a little bit more about like, what happened with work and stuff like that? If you Feel comfortable? You don't have to.

Oh, yeah yeah no. Of course, um, so I was really excited, or, um So I took a leave from U Mass. Amherst, Um, to start because I was really in. Um, unsure about where I was, Um, what I wanted to do, Um, And because I was thinking about changing well I had just changed my major. And I just wanted to make sure that that was kind of the right fit for me, so I wanted some more professional experience. Um, so I was really excited to get work in the education industry because, um, I was looking at becoming a teacher, and I was, you know, um, really happy to get two jobs kind of associated with that. Um, So when the pandemic started, I lost those two jobs. Um, that was really disappointing. Um, and I was also, depending on those two jobs. Financially, um, I, um, personally go through have a a lot of, like, really high, um, medical bills. Um, and so I was paying on those two jobs to pay for that. So right now, um, my family's struggling quite a bit with the medical bills, um, where, you know, working on making a payment, plans and stuff and usually medical bills can be quite accommodating in terms of that. But it's still, you know, it's still quite a struggle. Um, and I think that's been the hardest part about this pandemic is kind of not having, um especially when you're kind of like an independent worker. I know they off- they're offering, you know, relief and stuff. And, um could kind of continuing pay and unemployment support for people who are kind of more, um, stable contracted workers. But I I'm not, so I don't get any sort of support. Um, and so thats been really difficult. Um, there's I I get no sort of. Um, there's been no sort of back up for me with this Pandemic. Um, yeah I still get all the. Same bills, so

Mhm. Wow. That's a lot. Um, and then have you noticed, um, like, your relationships change with people like, um, I don't like where you live. Like did you- I don't know. Some some students have gone home, but you weren't a student at the time. Um, so have your relationships with your friends changed, and like, you're away from them now or that kind of thing?

Um, I think so. I think if anything, um It's actually brought me closer to my friends. I think we're all going through the same thing together. Um, and we all have a lot more free time. So not that we're spending time together, but via face time and, um other, you know, just phone calls and stuff. So I think if anything, kind of going through the same hardship together has brought us closer.

Um wow. Thank you. Um, I I feel like that, too. About my friends. Um, cool. Um, And then, um another question is like, how do you think that, like, people will kind of, like, remember this time in history? Or do you think people like can learn anything from this time or anything like that?

I'm really hoping that, um this kind of because there's been kind of a great, um, in Houston, I think, kind of some compassion for others during this time. Um, well, for the most part, I think people just in general or, um, trying to remain positive looking out for others. And, um, you know, you see lots of things of people donating face masks and, um, you know, if you drive around my town you'll see people like leaving like buckets of like hand sanitizer and homemade face masks out for people. And just like small gestures like that. I think people are being, um kinder as a community and looking out for one another. And I think I don't know if it'll last after this ends, but I hope that's kind of the impact this sort of thing has, Um, I guess in general, um so I think maybe as a community. That's the impact I hope this has, but as kind of like more of a as a nation, to be completely honest, I kind of think that after this is over, we're just going to go back to where we were before. I don't think our government or anything like that is really going to change, Um, because I mean, in the past, we've had, you know, I feel like every time we've had kind of a major crisis and our country changes everyone you know, freaks out about it and complains about it and says things need to change, but then it just goes right back to how it was before, right after. So I I honestly don't think as a nation we're going to change, but maybe as sort of, um, as communities, we might be more compassionate towards each other, but as a nation, um, as as for more like a political, um, government's point of view, I don't think we're going to change.

Anonymous

Date of First Interview: April 17, 2020

US Confirmed Cases: 693,900

Texas Confirmed Cases: 17,800

Date of Second Interview: May 2, 2020

US Confirmed Cases: 1,160,700

Texas Confirmed Cases: 30,900

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Interview 1: Okay, so Texas has a pretty loose grasp of this. So it's essential businesses only, but a lot of things were considered essential. I haven't really been out much, but the two times I have, like, things like every restaurant that could do takeout or delivery, any store that sells any sort of

supply, pawnshops, any financial institution, anything that can fix a car or any other equipment. So the roads and everything seems very much alive still, and you see a lot of open signs still, so it doesn't really feel like there's too much shut down. Definitely there's no large gatherings. So the churches, the schools, the businesses that are like offices, I mean, they're all closed. But you never really noticed people like inside those places anyways. So from the exterior it feels very, very much the same.

Interview 2: So yesterday was the first day that this state opened up partially, some restaurants are now at whenever a quarter of their previous capacity was. They'll let you in. Most all of the other services are open. Our cases, they're still going down, even though people don't seem to really be caring too much about too many things. Everyone down here is just assuming that we all live kind of far apart, don't have public transport that we really use. We're able to maintain pretty good distance from each other as long as things like movie theaters and malls or what not are making sure that the stores don't get overcrowded, people don't really get too close together. So at least for us, it seems like something that people are accepting a bit. And they're not really, nobody's really complaining about the level of closure right now. Not like they were before.

Do you think that the proper preventative measures are being taken in the area?

Interview 1: I doubt it.

Interview 2: I see other states who have had, like, they opened up beaches and they saw a bomb after they opened up. They opened some other things then they saw a rise. I think I just saw Missouri or something, you know, wherever it was but one state opened up for something two weeks ago and then now they're seeing a rise. We didn't do anything like that here. Everything that did open was much more controlled. And even with the protests and everything, I didn't see a big number of jumps. We didn't hear about it. At least in the city and the county level. Everything is tapering off ok.

So you think there's definitely more that the authorities could do to mitigate the spread?

Interview 1: The recommendation to wear a mask is very loosely held here. The big stores were doing a better job I hear, of making sure that the people stay apart. They only admit, so many into the store itself, things like that. I think they have that down pretty well. But when it comes to just going to any of the other businesses that are around there's still a lot of people that seem like they're just kind of gathering up, you see a lot of people that are not wearing masks that are close to each other out about in public.

Okay, so it seems like there's a combination of lack of public awareness or lack of public interest in really following the regulations that might be in place.

Interview 1: I mean people down here are the ones that are saying that, you know, this is just a flu, why is the government shutting everything down. It's kind of like that.

Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, what have been the largest changes?

Interview 1: It just so happens that a few things have had to change for me. I'm able to telework, but I am at the in-laws house now because the fiance and her sisters, they're running the drive throughs at the doughnut stores. So to help protect their parents from getting infected I, since I was working from home before, I moved over here to the in-laws and now I stay with the father. It just so happens that their mother, her cancer, came back and she wasn't feeling too well for like a few months but three weeks ago it got enough that she decided to go to the hospital, and now we can't see her. So we have this whole other layer of difficulty trying to figure out when she's gonna get out, who's gonna take care of her? One of them started quarantining and closed her store so that they eventually could come here and help the mother while I'm here taking care of the father. So there's a lot of scheduling and things that we have to do. And we're much more careful with who goes out stores. When anything is delivered here, it's dropped off then I have to go out, sanitize it, then bring it in. I've never actually lived in this house before, so I've been a little bit removed and I go upstairs, do my work during the day and come down and clean things up, make sure everyone has what they need.

Interview 2: It's pretty much the same. Work is, by week two we were already in a rhythm, so everything's been pretty stable there. All the other people that we work with, they figured out kind of what they have to do for child care, and they've able to fit it into their daily lives, whatever they had to do to make it work. So that's been good. Last Thursday, [coworker] had her baby. So she's been out and having to deal with COVID-19 in the hospital and the grandparents and things like having to take an extra week before they could see. For me, I'm still at the in-laws house. So that's what I'm doing. But it's pretty, you know, day to day, what I do now and I did back then is pretty much the same. It didn't really affect me. A little bit more adventurous to, like, go and get, like, take out. That's certainly, we've started doing that a bit more. Getting things from the store, before we were like, only one person was going, and it was, like once every other week and now will be, like, two people once a week, twice a week. Maybe if things come up that we need. So that's been a little bit easier.

Is there any lesson that you hope you or others can be able to learn from this experience?

Interview 1: I guess the lesson is that people are dumber than you thought. I really was expecting, like when this thing all first started and I'd say it was probably I guess March 14th or the 13th or something like that was the first day that we were gonna close down the office, and it was right when it was ramping up in getting big, and I figured, okay, so everyone's gonna go home for two weeks, and we're gonna, like, sort this this out real quick. Because people understand that this is gonna be a problem if we don't stop it. And then I noticed like nobody was taking it seriously. I was like, oh god, like what's gonna happen. And then the numbers just went crazy. Like once I moved. Probably about like, two weeks into it when I thought we'd be done, is when it just blew up.

Interview 2: There's definitely more of a settled opinion of how dangerous it is and how much we have to do. The people who are kind of on the fence, I don't see as many of all. There's more people who are like, Oh, we have to be careful about this. But there's a big group and they're even like, more staunchly against any sort of protective measures, and it's their day to day lives. They just make fun of the masks, complain about the spacing out stores, or they're upset that the

restaurants are only opening 25 percent and the bars were still closed and they're like they're talking about it like they're upset. They had to pay taxes, it's like a fundamental government hatred that they have towards it. And it's not just the crazy people like it was before. It's more of the common people are starting to pick up the sentiment that this is too much and we wasted our time.

Do you have a prediction about when your area will be able to return to normal or when the virus will be contained?

Interview 1: So I have a very cynical view on that. Everything's tapering off, they're gonna lift the restrictions, it's gonna flood back out, we're gonna have to lock down everything even further. So people will take it more seriously, but that won't be until, like, June or July. And then it won't be until almost the wintertime that everybody gets antsy again and they start lifting things. It'll be winter. Everyone's gonna get sick again. It's gonna dive down again and then over by next year around this time.

Interview 2: I'm not sure. I'd say that I was a little bit more cautious [last interview]. I worried before because I really thought that it would have spread more aggressively and granted the number of infections we don't really know for sure. I guess you can't go off testing number, but just in general what they're assuming and the available population and the fatalities so far, I thought it would have gotten scarier, and based on where it is, it's like to me, it seems like it's just scary enough to get people thinking about it, but not really like permanently changing the way they go about their daily lives. I don't think people are completely understanding the way the math works. Yes, it's as many people as the flu, but it's done it in, like, a quarter of the time and we're just in May. It's much scarier than the flu, but it's still probably not gonna beat out heart disease this year.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 20, 2020

U.S. Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths] / [No. (%) of recoveries]:
343 [10 (2.9)] / [91 (26.5)]

South Carolina Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]:
187 [5 (2.7)] / [61 (32.6)]

Columbia Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]:
187 [5 (2.7)] / [61 (32.6)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).
[redacted], 21, Student, Columbia SC. African American.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

I've been to myself more and I haven't really been talking to people like that.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I've been talking to people less.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I've been studying better for my dental exam.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

It's still somewhat normal.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

City businesses have been shut down and there's a curfew for businesses.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Yes.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

It's important to learn how to be alone.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

I think that it will die down and life will get back to normal but there will be another break out years from now.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

We will remember how people with many different positions responded.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

No.

Jacky Kral

Date of Interview: April 21, 2020

US Confirmed Cases: 811,478

Connecticut Confirmed Cases: 19,815

So it's a start off. Um, I need you to say I her name. Give permission to have my audio recorded and published through WPI

I, Jacqueline Kral, give permission to have my audio recorded and published through WPI.

So to start off, please tell me a little bit about yourself. Your name, your age, your occupation, your location.

My name is Jacky. I'm 20 years old. I'm a full time student at WPI and I'm currently living in Lisbon, Connecticut.

What has been the most notable change, if any in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I think the most notable change is that I'm doing school from my house rather than being up in Worcester. If we were at home because we were on break from school or something and not because we were not able to go back to school, the most notable change is that I can't do things like go grocery shopping and stuff like that on a regular basis.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I'm definitely talking to people a lot less, now that our only form of communication is either through video calling or texting. Just because most of my social life is at school and now that I can't see these people, I'm obviously not seeing them. So it's not on the forefront of my mind to talk to them all day because I'm not spending time with them.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

The biggest thing is that obviously, all of my classes are online now. So any presentations I do for class are through a video call, which makes it a lot different, because I can't physically be there with my teammates to make a formal presentation. I also have a job interview tomorrow that would be in person if COVID-19 wasn't happening. But because of COVID-19 my interview is over a Zoom call.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

I think it will definitely be a moment in time that makes the history books as a good lesson to be

learned. I think it will be remembered pretty negatively. I don't know of anyone that's having a positive experience right now with the situation. So it's definitely going to be remembered in a negative light.

Anonymous

Date of Interview: April 22, 2020

US Confirmed Cases: 829,700

Texas Confirmed Cases: 21,300

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

My background is I am an aerospace engineer. I moved to Houston in 2003 and started working at Johnson Space Center and have worked here since then. I do not work for Booz Allen anymore. Actually moved companies, and so I now work for Barrios Technology. I came back to work under the Artemis program so I'm working on the lunar program now for a software called Copernicus, which does computations for orbital mechanics. And so utilizing the python and FORTRAN mainly on. So I got back to my FORTRAN roots and I'm becoming a python developer slowly as well, but that's kind of my professional side. And then on my personal side I have two small children, a three year old and a six year old, and my wife. All four of us are living here close by to Johnson Space Center here. Both my wife and I are from Texas. My wife originated a street over. She lived here in Houston since she was three. And then I have lived in Texas my whole life. But I come from a small town outside of Fort Worth called Azle. I moved to Austin, went to school, came here. My wife went to school in Fort Worth. And she came here, and we work to Johnson Space Center and had our kids here. And now that we've gone into this, this quarantine we're now basically not doing a whole lot different with our lives except that we're working at home alongside the kids. So that's pretty much in a nutshell.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

So the most notable change really is just melding all three of our functions here. So you have your work, your personal, and you have your family and getting that all together. At Booz Allen, I did do remote work occasionally with kids at home when they were sick and things. So I was familiar with this, and occasionally we've had hurricanes and evacuations and things like that. We've all had to work together before, so this is not uncommon. The uncommon factor is that we're having to homeschool them now. So the biggest change really is trying to balance getting a 40 hour work week with also homeschooling the children and making sure that their education is at least, if not as high quality as it would be at their school, at least there they're still getting some of that discipline and and still learning things. And so that's pretty much the biggest changes. Trying to adjust and still be productive as a worker and still be effective as a parent but also a good teacher. So that's that's the big one. Teaching is the biggest I think.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Social life is probably largely unaffected because I to be honest, I don't have much of a social life. I've always been fairly social, and before the kids were born and everything I definitely socialized and went to pubs, and I definitely went to movies and things. But honestly, since my first daughter was born, the way I'm wired, I am not capable of really holding much in terms of social relationships outside of family. But honestly, I probably have picked up a bit on socialising. To be honest, I actually check Facebook again because I'm having to keep track of people. I mean, I hate Facebook, but I still go on there and actually talk to people. I rarely have ever posted since my first daughter was born in 2013. Even before then, I was probably on once or twice a year. So now I actually do have a few conversations with people on there outside of that.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19? On the whole, how has the space industry been affected by COVID-19?

I would say it certainly would be untrue to say it's not affected. I definitely think people in certain circles probably are less productive. There are people that are definitely more productive or less productive given their circumstances. But for the low level workers like me who are the ones that are not managers, I think we're less affected than those that have to do a lot of the meeting support and everything like that. But I think there are definitely people that are not capable of doing remote work in the way that they would have done their normal work at their desks. Not just the people that are not as comfortable with doing remote work, but also just from the standpoint that I think there is a certain level of energy you get with collaboration physically, especially in the space station and even in the Artemis program. I think there are people that are just social beings and get their job done in a room filled with people and talking, you know. I've never been a big fan of large meetings and sitting in conference rooms all the time, but there are some people that I know that I don't think function as well from home. And then also there is the impact, just like I have here. Personally. I have to wake up every morning between four and five and start work, and I'm able to squeeze in two to three hours before the kids get up and then after they're up, I squeeze in time as I can throughout the day. I get another good, solid hour or two in the mid afternoon or late afternoon and then I cover whatever's left, especially if it's something that needs to be done for the next day. I cover that after they go to sleep, so I obviously am impacted personally from a sleep cycle issue. I don't get the full amount of what I used to and there are days that it probably does affect my productivity. There's other people that have more kids or the kids are smaller. I have a three year old, a six year old. I have heard stories of people and we have a couple friends that have much smaller children. Actually, my NASA customer, I think, is very deeply impacted. He has a one year old and a four year old, I think, and I rarely see him online.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Historically, it's probably gonna be a combination of 9/11 and a Spanish Flu. I think there's gonna be a lot of people that are basically impacted, and it impacts their lives, not just a few people. It's gonna impact their lives for the next 20 to 30 years. If you look at what the financial

crisis did, people's pocketbooks, especially for people like you who were gonna graduate and then go into a job field that is devoid of jobs for a bit like there are people that are going to be able to get through it. And there are other people that might be impacted to the point where they don't even get a degree and they are unable to get that degree for the rest of their lives. And that has a financial consequence that can affect the next 50 years really large swaths of people. We're not even talking about death, the death toll. That's why I also fold in the Spanish flu because 9/11 is horrible but it didn't kill that many people. We initially lost thousands of people. We did not lose hundreds of thousands of people or millions. And when you look at the human toll this is gonna take globally. The first thing I thought of when we started talking about pandemic was especially what happens when you have heads of family die that leave behind children? And then you have rich countries like ours that can semi adjust. We still have a problem though. We don't have that great of a social safety net for those kids. Now look at some Saharan Africa, and you have no real medical system or social safety net to speak of there either.

Tochi Onyenokwe

Transcription of an audio interview conducted by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Interview: April 23, 2020

Canada Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths] / [No. (%) of recoveries]:
343 [10 (2.9)] / [91 (26.5)]

Ontario Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]:
187 [5 (2.7)] / [61 (32.6)]

Toronto Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]:
187 [5 (2.7)] / [61 (32.6)]

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_Nigeria

If recording video/audio please state at the beginning of your video: "I (state your name) give permission to have my video/audio recorded and published through WPI."

I, Tochi Onyenokwe, give permission to be recorded and have my audio distributed by WPI.

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

Ok, my name is Tochi Onyenokwe. I am 25 years old. I'm a Nigerian working in Toronto, Canada for a company called Square, which is a company primarily based in the U.S. but with locations all around the world. Um, I work as a software engineer on a team called Capital within Square. Capital is a team responsible for giving loans to Square merchants and servicing them, and I've been working on this team for about a year but I've been at Square for three and a half-

ish years right now, and I moved to Canada only in the middle of last year. Prior to that, I had lived in the U.S. for about, I would say, 7 years, and that has led me to where I am today.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

So the most notable change, let me just say, is in my eating habits. I now cook pretty much all of my meals which is very unusual for me. Prior to this, I probably ordered in 90 percent of my meals and, initially, it wasn't a very intentional thing, uh, my brother just started to cook more, so I was eating some of his food and then after a while, I thought, "Hey, why not? This is an opportunity to start cooking myself" in an attempt to limit my exposure to the virus. So, that's changed significantly. Another thing that's changed is how I get physical activity. Prior to the pandemic, I would go to the gym in my building, but it got closed for obvious reasons and I had to find another way to stay active, so I have been taking walks every day, 30-minute walks every day, and that's something that I didn't really do that often and I've found is very easy to do. So, that is a significant change. And, also how I've been social; I, well right now, only really see my brother in person. Everyone else is. . . I talk to them on the phone or having video calls, texting. That's also pretty significant. But in terms of my work, that hasn't changed much; I'm a remote worker, and my team is based in the U.S. so, I'm very much used to this remote work lifestyle.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

See above.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

See above.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

So, here, we don't have as strong of restrictions as I've heard in places like New York and in California, which is why I'm still able to go out and take walks without getting a ticket, but businesses, restaurants, bars have all closed, um, many of them stay open because they do delivery and that's permitted (that's restaurants) but, other than that, nothing is really open right now, except essential businesses. You see lines at grocery stores. In the early stages of some of the mandates that came from the government, people kind of freaked out and started to buy everything in the grocery stores. Things have calmed down a little bit now, and the lines are not because of that many people, but because the grocery stores are now implementing social distancing measures. So, that's happening, uh, weirdly sometimes I feel like I see more people outside taking walks, and playing with their dogs, and running, and biking than I did in the past, but it may just be because the times that I would go out on runs were times when people would be at work, and now, they're just at home without much to do. So, those are some of the changes that I've seen around me, um, yeah.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

See above.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Hmm, I think I would need to see more data on how the virus is spreading. I know that in China it was spreading a lot from family members giving each other the virus and, if that's the case here, then there isn't so much more you can do besides taking people away from their families when they get sick which can be a little much, just given how the virus, well, kills people. Um, so, I think I would need to see more data but I think, um, if I were a premier of a province here, I would probably have taken the same measures that have been taken now. Hindsight is always 20/20, maybe they could have done things earlier, but I don't know. Ontario has one of the highest rates of coronavirus in Canada; I think it's only second to Quebec so, it's not great here. I think they could have done more to help people in particularly difficult environments, like the elderly in homes, because that's where a lot of spread and a lot of death is happening, and I think the reactions to that have been slower than I probably would have liked. So, there could have been more done there but, other than that, everything seems reasonable.

(04/21): Have you had to adapt the way you typically live due to the COVID-19 pandemic since the previous interview? If yes, what have been some significant changes?

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Yes, yes, um, I think there needs to be a lot of collaboration at the international level to share information quickly, and to take collective action. There's been a patchwork of responses around the world which has led to its [COVID-19's] massive spread, and I think if there was a lot more transparency on China's part, and a lot more coordination with western countries this could have been mitigated much more than we've been able to deal with it now, uh, so that's big on an international relations level. But on a personal level, what I've noticed is people are realizing that it's not too difficult to stay in contact with people far far away. I've started to have a lot more video calls with friends who, I guess, have more downtime now, and I think that's something that I can see people learning from this. And also just, in the same light talking about relationships, like, just thinking about your own mortality, and how people around you could die helps people appreciate those around them more, and I think that's something we can all gain from this experience as well. So, yeah. And then also just general hygiene, I think everybody's gonna be a lot more. . . a lot more [laughter]. . . more of a germophobe, similar to you. I guess you're feeling very vindicated right now [more laughter]. . . germs, germs, germs. But I can see people improving their hygiene practices as well.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

[pained yell followed by sheepish laughter] Yo, I don't want to be a doomsayer, but I don't see things going back to normal for several months, at least. There's going to be a very difficult process of re-opening economies, and I don't know if anybody has a clear golden path for that right now. You're going to need to weigh the benefits of opening up to the economy, and public health and overwhelming the healthcare system, and because of that I think there'll be a bit of an "opening up" and a "retraction", and an "opening up" and a "retraction", and until we see some countries do that effectively, we wouldn't really know the best path, and I suspect that that would take months. Um, especially because we don't have any way to treat this. I don't think this virus is just going to vanish, we're just going to have to find a way to keep it at a very safe level for cities and countries until some kind of treatment comes out, or a vaccine comes out. And I heard the other day that the fastest we've ever been able to produce a vaccine is in four years, which

was the mumps vaccine in the '60s or '50s or something like that. So, unless something very very dramatic happens, I don't see how a vaccine is gonna come within a- a few months, um, so yeah. I- I don't see the world getting back to normal for some time, um, yeah, but I don't really have a clear vision of what things would look like. I think immigration is going to take a while to fully open up. In fact, I'm even contracting now, did you see what Trump. . . ok, this is not a two-way thing [laughter] um, yeah, Trump just recently temporarily banned immigration to the U.S. and everybody is surprised, in quotes. I don't even know if people are really surprised by what he does anymore, but that's an extreme example of how things will close up, more so in the next few months. Um, and so, that's. . . that's crazy to think about. I wonder what's going to happen to Nigeria mehn, because the oil prices just keep going down, and the other day I saw that the U.S. index went negative, which I didn't even think was possible.

Well, for OPEC countries it's a little bit different. . . it's a little higher.

Ok, yeah. . . ok, ok, that would be catastrophic for Nigeria, but yeah, I'm glad it's not that bad, but it's still pretty bad. So, I worry about that.

Is there anything more you want to share about what you've heard is going on in Nigeria, like, even though you're not there currently?

Well, I'm not hearing too many good things. I've heard that, um, there've been more deaths, well this was probably two weeks. . . last week? At least a week ago, that there've been more deaths due to police killings than deaths from the virus, which is crazy. I've heard stories about increased robberies and violence in places in Lagos. I hear the numbers are increasing, the Chief of Staff died, and people are fighting at locations where they're giving out food. And, I'm sure there are a lot more stories that are just going untold because so much of the country lives on hand-to-mouth, paycheck-to-paycheck, and I don't un- I can't imagine what this would do to them, and Nigerians also have big families, and then I don't know if a lockdown is really sustainable, and because of that I don't know if we are even capable of controlling it in the same ways that we're seeing other countries do that, so that also makes me worried. Not just for the vulnerable, but also people like my family, uh, who are middle class and would be turned against if there's an extreme scenario where people don't know where to turn, and they need to put their anger somewhere. Or if there's an uptick in crime, it's going to be against people like that, so I worry about that. And then, I also worry about safety from the virus for the people I care about as well, but what's positive mehn? What is something positive about. . . there's been a lot of negative things. . . hopefully, things work out; there's only so much you can think about this because it just becomes very hard to continue. . . can't really do much.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Well, I guess it depends on who you are asking but I think it will be seen as a major event that triggered another global financial crisis. I hope that it will be looked at as a time when we came together and weathered unprecedented conditions and came out of it stronger ultimately, um, I think that there've been bounce-backs after major, major crises, and I hope there will be something similar now. Uh, there'll be a lot of jokes and memes about 2020, and staying in, and I can't even think of the many- the many ways people will find a way to find humor about this but, that and yeah, I hope it inspires a lot of creativity afterwards and I hope it's remembered for triggering some new consciousness, whether that's art or something, I don't know. But, yeah there will be many ways of remembering this.

Anonymous

April 27, 2020

I am a 56 year old male that lives at my home in Westwood, Massachusetts with my family consisting of my wife and two sons, ages 16 and 13. The most notable change in my daily life since the outbreak of Covid-19 has been adjusting to the emergency procedures to help minimize the spread of this novel virus including “social distancing,” the closure of schools and certain businesses, and the work from home policies that both my wife and I are following.

This is an unprecedented time in our world’s history and adjusting to these evolving changes has been difficult at times. There are, for example, many individuals and families that are experiencing unimaginable pain coping with the loss of a loved one due to the virus. People that fall into certain vulnerable categories such as the elderly or patients with respiratory illnesses are living life with the constant fear that contracting this fast spreading virus could result in death. The social distancing and closure of businesses has resulted in an economic crisis that has hit poor people particularly hard. Financial hardships increase homelessness resulting in shelters becoming overcrowded creating a higher risk of spreading the virus. Crime rates increase placing strains on law enforcement, the justice system and the consequences of the pandemic spreading throughout the prison system. The lack of essential health care resources such as ventilators and hospital beds creates a significant burden on our health care workers. Thinking of the horrible ways this pandemic has adversely impacted the lives of so many people in so many ways has caused me to experience sadness and stress. My sons have been unable to take part in team sports such as baseball, track and football – something that they very much look forward to. They miss socializing with their friends. My wife and I miss being out together with each other sharing a meal at our favorite restaurant, traveling or meeting with friends. We all miss the warmth of gathering with our extended family across the state to celebrate a holiday or birthday and to feel the warmth of a hug.

However, the changes have also impacted me in a positive way. I am blessed to spend such quality time my wife and sons. We all are disbursed throughout the house working and attending on line school but each day we meet together as a family to have lunch and dinner. When the weather is warm, I play basketball with my sons at the end of my work day. Each night we have a doubles ping pong tournament (parents versus children), we have pizza making nights and we watch a movie together. The pandemic has brought such meaningful and enjoyable life experiences and memories for me and my family. I have gained such inspiration from learning about those courageous health care workers on the front lines in emergency rooms and hospitals caring for those infected. The gestures of goodwill and support this crisis has brought out in people never ceases to amaze me. Restaurant owners are reaching out to help hospital staff with meals during a time when their businesses are vulnerable. This emergency has caused me to gain a greater appreciation for those scientists, doctors and researchers with vision to create change for the future. The technology innovators are coming up with new platforms such as video conferences to allow people to stay connected – it is hard to imagine what this world would be like without such innovative technology.

This pandemic and the changes that it has brought about can be inspiring. Hope can be a wonderful thing to have – hope for a cure, hope for a vaccine, and hope for those suffering. Most of all, hope for a better tomorrow and the promise that we will get through this difficult time together.

Adesuwa

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 28, 2020

Nigeria Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths] / [No. (%) of recoveries]:
343 [10 (2.9)] / [91 (26.5)]

Lagos Confirmed Cases [No. (%) of deaths]:
187 [5 (2.7)] / [61 (32.6)]

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_Nigeria

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).
I am Adesuwa [redacted], a broadcast journalist and magazine publisher. I am 56 years old and live in Lagos, Nigeria.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

I began a self-imposed movement restriction before the now 4-week lockdown in Lagos. I find that I have since been able to embrace working remotely. And with time I have increasingly become more productive.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Family time has increased and social life has been largely zero. All social activity is restricted to Television and social media entertainment.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

All outdoor work like anchoring events and studio recordings have ceased but production of the magazine has continued remotely.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

My family and I are in our home in the Lekki area of Lagos. Upper middle class, yet surrounded by the pain of those who live in neighbouring shanties. Majority of whom survive on daily pay. There have been a lot of security breaches with the poor going in the street to beg and even loot.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Most businesses have either shut down or transformed. Supermarkets and stores have adopted online orders and delivery as options for keeping their clients.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Sadly No. The government does have initiatives like handing dry food out to the needy with plans to hand out facemasks and sanitisers, but the ordinary man out there seems to be yet to quite grasp the depth of the problem at hand. This a great drawback to checking the spread. Efforts should be intensified towards more aggressive enlightenment.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I have learned that simple hygiene habits can be a lifesaver and we are not as disconnected as we often think. What hurts you hurts me.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

There will be a vaccine and innovative cures will emerge from the most unlikely places. For example, two African countries, Madagascar and Senegal have made interesting inroads already.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

COVID-19 will go down in history as a game-changer. When the world stood still and the earth's environment was the better for it.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes. Kindly leave out my last name.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 28, 2020

Grenada Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

St. George's Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

[redacted], 50 years, lecturer in the Caribbean.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

100% Teaching online.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Relationships affected in the sense of reduced physical meetings with family, friends, colleagues, and students. However, communication via remote means has increased.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Yes, almost all of my professional activities are now done remotely.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

There is a national lockdown and everyone, except essential workers, is mandated to stay home and only go out for medical emergencies or on designated shopping days.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Local businesses have adjusted by opening only on designated days. Many businesses have developed means of doing business online.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Yes.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

More could be achieved remotely than was previously done.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

There is a lot of uncertainty as the rate of new infections may determine policies which are being formulated as events unfold.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

A teaching & learning moment for the whole world to think outside the box and prepare as much as possible for another such unexpected pandemic.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes, I would like my answers to remain anonymous. Please, do not include my name, email address, and photo.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Anwuli Odili

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 28, 2020

Jamaica Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

Kingston Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

Anwuli Odili, 36, Physician, Nigerian

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Less social activities, more work.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Work is stressful, unable to see close friends, cannot travel for a new job or visit family.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

More work intensity as a doctor with more risk to life.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Hard to adjust, people are not social distancing well.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Business is harder and some are being creative but there is an overall loss of productivity.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

More by a lockdown since numbers are climbing.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Nothing is permanent even horrible pandemics.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Loss of job opportunities this year may have far-reaching personal effects. People may not learn a lesson if the effects of the pandemic are not personal. It seems like an abstract reality for some,

something that is happening but not happening to them.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Negatively because it may be the first of more catastrophes.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

No.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Katherine Artega

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 28, 2020

U.S. Reported Cases [No. (% of deaths)]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

Connecticut Reported Cases [No. (% of deaths)]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

New Haven Reported Cases [No. (% of deaths)]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

Katherine, I am 30 years old I live in New Haven CT and I work as a babysitter. Also, I am Colombian living in the United States.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

I stopped working, thankfully my husband can work for home. We had to cancel our planned trips. But, with the free time that now I have I started new projects, working out more, and return hobbies.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

My marriage is getting stronger. We are doing new activities together. I miss my friends and the people that I work for. My family is already far from me, but I keep getting in touch with them

all the time.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Well I'm not working now, and before this, I was applying for a full-time job, but now is getting more complicated.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Thankfully, we have all our needs covered and my family in Colombia too. And most of our town are taking precautions.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

I don't have a local business.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

In our town yes. But still, some people that are crazy don't believe in taking precautions.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Of course, I think most rational people would learn from this experience. Like value time with family, save money, smart use of our resources, solidarity.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

I hope it gets better, but the creation of the vaccine will definitely stop this virus.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Like the event that affects everything single human in the world.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

No.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 29, 2020

Kenya Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

Nairobi Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).
[redacted]

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?
Irregular hours, loss of structure, insomnia, difficulty concentrating.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?
I'm more gracious.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?
n/a

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)
I'm in Nairobi, which is in lockdown.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?
Some adapted to supply and donate PPE.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?
The authorities were slow to act here, people don't seem to take the pandemic seriously.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?
"1. That we can all be and do better for the good of everyone.

2. Your wealth will not protect you from a pandemic, we are all as vulnerable regardless of status, education, and other demographic markers to forces beyond human control.

3. Be like Cuba. "

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?
I don't know.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?
I hope it's remembered as the Great Course Corrector that laid bare the folly of capitalism and individualistic systems.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?
n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?
Yes.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?
Yes.

Kene Onyenokwe

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 29, 2020

Nigeria Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

Lagos Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).
Kene, 18, Student, Lagos, Nigeria.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?
Not being able to move around freely.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?
I am now unable to physically interact with my friends and that has been tough.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?
School is remote now, so it takes a significant effort to fully grasp work on my own. Staying motivated has also been tough.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)
Luckily, I have food and shelter and am surrounded by my loved ones. A lot of people in my community however are not as privileged.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Most businesses are either closed or remote (with the exception of essential services).

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

They could do more. They could extend the lockdown and find creative ways to ensure the vulnerable members of society are taken care of while at home (possibly through a weekly stipend).

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Yes, definitely. Better hygiene and being more appreciative of what we have.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Honestly, I don't see it getting better any time soon.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Very terribly.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

No.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Tessa Richard

Date of Interview: April 29, 2020

US Confirmed Cases: 1,048,800

California Confirmed Cases: 46,500

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

Sure. My name is Tessa Richard. I'm 24 years old. I am a manager at an [E-commerce] fulfillment center in Redlands, California. I've been working at [E-commerce company] for a little over a year and half. I school at the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in supply chain management from the business school in 2018. And I grew up in Houston, Texas. So that timeline was a little backwards, but gives you an idea of how I got here.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

As an individual, you know, it's kind of like practicing that self quarantine, social distancing, staying at home for me. That hasn't been that difficult because I was moved to southern California. So I don't have a ton of family or friends here. And also the part California I live in, there is not much to do. So for me, it wasn't a big deal.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

My family is in Texas and I was supposed to go visit them back in March, and I had to cancel that flight, so that was kind of a bummer. And now it's kind of like I have no idea when I can go home to see my family, And the reality of that is just kind of daunting and a little bit restricting, you know, being told I can't travel the world, can't go anywhere. I really don't have anything to look forward to. You know, I can't plan a trip for vacation. I even booked when the flight prices were super low, I booked a flight to Texas in the middle of May, thinking it would be over by then. And, you know, a couple days ago realized that probably wouldn't be the case. So I just canceled that and I've just been waiting.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

So it seemed like everything happened really quickly at first. [E-commerce company] has this philosophy of customer obsession, which applies not only to the customers, but also internally to workers in the warehouse. So inherently a warehouse setting is kind of dependent upon people being really close together and not to say it's not sanitary, but, you know, we're using a lot of the same product, that workstations and tools and machinery. So, you know, it definitely doesn't seem like a very conducive environment for maintaining social distancing and everything like that. So about a month ago, I guess it was the middle of March. I want to say, we started hearing about all the different things that were happening around the world and around the country, businesses shutting down, cities shutting down. And so we were trying to take it one day at a time. And so the first directive that we got was that we needed to maintain three feet of distance. So we got to work right away. What with our company obsession of keeping our employees safe. And we started to essentially put tape on the ground for where everything was gonna be. So we were taping chairs and tables three feet apart and then literally that night we had a meeting. Okay, it's probably gonna be six feet and we heard that California governor was planning to shut down a lot of businesses. So we need everyone to kind of, you know, stay tuned and be ready for anything. So pretty instantly we started enforcing the six feet distance. We're retaping everything like a day after we tape the three feet. And then, you know it's not long after that we got an executive order the governor of California saying that office is all non essential businesses will be closing. And so, naturally, I'm at home kind of wondering what it means for us. Does [E-commerce company] count as an essential business? Does the warehouse count as essential? You know what it's gonna look like because it just seems like every day at that point, there was some kind of new directive that we were implementing in the warehouse keeping everything safe. So they granted the employees unlimited sick time. So we started seeing a lot of absences from our workers, and additionally, they raised the hourly pay by two dollars. So literally it was just like I came into work every day and there was something different and I kind of like threw my hands in the air. And I was like, well, if we shut our doors tomorrow, I'll be ready for that. But on the whole, I'm looking at the description of what is considered essential in California, and it seems

like it's actually quite a bit. Seems like it's pretty much everything except restaurants and entertainment venues. So, you know, as an individual you know, that sucks reading fun is going away. And then as a manager kind of thinking like, I wonder what this is gonna mean for my associates. Are they all going to stay home, am I gonna be seeing them? Are they gonna be coming more frequently because of the increased pay? What's gonna happen now? So of course you know, getting questions from my associates of, you know, are we gonna close our doors, are we lose our jobs? And I am telling them no. Seems like [E-commerce company] is essential so we're not going anywhere. And then they're asking me, you know, well, I feel obligated to come to work because I need to pay my bills, but I don't feel safe here. So [E-commerce company] is trying to communicate all of the measures we're taking, you know, we're doing more frequent cleanings, more effective cleanings. We've set up additional hand wash stations, and then, you know, way start my face mask, which initially are optional and then very quickly became required. And then we started doing temperature screenings as well. But I think the most difficult thing out of all of this has just been the unlimited sick time. Although it's given people the flexibility they need to either, you know, they stay home if they're sick or a family member sick or if they don't feel safe at work, it's made things increasingly difficult to run at work. Because our operations are dependent upon our workers. And if we can't, you know, accurately forecast how many people are gonna be there, then it makes our jobs really difficult. So you know what managers, we've been showing up pretty much consistently every day, but the hourly workers, it's completely unpredictable. So, that's made work pretty stressful for the management, I would say, But again, we just were trying to take it one day at a time and trying to make people feel comfortable.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

I was thinking it might impact, like, deter behavior concerned around like hygiene and how we interact with each other. Like being optimistic, I guess. You know, like maybe now going forward, like when we have kids and raise kids, we might be a little more attentive towards washing our hands, the way we interact with the public. I'm trying to think honestly, I think the biggest take away in terms of historical significance is how different countries handle the outbreaks. I feel like maybe at least in the media, America has been portrayed as handling the situation during COVID-19 in terms of closing down of things on the quarantine mandates, whereas other countries were maybe more on top of it, or were more prepared.

Toyosi Ogunseye

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 29, 2020

Nigeria Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,728 [51 (3.2)]

Lagos Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 931 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

Toyosi Ogunseye, journalist, 36

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Managing teams who are working remotely.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

There's been no social life and interactions. It's however led to more bonding time with my family.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

More workers are working from home and we've had to be more creative with news gathering and deployments.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

No shelter but communities are relying on local governments and rich persons in the community to support them.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

They've become more innovative and creative.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

No

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Yes, the lessons are resilience and creativity. Including learning and sharing empathy.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

It's difficult to tell as everyone is dealing with this pandemic for the first time.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

I hope it's remembered as the Great Course Corrector that laid bare the folly of capitalism and individualistic systems.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

No.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?
Yes.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 30, 2020

U.S.A Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 395,926 [12,757 (3.2)]

[State] Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

[City] Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1,211 [24 (2.0)]

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_x

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

My name is [redacted].60 years old Male residing in USA

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

At home most of the time.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Highly impacted . No social life

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Reduced to internet communication

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Yes, we have shelter and the community has adapted to the changes

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Those with the capacity have resulted to online transactions while those dealing with consumers have either closed shops if classified as non essential services or resulted to crowd control measures and social distancing.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities

do more/less to mitigate spread?

Authorities could do more by insisting on the wearing of masks by all.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

How easy it is to contact diseases from the public. Adopting Personal hygiene practices.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Social distance practices in business premises and conferences. Architectural design modifications.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

The year the world economies shutdown.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

No.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 30, 2020

Nigeria Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1932 [58 (3.0)]

Lagos Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 976

Source: <https://twitter.com/NCDCgov/status/1255993387603329026?s=20>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

My name is Okor Ovieghara, I am 60years old. I recently retired from service. I am currently exploring opportunities in consultancy services on natural gas operations.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-

19 began to affect your daily activities?

Not being able to go out to play lawn tennis. Otherwise just laying at home.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Social life headed south. Glued to television most of the day.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Suffered because there are no targets to motivate me.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

I am at home with my wife.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Most of the people are home , that is in their houses except for the food kiosk a few meters away.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Not really, people should move in clusters instead of practicing social distancing.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

What matters most in life is the food you take in and the small bed you sleep in and not all those earthly possessions, big cars, mansions etc

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

I don't know. We just pray and hope for the best.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

The period of boredom, period we could not have hand shakes, you cannot embrace your loved one, cannot visit the sick, period you many dead's, where bereaved cannot say goodbye to loved ones, the world will never be the same again.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Charles Edike

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 30, 2020

Nigeria Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1932 [58 (3.0)]

Lagos Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 976

Source: <https://twitter.com/NCDCgov/status/1255993387603329026?s=20>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

I am 62 years old, live in Lekki phase 1, Lagos, Nigeria. I am a retired Assistant Comptroller-General of Customs, now a Pastor serving under the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

No major change, because am always at home, except when I go to Church

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Not really

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Not too much, because we do teleconference for Church services

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Everybody in my neighborhood adapted with ease

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Very badly

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

No fumigation

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Life is vanity.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Things will never be the same again.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

A bad dream.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?
Yes.

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?
Google my name and use my photo.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?
Yes.

Ike Onyenokwe

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: April 30, 2020

Nigeria Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1932 [58 (3.0)]

Lagos Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 976

Source: <https://twitter.com/NCDCgov/status/1255993387603329026?s=20>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

I am Ike Onyenokwe, 61, an engineer and strategy consultant living and working in Lagos, Nigeria.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

The restriction to movement/staying at home; and having to do most of my work remotely, from home.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Significantly, as all interactions are now by phone or online. Even when there are chance meetings, we've maintained social-distance and kept all interactions brief and to the point. Direct social meetings/interactions have ceased.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Professional work has slowed down drastically because our clients' businesses and activities have also been negatively impacted. Therefore, only work that can be done remotely and with minimal network interactions are proceeding, albeit, slowly.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

Yes, there's shelter for me and my family; we are essentially locked-down at home, only venturing out occasionally for essential goods and services; eg groceries, fuel, etc. Same goes for my neighbours/immediate community.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

Businesses have embraced e-commerce, home-delivery, online team collaboration, webinars, social media/digital marketing and shift-work. Of course, companies are significantly more health/safety focused too.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

While government in Nigeria is promoting social distancing, wearing of face masks, use of hand sanitisers and hand-washing, etc; one key area where government can do more is in economic/financial support for underprivileged citizens and SMEs.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Yes of course; that alternative business and organisation models/practices are not only feasible, but attractive.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

1. Online collaboration tools will definitely reduce travel/travel-related expenses
2. Online training can be delivered cheaply effectively
3. Significant professional work can be done remotely, say from home; meaning we could use less office space/facilities.
4. Social Media/Digital Marketing channels can be put to potent and cost-effective use in professional services marketing/sales.
5. Firms can keep fewer permanent staff and use more contract staff working remotely.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

As a significant jolt that opened our eyes to new and exciting possibilities in all facets of life.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

No

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Ken Carr

Interview 1
April 30, 2020

Henry: Please state, "I give permission to have my video recorded and published through WPI."

Ken: I give permission to Have my interview recorded and published through WPI.

Henry: Thank you. Now, can you please tell me a little bit about yourself? What is your name, age, occupation, and where do you live?

Ken: My name is Ken Carr. I am 52 years old. I live in Eastern Massachusetts, and I am a rabbi.

Henry: What has been the most notable change in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Ken: The most notable change has been really staying at home instead of going into the temple to work. Instead of having people come to the temple for meetings and services and other programs, doing pretty much everything from home. Doing a lot of work and meetings, services and classes on Zoom instead of--instead of in person.

Henry: About how many hours a week do you normally spend in the temple?

Ken: Um, well, it's usually . . . ah, probably forty to fifty.

Henry: Okay.

Ken: Probably a little more than that actually.

Henry: Are you working more or less since the outbreak started?

Ken: I feel like I'm working more than that because, um, more than I was before, because, uh, I have to now sort of recreate everything. Things that I already knew how to do a certain way, I have to learn how to do them a different way, Um, and, ah, and to create the materials that I can put out on Zoom to screen share or something like that. Uh, it's as opposed to using, for example, prayer books that we have published at the temple that people just, um, can pick up when they come in. I have to prepare, um, a document of prayer on the computer and then so that it can be screen shared during services. So that takes a lot more time. That and the kind of pastoral work: checking in with my congregants to see how they're dealing with this whole situation. There's a lot more of that kind of personal conversation than there was before.

Henry: So it sounds like your job requires more, uh, personal connection with the members of your congregation. More than, uh, before this all started. Do you find it harder to connect with the members of your congregation?

Ken: So I might say it a little bit differently than that. I think that my work always requires personal connection. Um, but I think that, um, I think that it's in particular demand now. Um, I think that because people are at risk of feeling isolated, being physically isolated, at risk of

feeling isolated and lonely, that they are looking for that connection more than they necessarily are during, you know, regular times. Um, and so, um, so I think they're reaching out for more, which means that we need to provide it more. Um, so, uh, so I think in that sense, it has become more important and more of a focus of my work. Um, and in some ways, it's easier to make those connections now because people are looking for it. Um, I know there are other clergy members who are experiencing this the same thing, but attendance at our events is up. Um, that and we have more people coming to classes and coming with services on Zoom than we did when we were doing them in person. So, that's not necessarily because we're offering something different. It's because people are looking for it and ready for it. Eager for it in a different way than they were before, I think because the connection is more important to them now.

Henry: Okay. How has your social life changed since the pandemic began?

Ken: Well, it's gotten much narrower. There isn't a whole lot of social life right now outside of my family, um, with the exception of, um, socializing with the people who I see on Zoom. From my congregants and friends with whom I'm connecting in these programs and services, um, we've had some various family connections through Zoom meetings or other phone calls, which, of course, we were doing before, too. Um, and we've had occasional get-togethers at a safe social distance. Um, physical distance. Um, so it's been strange that way for sure.

Henry: How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

Ken: Well, I guess I think that depends on what you do with it. Um, you know, it's, uh, cliché to say that history is written by the victors. Um, not that this is ah, something where there will be victors. But I think that depending on where society goes from here, the story that we tell about this time could be very different. Uh, I think there are some possibilities in this moment of real creativity and renewal and regeneration in a way. Um, and, um, as much upheaval and chaos and dislocation as it is creating, there are some--there have been silver linings, I think to it, in a way. So if we as a society follow those silver linings and take the best of what we have gotten out of this time and build on that, then I think it will be really written and remembered, differently than if we revert as quickly and as hard as possible to what we were doing beforehand and try to forget all about this as much as possible.

Henry: Can you, ah, be more specific about those silver linings?

Ken: So again, just to give an example of my own professional experience. So I think about the services that I lead on Friday nights, the religious services that I lead on Friday nights. We have a nice group of people who come regularly when we're able to be in our building. They come regularly to the building. Um, we're getting almost twice as many people doing that on Zoom. And for some of them, um, I think what we're learning is there--and I've heard from some of them--that they haven't--they appreciate being able to come now because they don't have to drive at night. Um, so if we're able, for example, to continue providing people the opportunity to connect remotely even once we're able to be in person, that's an example of something that will build and add and be creative coming out of this, that we wouldn't have done in the same way before it. Did that make sense?

Henry: Yeah, I think that's a good example of a silver lining. Is there anything that you personally hope to learn from this experience?

Ken: Well, I'm learning all kinds of things about technology and how to work, you know, remotely. I'm not a digital native and haven't had the most tech experience, but I feel like that has increased a lot in this last bit. Um uh, I feel like I'm, um, learning more about, um, sort of being grateful for what I have. And I think that I tend to focus, I think many of us tend to focus, the temptation is to focus on what's missing from our lives right now. Um, people who have had to leave school early or seniors were missing graduation and prom and people who--I have a lot of Bar Mitzvah students who have had to cancel their dates or things like that. And those are real losses that are important to grieve. And at the same time, for me, and for many people, um, we, um, are a lot better off than some other people who are dealing with this and don't have the resources or cushions to draw on to get through this time. Um, so I'm trying to learn and to remember to focus on, um, the blessings. It's something that I talk and teach about and try to keep in mind anyway. But I think that this time has sort of sharpened that and made me try to refocus on that, to learn it more deeply.

Henry: Are there any lessons that you hope our society as a whole will learn from this experience?

Ken: Yeah, I think one really good lesson for society to learn out of this--I hope society will learn out of this--is how interconnected and interdependent we are. Um, part of the nature of a global pandemic is we're all in this same boat together. We all rely on each other in different ways. Um, and, um, related to that, I think what I think and hope that society will learn from this is that it has turned out that many of the people on whom society depends the most are people who are not, um, compensated or appreciated generally in a way commensurate with their value. So everybody from the grocery store clerks to delivery people to first responders to sanitation workers, everybody who is keeping our society functioning as well as it is right now, um, and yet working often much lower paid professions than say entertainment figures, sports figures, or teachers. How many parents now are so deeply appreciating their teachers--their kid's teachers more than they were before. And yet, will we pay them what they deserve? So I hope that society will learn some of those lessons as well.

Henry: Is there anything else you would like to share?

Ken: I can't really think of anything significant. I, um, you know, when I speak about the silver linings and lessons and things like that, I don't mean in any way to minimize the suffering and challenge and illness and difficulties that people who are dealing with this in a more intense way are facing. Um, so that's first is the health and well being of everybody, especially people who are, um, uh, at risk or already, um, who have already caught COVID-19. But, um, but apart from that, I hope that the rest of us--and they too, I hope that they'll recover--but I hope that the rest of us will be able to move forward in more positive ways together from here.

Henry: Okay. Thank you. That answers all my questions. I'm going to stop recording now.

Ken: Okay.

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: May 01, 2020

Nigeria Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 2170 [68 (3.13)]

Lagos Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1006

Source: <https://twitter.com/NCDCgov/status/1256344181485830144?s=20>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

A working adult

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Social life has been affected.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Gone to zero

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Yes, it's a bit of a drag now

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

It is a middle class environment in Lagos, Nigeria

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

They don't like it. No customers. No business. No money

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Yes they are doing their best. They are not doing any testing though for the populace. Since folks can't make money, they are breaking the laws just to find a way to feed their families. No palliatives from the government. This is the bane of a corrupt nation.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

Our way of life has been affected, and may never return to the same in a long time. Africans are

already in a bad place before this, it's going to get worse for us, if a permanent cure is not found. Successful nations will make it even harder for us to succeed as traveling abroad for opportunities for people may dwindle. So many ramifications on so many levels

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

It will affect everything. Possibly when you do a PESTLE Analysis, health will now be a key variable everybody needs to consider to do anything. A new angle and permanent angle to things of a cure is not found and if found. It is a risk that will forever be with us.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

It will never be forgotten, everything will be done about it, movies, books, something to tell your grandkids, the possibilities are endless.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Anonymous

Pune, India

Anonymous (5/3/2020)

My view of the world seems now to be divided between BC and AC (i.e. Before Corona and After Corona)

BC:

Working from home was largely considered questionable.

AC:

It has become the norm - no questions asked. To the point where TCS one of India's largest software company seems to have stated that they plan to have 25% of the workforce at work (75% wfh) well post the pandemic.

BC:

I always thought the Europeans, UK, US, Russia and Canada knew what they were doing and were on top of their game. Countries like Australia, New Zealand, India and China were playing a distant 2nd or may be even a really distant 3rd.

AC:

The Chinese seem to know what they are doing for sure - or at least seem to have the ability to

make the best of the situation. For the rest it is a roll of the dice. Even the worlds favorite currency - the US Dollar seems to know have been challenged by the Chinese.

On a positive note in AC:

The environment seems to have had a breather. I can see distant mountain features that I thought were impossible to appreciate from my patio. All churches, mosques, temples seem to be closed - it should be apparent to people that their favorite god is alive and well without an official place of worship. Perhaps organized religion can now take a back seat?

Most people now seem to be doing their own chores in India: Cooking for themselves, washing their own clothes, cleaning their own house. Hopefully they will better appreciate the labor of the home help they have ordinarily received so far.

On a comical note:

Domestic violence related hotlines seems to be buzzing with frantic calls from women and understandably so. How about a henpecked husband's hotline? Perhaps this may not fly since these dudes will probably ask their better half whether they can go ahead and call that hotline!

Anonymous

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: May 03, 2020

Singapore Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1932 [58 (3.0)]

Source: <https://twitter.com/NCDCgov/status/1255993387603329026?s=20>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

Nickolas 22 student Singapore.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

Schoolwork and education, not being able to go out to study.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

I have become less social, spending more time in solitude.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

No significant change.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as

usual, etc)

Pretty normal apart from a majority of people staying home.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

They have adapted pretty well while no essential services have closed for the foreseeable future.

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

Yes.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

The importance of decisive action and community cooperation.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

I hope that cases will start to ease up all around the world due to the measures put in place.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

As a moment where individuals had to sacrifice their individual liberties and freedoms, sufferings a degree of discomfort for the greater good. While also highlighting the varying degrees of compassion and selfishness that the human race possesses.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes. Name.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

Yes.

Nick Weddington

Written responses to prompts provided by Chioma Onyenokwe

Date of Response: May 04, 2020

U.S. Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1932 [58 (3.0)]

Georgia Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1932 [58 (3.0)]

Atlanta Reported Cases [No. (%) of deaths]: 1932 [58 (3.0)]

Source: <https://twitter.com/NCDCgov/status/1255993387603329026?s=20>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (Name, Age, Occupation, Location).

Nicholas Weddington, 21 years old, college senior double major in engineering. I'm Atlanta, GA, but I attend school in Massachusetts.

What has been the most notable change (if any) in your daily life since the outbreak of COVID-19 began to affect your daily activities?

The most notable change that has occurred for me has been trying to stay productive and get school work done while I am at home. Usually when I am at home I am out hanging with friends on break from school so it is hard for me to remain focused to get school work done.

How have your relationships/social life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

Well since everyone is in quarantine I have not been able to see many of my friends even though I am home. I leave the house maybe once a week to spend time with one or two of my friends who have also been self quarantining and not at risk of getting each other sick. Usually my friends and I love to go out to social gatherings and nightclubs and it is really sad that we are unable to do that.

How has your professional life changed since the outbreak of COVID-19?

My professional life has changed a lot. Before the outbreak I was in the process of applying to jobs but because there is a hiring freeze many jobs aren't taking new applicants and nobody knows when the virus will be over so we also do not know when we will be able to work. Therefore many college seniors and new graduates are having problems finding work for after graduation in May.

What is life like where you are? (Shelter in place, only some businesses closed, business as usual, etc)

There is a shelter in place order but our governor has decided to open up some businesses like nail salons, tattoo parlors, massage places, restaurants, bowling alleys and movie theaters, so things are starting to open up and we will see in two weeks how badly the numbers increase.

How have local businesses responded to this turn of events?

[See above response]

Do you think the proper preventative measures are being taken in your area? Should authorities do more/less to mitigate spread?

I'm not very sure how local or small businesses have responded. I feel like everyone's just trying their best. If you're a small business that can move to online or delivery then that's your best bet.

Are there any lessons you hope you or others learn from this experience?

I hope people learn that they need to take more care of themselves, take more care of their immune system and just cherish and really care about and protect their loved ones, and the people that you know, help them.

How do you think this situation will develop over the near and distant future?

Um, I feel like in the near future we're going to try and come up with a vaccine to get everyone vaccinated but I don't think that that will happen very soon. There's a lot of conspiracy theories and things going on about how the world will change or what's going on during this pandemic, so honestly I don't know what the near future holds for us after this pandemic.

How do you think this moment in time will be remembered in history?

I feel like hopefully we can learn from this and grow to have a better system set up in case another outbreak does occur or bioterrorism and I feel like it'll definitely be in the history books but I don't know how grander scale is because we are so desensitized to violence the fact that we have 50,000 deaths in America just doesn't sound very impressive. . . I guess enough for history to discuss in this day and age.

Is there any additional information/supporting material you would like to provide?

n/a

Would you prefer for your responses to remain anonymous?

Yes.

Would you like us to follow-up with you in the coming weeks?

No.

Diana Avrim

April 16th

Washington Cases: 11,457

US Total Cases: 682,454

This information was collected from the Washington Department of Health and Worldmeters.

My name is Diana Avrim and I give you permission to record me and then also to publish, um this story.

Okay. Thank you. Uh, yeah. So if you just want to start by, um, telling me a little bit about yourself how old you are, where you are. Um, what life is like, Um, where you are? Yeah.

Um, yes. So I'm a current senior at WPI, um, studying Biomedical Engineering. And, um, I guess when everything first started off, I was in Worcester still living off campus. And, um, I guess it was like spring break is sort of when everything started. So originally, my plan was to come home and home is Washington State for me for spring break, and I was-that didn't happen because the outbreak started in Washington state in the U. S. So I cancelled that and decided to stay, um, in Worcester. Um and then, you know, classes got delayed and then I was like, Okay, I'll just stay in Worcester a little bit longer since Washington is still like on the rise with cases. And then, um, I guess as I sort of realized that, you know, this is going to be more permanent change and, like, classes are going to be online. Um, for a while, that's when I decided to come

back home to Washington just because I was living, um, off campus in Greek housing and, you know, the Greek housing decided to like, shut down the house. Um and so it was only going to be me and this other girl in this really big house, and, um, it's going to be probably very lonely. So I thought it would be better to come home to be with my family rather than to just stay there by myself and do classes. So So I flew home on Saturday, and now I'm home in Washington doing classes so I kind of have been in two different places since, like D term started, um, but yeah, So I'm currently finishing up MQP and then doing my humanities. And, um, the plan was to get a job after graduation, but job markets a little slow right now. So that's a brief over view of everything.

Yeah. Um, so what is life like in Washington? Um, is it similar to what the situation in Worcester is like?

Um, I think that right now Washington has- they have been sort of, um, doing the stay at home order for a lot longer than it has been happening on the East Coast. So right now, you know, everybody still sitting at home, But the number of cases is kind of starting to hit the plateau, so it's not nearly as crazy as it is on the east Coast right now. I just saw an article saying that, you know, its starting to pick up a little bit. Especially like New York area and stuff like that. So I think from that standpoint, Washington is a little bit less crazy with the hospitals. But everybody is still, you know, like staying at home. Um, most of my parents are working from home. Me and my brother are doing our classes online. Um, I think the biggest change is just like time difference, I guess, because everything I do is East Coast time, and I'm 3 hours behind here So that's like been the biggest, um, change for me.

Yeah. Um, so through this, like, time. Um, have you seen You know, your relationships with people change with your friends with your families since your back home or anything like that? Um, yeah. So when I when everything sort of was first happening, like in early march, Um, I guess I started to call my parents a lot more because, you know, that's when the outbreak thats sorta what was happening in Washington. And I really had, no idea. Like, if, if they would get, like, if they would have gotten the virus or not and, you know, just checking in. And so I was calling them a lot more um to sort of see how things are going and then, you know, like when I was living off campus, like, I guess if people- people who are still living there like we all talked a bit more, you know, because, like, we really only had each other living in that house. So I guess well the people that I was around sort of got closer with them, Um, and then, you know, with, like, my friends, I've been- we've been trying to, like, talk more like through, like, zoom and stuff like that has, um, like, zoom meetings hang out. Um, because there isn't really a way to hang out otherwise. So I definitely I have seen that shift from, you know, in person. Interaction to everything is just like online currently. Definitely. There's there's been a change.

Mhm. Um, and then do you have any, um, I don't know, thoughts about, like how this moment in time might be remembered in history. Or do you think that people can learn some kind of lesson from going through this experience?

Um, so I would hope that you know the government will learn a lesson from this. I think there is a lot that could have gone differently that could have help to slow down the spread of this. And I think, you know, coming out of this like, I I will probably just become a more cautious person

with you know being in public and interacting with people because, like, I think it's going to be hard to not sort of become paranoid about, you know, diseases and viruses after this, because I don't think anybody expected this, and it's really crazy to think about how this has escalated to the point where, you know, nobody can really leave their homes right now. And, you know, I would hope that- it's like we remember to create some sort of plan for the future. Like if there's epidemics, pandemics, you know, that they would, they might try to reevaluate how they respond to it. And I think I think it will definitely change, You know, jobs too. You know, like the like, people employers might look at how they can, um, sort of change jobs so that they can be done online more or no, I think that could change. And I think I think they're just could be a lot of changes, like, sort of in all aspects, Um, cross like the government and like, individually, like for people to

mhm. Um, and then, oh that's it! Is there anything else that you want to share? Um, that's like been, you know, something you've realized or anything else has been important to you during this time?

Um, I guess, um I think it's just interesting. I guess the transition from going to like, normal life to like this new normal, I guess, because like, it's weird to think that you can only like a month, a month or two ago. Like I was still going to classes and everything, like, fine. And I could still like, you know, like, hug people and, like, go out and hang out with people. And now it's like, Can't really do any of that. So it definitely has been weird to like, get used to this new normal. Um, but I think it's just, like, interesting How much can change in, like, a month or two. So like when you think about it, not that much time has really passed, but a lot has changed in the world.