



Covid-19 Oral History Interview Questions

Oral history interviews are a great way to share your memories and reflections for future generations. Using your phone or a digital recorder, you can record either an audio (MP3) or video (MP4) file and upload it to the Covid-19 Archives Collection. Interview your family or friends using the sample questions below or create your own questions. You do not need to ask/answer every question. This is merely a guide to get you started.

*All oral histories should include the following text read out loud at the beginning of the interview, inserting the appropriate information.

My name is _____ and I am interviewing _____. Today's date is _____. This recording is for the Covid-19 Archives Collection project of the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives and Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives. [Name of subject], do you give permission for your interview to be used for research or related purposes by researchers and staff, including but not limited to publication in print, video, and internet websites?

- What city do you live in?
- Describe your household (ie, who lives there, ages of occupants).
- Were you employed at the beginning of the pandemic? What is your profession?
- What was your initial reaction when the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread in the United States?
- How do you feel about the way the State of Michigan has handled the pandemic response?
- How do you feel about the way the United States has handled the pandemic response?
- How did the initial stay-at-home order impact your life and family?
- What did you struggle with during quarantine?
- How was your job impacted? Did you work from home? Were you furloughed?
- If you are working, what changes did you have to make to your workday?
- If you applied for unemployment, please describe your process and your experience.
- Was there anything positive that came out of the time at home?
- How has the pandemic changed your personal life, routines, and day-to-day activities?
- What have you been doing/did you do to pass the time at home?
- Describe your children's schooling experience in Spring of 2020.
- How did you prepare for the return to school in Fall 2020? What does school look like in this school year for your family?
- Please describe your experience with Covid-19 itself. This could include being tested, any symptoms, medical response, health care, or contracting Covid-19.



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- Please describe your comfort level being in public. Do you run errands, see friends/family, go to the doctor's office? What is your protocol when it comes to wearing a mask?
- How has your online life changed since the pandemic?
- How did you interact with others without putting them or yourself at risk?
- How are you keeping in touch with family and friends?
- Describe your experience with meeting new friends or dating during this time.
- Describe your experience getting food. Do you visit grocery stores or get it delivered? Do you eat in restaurants or get take-out? How are these actions different from life before Covid-19?
- If you belong to a synagogue, describe how you interact with that community.
- Passover was different this year. How did your family adapt? What was it like to do a Zoom seder? Were there unexpected items on your seder plate? Did you add any new rituals?
- How were the High Holidays different or the same this year? How did your family observe this time? Did you add new rituals?
- How will you celebrate holidays like Thanksgiving or Hanukkah this year with limitations on family gatherings?
- How has this affected your travel plans? Do you feel comfortable flying, staying in hotels, long drives, etc? For those that go out of state for the winter, has this changed your schedule?
- Several vaccines are expected to be released in the coming months. How do you feel about being vaccinated?