

**Interviewee:** Nicolas (pseudonym)

**Interviewers:** Jessica, Emily and Emily

**Date:** December 05, 2020

**Format:** Zoom. Video recording.

**Location:** Wisconsin

**Transcription and translation by:** Micaela Miralles Bianconi

**Additional equipment used:** Rev.ai- DeepL

**Project associated with:** University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

**Abstract:** This first interview asks personal and general questions about how the pandemic has affected the interviewee's life, family, daily habits, and work. Questions are also asked about health protocols carried out during the pandemic and how governments have dealt with the health crisis. The interviewee responds about the consumption of information and what they believe should be the steps to follow in the future. The interviewee is a rural worker from Mexico.

**Jessica 00:00:03**

Let's start with some statistics. Today is December 5, 2020. We're in the central U.S. time zone for Wisconsin. Today, there are 14.4 million cases and two hundred seventy-nine thousand deaths caused by Covid-19 [pronounced in English] in the United States. In Wisconsin, there are four hundred thirty-two thousand cases and three thousand two hundred forty-seven deaths of Covid-19 [pronounced in English]. Ah, let's do introductions. My name is Jessica. I'm a student nurse at the University of Eau Claire in Wisconsin and a little bit about my history with speaking Spanish and Spanish-speaking culture. I have been speaking Spanish since I could speak because my mom is from Ecuador. So it's super special to speak, in like, an authentic part. And I'm also originally from, am, a rural town. So I like to know the, um, opinions about the Latin American people and also those who live in the rural parts.

**Emily 1 00:01:45**

Well, well no, I don't, I don't have a special story like Jessica, but my name is Emily and, am, I'm studying psychology and Spanish in college and I've been speaking Spanish since I was in middle school.

**Emily 2 00:02:15**

Hi! My name is also. Oh, I'm sorry. My name is also Emily. I'm studying Spanish and French in college and I studied in Costa Rica for a semester.

**Nicolas 00:02:35**

Wow. How clever. And, who else is going to connect?

**Jessica 00:02:46**

Just us.

**Nicolas 00:02:49**

All of you, okay. How many students are going to be? Well, they are today.

**Jessica 00:03:02**

Ah, there's three of us. Three students.

**Nicolas 00:03:05**

Emily, and, am, Molly, and Jessica, correct?

**Emily 1 00:03:15**

It's Emily, Emily, and Jessica. There are two Emily.

**Nicolas 00:03:21**

Oh, two Emily.

**Jessica 00:03:30**

Yeah.

**Nicolas**

Okay. Two Emily and one Jessica. Okay.

**Jessica**

Well. Welcome. How are you?

**Nicolas 00:03:39**

Ah, well, nice to be with you. I think I'm lucky. I'm from Astacinga, from a town that's on a mountain, it's a place that's very, very cold sometimes and it's hot too, but the sun burns a lot and I've been for a long time in the United States, ah, in different parts. And I have a family, ah, three children. Ah, uh, my boy or my son Kevin, he's here with me. Well, he's not here with me right now, well, but right now- he went somewhere else. I invited him to come with me, but he said he didn't have anything to say. And I also have my boy, his name is Aaron, he is 11 years old. Oh, he is in Mexico and my little girl, Megan, is 6 years old. My wife, Veronica. Oh, and we are here, well, to help a lot of people. Oh, and I don't know where we're going to start.

**Jessica 00:05:14**

Yes, thank you very much. Am, ah, we have some questions on how life has been affected during the Covid-19 outbreak, am, let's start the questions. Feel free to respond with any thoughts or opinions you have. If there's anything that you prefer not to discuss with us, just let us know and we'll go ahead. Okay?

**Nicolas 00:05:50**

Okay.

**Jessica 00:05:53**

Okay, okay. Emily.

**Emily 1 00:05:55**

Well, I have, ah, background questions about your employment. To start, what's the date and time now? Where are you located?

**Nicolas 00:06:09**

Today's date is, we're, I think 5<sup>th</sup>, I don't even remember, but I remember I was given this date, December 5, ah, 2020. The time is 10 o'clock ... Here, I can't see the time, right now it's 10 past 10, or so.

**Emily 1 00:06:39**

Yes, yes, 10 past 10, AM. Am. And, where are you now?

**Nicolas 00:06:48**

Uh. I'm now in Waumandee, Wisconsin, at John's ranch. I'm here to serve you.

**Emily 1 00:07:01**

Well, and, what is your date and place of birth?

**Nicolas 00:07:07**

Uh, my date of birth, from June 6, 1979.

**Emily 1 00:07:17**

And the place? You can share but it's not necessary.

**Nicolas 00:07:23**

Ah, the place of, of birth, or the place of?

**Emily 1 00:07:29**

Place of birth.

**Nicolas 00:07:32**

The place of birth, I was born in Astacinga, Veracruz, ah, Mexico.

**Emily 1 00:07:43**

Okay. Well, and thinking a little about your daily schedule now, what are the main things that you do on a normal day? Uh, for example, your job, your activities, and your responsibilities, etcetera.

**Nicolas 00:08:02**

Ah, every day I get up, well, as everybody else does, I brush my teeth, have some coffee and, uh, what we have at work is the notes that they make for the day, what we need to take care of. I don't have a fixed job, let's say, like a shift to work milking cows. I don't have that, I had that before, but now I have a list of things, tasks, that I need to get done during the day.

**Emily 1 00:08:55**

Very good, and how would you describe your home?

**Nicolas 00:09:03**

How would I describe my home?

**Emily 1**

Yes.

**Nicolas**

A place full of trees. A place, ah, that has plenty of water. Oh, also, uh. Well, I don't know what else. But a place that is... where I'm happy.

**Emily 1 00:09:38**

[laughter] And when you first heard about Covid-19 [pronounces in English] what were your thoughts about it and how have your thoughts changed since then?

**Nicolas 00:09:54**

Ah, uh, uh, the first time we heard was in, on the other continent it started to people, it started to, you heard a lot of people were dying, they were in the hospitals, there was no, there was no place for more people, for example, in China, they suffered a lot. Uh, and people started, or the airlines started to shut down, uh, uh, they couldn't. Or those who were, for example, we saw in the news that some people could not leave the country. And this made us, made us think that people were not going to, for example, those who traveled a lot could not do anything. So, uh, yeah it got us, it got us thinking a lot.

**Emily 1 00:11:15**

Mhh. And next, ah, I'm going to ask questions about your employment. First, what do you do? What does a regular workday look like?

**Nicolas 00:11:28**

Uh, my daily work, it's, ah, in the morning I start at, sometimes I start at 4 AM to feed the cows, those cows that produce milk or other dairy products. So, I finish at about 9 or 10 AM, depending on the day. Oh, and I have breakfast at 10 in the morning and I come back in at 11 AM. From 11 onwards, there are little things that, that I have to do. Ah. And the day, the day if you have a lot of tasks to do, the day goes fast and there's not much more to do.

**Emily 1 00:12:32**

Yeah. You wake up so early, yeah.

**Nicolas 00:12:38**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, it's early, uh, and so the earlier you get up. Yeah, yeah, the earlier you get up, the earlier the day is over, the earlier.

**Emily 1 00:12:53**

Wow, and next, has the coronavirus [pronounced in English] affected your work? In which ways?

**Nicolas 00:13:04**

Uh...Our work here, ah, uh, not much, but I think that, for us employees, it did not affect us. But for the owner of the ranch, I think that yes, yes, it has affected him a lot.

**Emily 1 00:13:24**

Okay. And are there any concerns you have about the effects of coronavirus [pronounced in English] in terms of your employment and the economic situation of your family, community, or more generally?

**Nicolas 00:13:39**

Uh. Yeah, yeah, a lot of, a lot of things that have been affected, in, in different areas. Because we can't, ah, we have to be careful with people that, uh, well, we know we can't talk to people much, we have to wear a mask, mask, ah, and we have to maintain social distance from them.

**Emily 1 00:14:14**

Okay, so these are all great answers. And now, ah, Jessica, well, you should ask some questions about family, household, and community. Yes?

**Nicolas 00:14:32**

Yes.

**Jessica 00:14:37**

Yeah, yeah, we already, we already talked about your nuclear family and, am, are you married? Yes?

**Nicolas 00:14:47**

Yes.

**Jessica 00:14:50**

And, you have a, one son that lives here in Wisconsin and the others live in Mexico? Is that correct?

**Nicolas 00:15:00**

Correct.

**Jessica 00:15:01**

All right. Am. Uh. What influence has Covid-19 [pronounced in English] had on your family?

**Nicolas 00:15:16**

Uh... Well we're, I'm thankful that there's not a, ah, how could I say this, I don't have to stay, but I can't, ah, ah, people who have had this disease, I hope we don't catch it, because it is very, very, ah, very terrifying. Ah, about, especially people who, who, who, who are weak and it can kill them. But, in my family I hope we don't catch it, ah, it's too complicated to, to survive.

**Jessica 00:16:19**

And, so, ah, so your family, here and there, am, are they in good health conditions?

**Nicolas 00:16:30**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, my family here and there, they are, they are healthy, but we don't know, we don't know how we're doing and we're going to do later on if it's going to be worse or I hope that, that we have health.

**Jessica 00:16:52**

Yeah, mhh. Ah. In particular, in what ways have your family's day-to-day activities changed?

**Nicolas 00:17:05**

Uh, they've changed a lot because of, ah, you can't go to the parks, ah, especially in Mexico you can't go to school, today we're ah, uh, I think all of Mexico can't attend to school. The children, ah, uh, uh, the family, well they can't, they can't go to the stores, if they go, only adults can come in. The children can't go in.

**Jessica 00:17:46**

Mm, interesting. So it's a little bit more, like, not them but, it seems a little bit more serious over there, or more restrictions there than here.

**Nicolas 00:18:01**

Yeah. It is more serious, more serious for the people over there because it's a village. But everybody is ah, ah, like threatened by the local Police, that, if they see that you don't wear masks, they offer a mask, but if they see you the next day and you are not wearing, they give you a fine or ticket, I think 500 pesos and it's about 25 dollars. Ah. Yes. Because it's a small town, people know each other well. If you are walking, yes, if you go, if you go to the city, well, it's more complicated there. They won't let you in anywhere if you don't wear a mask.

**Jessica 00:18:57**

Yeah, I like that. Am. Has the coronavirus [pronounced in English] outbreak affected the way you associate and communicate with friends and family?

**Nicolas 00:19:13**

Yes, it has affected a lot, ah, especially here. Well, no, we can't, we can't visit our, our friends, because of the coronavirus.

**Jessica 00:19:33**

And to communicate with your family, am, do you use something like Zoom or something like that?

**Nicolas 00:19:43**

Uh. We use WhatsApp, that's, that's working. The, the, this, what's it called, the Messenger. We use, ah, now the phone. We do Facetime, but over there nobody has an iPhone, they have other kinds of cellphones, so we use other apps to make video calls, ah, you can, you can video call. Or we talk over the phone, as normal.

**Jessica 00:20:28**

We're very thankful for technology, yeah.

**Nicolas 00:20:34**

Yeah, I'm very thankful for, for everything available. And it does help a lot. It helps a lot. We're far away from family, but sometimes we're closer.

**Jessica 00:20:51**

And here, with your friends and your son who lives here, is it possible to meet with your co-workers or don't you meet with anybody?

**Nicolas 00:21:08**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, here at work, we can move, ah, ah, freely, but we can't go outside, and because, ahm, we don't want any infections. Or, ah, how do you say, bacteria.

**Jessica 00:21:33**

Ahm, what have been the biggest challenges that you or your family have faced during the Covid-19 [pronounces in English] outbreak?

**Nicolas 00:21:44**

Ah, the riskiest one is that of having fever, and, ah, for a long time, so we bring, a, ah, we almost always get a fever in times during winter, ah, sneezes, ah, and, and, and so we worry about that, and we wonder what I have, and, do I have coronavirus or not? Ah, but that is normal. I think that if you have coronavirus, well, that is something that affects, we know, we know or we have been told that it affects the lungs, it affects, uh, the internal part of the body. So, we don't want that, but, and, and, and that's what we're, we're not afraid, but when we are concerned about sickness and getting sick.

**Jessica 00:23:01**

Yeah, and it's also like a fear of the unknown. Yeah.

**Nicolas 00:23:08**

Yeah. Yeah. Because you don't know what is going to happen. We know a person; he had coronavirus, in the state of North Carolina. He's, ah, he's not a neighbor, but he's from the same town that we are from. Oh, and, after being at the hospital for two weeks, they put tubes down his throat to help him breathe. And, they informed us that he had died because he had water in his lungs and he didn't hold on. So, that is what we are worried about.

**Jessica 00:24:00**

Yeah. And, was he in good health before getting covid or not?

**Nicolas 00:24:06**

Uh. We don't know if he was healthy, but, uh, that, well, when he got this disease, well, it killed him. We don't know how he was, uh, his health.

**Jessica 00:24:26**

And, well, thank you for sharing that with us. Am. What have you, uh, you, your family, and your friends do for fun during Covid-19 [pronounces in English]?

**Nicolas 00:24:40**

Ah, my family, well, they, they, they know that there's no, ah, that they are not going to have fun, there's not going to be fun, or, at home, they can do what they want, but they can't go anywhere because of Covid-19.

**Jessica 00:25:10**

So, am, what do, am, your kids do at home? Do they watch movies, play games? What do they do?

**Nicolas 00:25:20**

Uh, they watch, oh, now, Monday through Friday they have school, ah, so, they have a book, and the teachers send them the pages they have to study or do as homework. And, they study during the day, they play for a while or they watch TV and, ah, since they're kids they, ah, they do a lot of things. But yeah, yeah, yeah, uh, ah. They, it's like a, for them, for the children, I think it's a normal life, but for the parents, we are worried about that.

**Jessica 00:26:11**

What are your reactions and thoughts about homeschooling? What do your wife and kids think in that regard? Is it hard? Do your kids like it? What's it like?

**Nicolas 00:26:31**

It's, it's difficult because, ah, the, well, for example, my wife, ah, she has to help my youngest child to do her, ah, her homework, to learn the alphabet. Uh, how do you say? And my little girl, asks questions and that's good because if she asks questions, she learns.



**Jessica 00:27:03**

Okay. And, does your wife work out of the house, or is she a stay-at-home mom?

**Nicolas 00:27:12**

She's a 24/7 mom. She's the one that takes care of, that takes care of the house and the kids, uh, she cooks for them, ah, she also takes care of the household activities, and, well, I think she's, ah, she works harder than me.

**Jessica 00:27:42**

Yes. Am. How are the people around you reacting to the Covid-19 pandemic?

**Nicolas 00:27:59**

Uh. Around me, well, they're, they're, they're, they're afraid of strange people, strangers, or, ah, well, no, they have to wear a mask to talk or stay around people.

**Jessica 00:28:24**

Ah. Have you seen people's opinions or ideas changing in your community regarding coronavirus?

**Nicolas 00:28:35**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, ah, for example, people they have or had the virus, you stay away from them, like social distancing. Uh, and, they talk about the symptoms they had, a lot of people say they don't feel anything. Many had trouble breathing or something like that. That's what I've heard from people.

**Jessica 00:29:09**

And, this is my last question. Do you think that self-isolation and flattening the curve have been key themes or ideas during this pandemic? How have you, your family, your friends, or your community responded to requests for self-isolation and flattening the curve?

**Nicolas 00:29:43**

Uh. I have no idea, it's a, a question, hard to answer.

**Jessica**

Yeah.

**Nicolas**

But I think, as you go, ah, as long as you feel okay, uh, as you, as you go, it depends on what moment you are going through. If you are thinking something, and you don't realize it, you think that you are focus on what you are going through, so, I think you can overcome it.

**Jessica 00:30:30**

Yes, thank you. And, ah, Emily has a few more questions to wrap up.

**Nicolas**

Okay.

**Emily 2 00:30:37**

Okay. Have you or anyone you know gotten sick during the pandemic?

**Nicolas 00:30:47**

Uh. Yeah, yeah, I know people that have done the, uh, they've done the covid-test or, what do you call it, and they were. And they, well, they, they say it was normal.

**Emily 2 00:31:16**

Ah. In what ways do you think the coronavirus is affecting people's mental and/or physical health?

**Nicolas 00:31:31**

Uh, mentally, well people who have, or who had Covid, I think they think that, ah, or in my case if, ah, if someone has Covid, well, I think they should rest. About the mental part, they have to stay at home, they cannot go out. Uh, especially their families have to be careful and then the mind, the the mind knows everything. Or, for example, if I know that somebody has Covid, well, I have to be socially distant from him or her, or away from him or her so that I won't, uh, spread the virus. If I get it, I can infect somebody else. That's something that makes people feel bad.

**Emily 2 00:32:44**

Yeah, it's very difficult.

**Nicolas 00:32:47**

Yeah, it's very difficult, uh, because it's not, the virus is invisible. So we, uh, we can think about it but we don't see it. Yeah, it's kind of difficult.

**Emily 2 00:33:05**

Um. What have been your main sources of news and information during the pandemic?

**Nicolas 00:33:14**

Um, the news, well, about the community you talk about, or you ask questions: what do you know about this person? If it's true, did he/she get coronavirus or didn't he/she get coronavirus? And then you find out where he/she is, and what is going on with that person.

**Emily 2 00:33:47**

Yes. Mm. About the government, how have the leaders and/or the guber, guber, sorry, government officials in your community reacted to the pandemic?

**Nicolas 00:34:06**

Uh... For example, the, ah, the president we've heard that he got the virus, uh, this disease and well, ah, then he said he hadn't, that there was, there was no, there was no problem, he did, he did well and he's in, in good health. And so I don't know, I don't know anything else about them. They have to be cautious too.

**Emily 2 00:34:45**

Yeah. Ahm, do you have any thoughts on how local or state leaders are responding to the crisis?

**Nicolas 00:35:00**

Uh... I think that I don't see much, a lot of news or anything about it, but I think that, mm, they are human beings and they can feel. Even though they're very important people that have difficult jobs, ah, mm, they work surrounded by a lot of people, and I think that if they, ah, it affected them a lot.

**Emily 2 00:35:38**

Yes, I think the leaders have a very difficult job now.

**Nicolas 00:35:48**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. The leaders, they, like, ah, for example, let's say, ah; they are surrounded by a lot of people. And so they are far away for you to give them some information. Ah, and that, that, that kind of, that is something that one has to think about it a lot beforehand. When you go to another state, you don't know what they are like. Eh. I think that's a lot of responsibility.

**Emily 2 00:36:34**

Yeah, yeah. Ahm, have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your thoughts about your family or friends or your community? In what ways?

**Nicolas 00:36:57**

Uh... In the way, well, people that we know can't be around us or can't do things that don't... we have to, take care of ourselves in every regard.

**Emily 2 00:37:26**

Ah. Okay. Ahm. Okay. In the future, what do you think people, communities, and/or governments should pay attention to?

**Nicolas 00:37:46**

Uh, for the future, well I think it's a, ah, we need a vaccine able to kill the bacteria. Ah. What can I say? Well, I'm, ah, very fortunate that I'm talking to a nurse or, ah, or a future nurse, or a doctor, or like you guys, ah, that you are studying it. Uh. Well, it's something that you can, you can study the vaccine that's coming out. I have faith that it will come out soon. And that it will control the virus, for the future.

**Emily 2 00:38:50**

Yeah, okay, that's it for me.

**Nicolas 00:38:55**

Okay. Uh. So. It was nice talking to you. Oh, and you have to go for it, you don't have to worry about anything, you just have to work harder, more, oh, and be careful with people.

**Jessica 00:39:19**

Well, thank you very much and, ahm, it was super interesting talking to you and we appreciate it very much. Thank you for everything.

**Emily 1 00:39:33**

Yes, thank you.

**Emily 2**

Thank you for your time.

**Nicolas 00:39:40**

Same, the same to you. Okay, we're all set, uh, and if you have any questions or anything you can always text me. I am happy and here to serve you.

**Jessica 00:39:55**

Yes. Thank you very much.

**Nicolas**

Okay.

**All**

Goodbye.

**Nicolas 00:40:03**

Goodbye, goodbye.