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World History 125

Documenting Your Experiences

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### History Repeats Itself

These feel like unprecedented times but really, it's not so unprecedented. History always finds a way to repeat itself. What we are living through right now is something only our great grandparents have seen. But there are striking similarities and vast differences between the Covid-19 pandemic and the 1918 Spanish Flu.

The Spanish Flu emerged in 1918 and infected around 500 million people and even killed upwards of 80 million people. The entire world was in panic. Businesses were shut down, hospitals were at maximum capacity, and stores couldn't keep up with the demands of the people. Similarly to Covid-19, the Spanish Flu had the same effect on society and also symptoms. Many people experienced the symptoms of coughing, sneezing, and congestion which was then that scientists concluded that the Spanish Flu attacked the respiratory system. The leading cause of death after contracting the Spanish Flu, comparably to Covid-19, was pneumonia. Ultimately the Spanish Flu killed one fifth of those infected. Just like Covid-19, sanitation played a major role in keeping people safe and calm. More than a century ago, many Americans, like today, lived under

various phases of quarantines and face mask orders. We used face masks to help prevent the spread of the virus through the air.

Fast forward to the year 2020, and here we are dealing with another worldwide pandemic just like our ancestors did 100 years ago. The routines and strategies of the Spanish Flu prepared us for this pandemic, with the added advantage of technology to inch us back to normalcy. One of the biggest differences between the Spanish Flu and Covid-19 was the ability to test people for the virus. With that, there are 69 million confirmed cases of Covid-19. Of those confirmed cases 1.5 million were fatal. One could argue that the Spanish Flu was ultimately more fatal than Covid-19 due to the fact that we weren't able to test for the Spanish Flu. Ironically, these pandemics effected two different demographics – Covid-19 predominantly infecting the elderly, whereas the Spanish Flu predominantly infected the young.

When all is said and done, these viruses are shockingly similar in regards of how they affect the human body. I think the largest difference between Covid-19 and the Spanish Flu would be our access to more advanced resources and technology. It's interesting to see where we are now. I'd be curious to see if the Spanish Flu would be so fatal if we had said resources and technology like we have today.

My did my documenting my experiences project as an interview to paint a picture to show how Covid has effected people differently around the World. You will see that some people made it into a positive time but others brought some hardship.

Megan Aylmer (cousin)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

-No

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

-I tried to embroidery and also got a kitten because of lockdown

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

-Covid has impacted my work the most. The hospital has several policy changes and we constantly have new updates based on the number of cases at the hospital

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

-I don't think I've made any lifestyle changes but I do stay home more

If and when a vaccine because available, would you get it?

Yes, I will get the vaccine when it becomes available

Ryan Aylmer (cousin)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

No

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

I had to start working out from home instead of going to the gym

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

Covid has impacted me the most because I now have to go to college online.

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

no

If and when a vaccine because available, would you get it?

Yes

Jim Aylmer (uncle)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

No

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

Have to wear a mask everyday to work

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

More working from home

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

Don't travel as much

If and when a vaccine because available, would you get it?

Absolutely- That's a no brainer

Amy Aylmer (Aunt)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

I have not been infected

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

I have started to use "pick up" services that I hadn't used before

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

Covid had affected my ability to do my job the most. I can no longer engage face to face.

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

No

If and when a vaccine became available, would you get it?

Yes I will get the vaccine

Vicki Kryska (mom)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

no

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

Took up knitting

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

Forced to work remotely since March and have had only virtual calls

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

Zoom workouts because my gym is closed

If and when a vaccine because available, would you get it?

Yes for my job

Mark Kryska (dad)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

Was never diagnosed but tested positive for the antibodies

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

Play different card games and have bonfires

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

Lost my job as a result to covid

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

Rarely eat out and walk more

If and when a vaccine because available, would you get it?

Yes

Russ Scibilia (neighbor)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

no

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

Learned to have virtual meetings

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

Exclusively work from home with more hours

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

Rarely eat out and walk more

If and when a vaccine became available, would you get it?

Yes

Missy Scibilia (neighbor)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

no

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

Learned to make sour dough bread

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

Exclusively work from home with more hours

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

Workout from home because gyms closed

If and when a vaccine because available, would you get it?

yes

John Walter (neighbor)

Have you been infected with Covid-19?

yes

What is one thing that you may have tried or did differently as a result of quarantine/lockdown?

Played more golf

How has Covid-19 impacted you the most?

Stressed over financial investments

Have you made any lifestyle changes as a result of Covid?

Got a dog

If and when a vaccine because available, would you get it?

yes