

Interviewee: Tiffany Goetz

Interviewer: Alicia Schneider

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Abstract:

Tiffany Goetz currently lives in Eau Claire with her husband and two kids, while being a full-time student and part-time substitute in the Eau Claire school district. In this interview, Tiffany discusses how COVID-19 has affected her life, including her schooling, job, and family life. She talks about how moving into her new home during a pandemic was an interesting experience and discusses how her schooling has changed, along with her children's schooling too. Tiffany mentions people within her inner circle who have gotten sick, but luckily she and her family have not. She also mentions her concerns on why people should mask up and get the vaccine too. She wants things to return somewhat back to normal which means she can take classes in person again.

Alicia Schneider 0:05

[Laughs] Your, your face was like, priceless.

Tiffany Goetz 0:07

I was not expecting – it.

AS 0:10

But hello, my name is Alicia Schneider and this is Tiffany. How are you?

TG 0:16

I'm good. How are you Alicia?

AS 0:18

I'm doing excellent. Okay but today's date is April 22 2021, it is exactly 12:59. So pretty close to the 1pm that we were going to do. So the current statistics for the number of confirmed cases and deaths in the US for COVID-19 is 31,602,6 - 676 cases. And 560 - 565,613 deaths. Cannot talk. Current statistics in the state of Wisconsin, which you and I are both in is confirmed cases as 592,262 and then that says 6721. The current statistics of people vaccinated in the US is about 216 million. And I also checked for Wisconsin and it says about 30% of the population is

vaccinated. And [____?] there's about 40 to 41% of the population that has at least gotten their first shot. Okay ma'am. Let's get going. You - I love your face.

TG 1:38

[Laugh] I love your face.

AS 1:39

Oh, thank you. I love my face, too. Okay. I've already said - stated your name. But what is your name? And do you mind sharing demographic information for the study such as race, age and gender?

TG 1:52

Sure. I am Tiffany Goetz. I am 37 years old. I am white female. Pronouns she/hers. I am a full-time student and a part-time substitute in the school district.

AS 2:13

Um.

TG 2:13

Other.

AS 2:14

Other [Laugh] here other. [____?] We - I already mentioned that we live in Wisconsin, but where do you currently live?

TG 2:24

I currently live [____?] in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

AS 2:28

And I know you recently moved. So how was the move?

TG 2:34

Moving during a pandemic was interesting.

AS 2:38

Ah cool. Can I have you explain that a little bit more.

TG 2:43

Ah yeah, so we decided to move. I'm not sure - I mean, we've been talking about it for a long time. So really we wanted to move to get my kids into a different school district. Um, which is - Yeah. So we decided to, and the housing market right now is insane. Construction is insane. So - we it happened really quickly. We literally put our house on the market on a Friday and Monday night we had a full price offer on our house with additional like, contingencies if someone else was to bid up to a certain higher price and we also put it up an offer on the house I am in, in the same time frame. So then we had eight weeks, I think, to pack all by ourselves. Um, and luckily my dad owns a heating and air conditioning business. So he has some big like box van type deals. We rented a cube, so they just drop it off. And then as your you put your stuff in it and I pick it up and they drop it off at your new place. That was really convenient. Yeah, it's pretty nuts. Luckily, we only moved like nine miles away from where we lived. So.

AS 4:17

Perfect. What month was this again?

TG 4:18

August.

AS 4:19

Of last year?

TG 4:24

Hmm. August of 2020.

AS 4:28

How's the new house treating you?

TG 4:33

Slowly. [Laugh] Slowly decorated both my children school from home. Well, they did exclusively online school for the first part of the year. We sent my daughter, who's 15, back to high school at the beginning of the January semester, she was having trouble. My son is still home. So my husband also just went back to work. Wednesday, yesterday, for the first time in over a year. So we've all been just here, doing things.

AS 5:13

So, you've talked about that. So how was home life with every buddy in one place, especially like with the kids in school, Joe home. Joe's her husband, everybody just wanted to -

TG 5:27

My husband is Joe. Good. I don't know, I was not - I'm a social person. So it was difficult for me. So I actually ended up doing a lot more like video calls with friends and zoom meetings and parties and things like that. So that was difficult. But as far as being at home with everyone, my kids are like preteen and teenager. So they're, they're in their room. They, they want to do nothing. With me most of the time. So, not so bad, I did end up - This is actually the living room that I'm in. So I ended up having to set up my own - to stay out kind of away from everyone, if you will. So I had a designated learning space, because it was hard for me to be moving around.

AS 6:24

So how do the kids like - How were the kids reacting - to say we're back to last year, and they were told you can't have - school is canceled. And then they have to go, you know, online? How - what were they like, let's talk Solana, cuz I know.

TG 6:46

Yes, so Solana is 15. So it was for eighth grade year. So she was pretty sad, because she had to miss some kind of big events. Eighth grade graduation. There was a big field trip for eighth graders that she had to miss out on. And she was also supposed to go to Iceland to, to travel and learn sciency things in Iceland for a week. So that's actually been postponed again. She could go next summer, June 2022. However, there's also an option for her to go to France because she is in French. So I think that's a decision that has to be made pretty soon. Um, at first, she was like, cool, you know, extended spring break. And then when it was like, we're not going back, you have to finish online. I think all that stuff started to kind of set in like, I'm not going to be able to do that. I don't get to say goodbye to some of my friends. That was a bummer for her. As far as Wyatt, he was fine. He's 12. He was finishing his sixth grade year. He's - Delong Middle School is where they both went. And they handled the transition really well I think. Communication wise, I didn't have any problems. I have friends who have kids all over the district, obviously. And there was communication problems elsewhere I feel like a little bit, but I felt like they were really good about like keeping us informed and on top of it. I think this year, starting this new year was way better than ending the last year. But again, kudos to educators honestly because doing all that work and translating their plans in, into a totally different method and way and just - hats off. So I think they did a good job for what they had.

AS 8:49

So Wyatt - still like you said. Wyatt is still online, and you said Solana went back. How, how long ago did she come back to school like physically?

TG 9:03

She went back to school, I believe, the first week of February. Finally got the approval to go back for her.

AS 9:14

And she's enjoying being near her friends and that atmosphere?

TG 9:19

Um, I guess I have a different insight because I have subbed at the school so I know what it looks like and it looks a lot different than regular school does. It's a lot emptier. It's all spaced out. The cafeteria is not big tables. It's like individual spots, study halls or - in gyms that are cordoned off. It's - so she is around people and she gets to talk to people but like it's still like, far away so she's enjoying that I think. It's better for her. She, she needed to have the contact with her teachers to have that connection I think for her learning.

AS 10:04

Did you, did you and Joe like really, like want this for Solana? Because - I don't know if like, you felt that it would be better for her or what what did you guys talk about?

TG 10:20

So surprisingly, my son Wyatt. He has ADHD, combination type. So we were concerned, but like I said, DeLong did such a good job with setting up the plan for the online school, that he's just really accelerated. I mean, like, the first semester was pretty much straight A's and I've never seen that from him ever in his life. It was amazing. This semester with the weather is - he's still doing really good. But I think you know, distracted at home with two puppies and parents and snacks, video games. So we're working on that a little. Solana never, never excelled. Never had a connection with her teachers. She had - She struggled from the beginning and we tried. I mean, like everything. I tried, sitting right next to her. I tried helping her with her homework. I tried making her lists. I tried showing her different ways to put down in a planner. I tried helping her set reminders on her phone, on her Alexa. We tried punishment. We tried taking things away. We tried grounding her. I mean, we literally tried everything to motivate her to get the stuff done, and it was like, not happening. And it kind of dawned on me that I had been like, Wyatt does so well doing homeschool, like, online, maybe we should - can think about continuing that for him. And then I thought, well, why do I - why am I forcing Solana to stay at home if that's not good for her? Like it's clearly not good Like, we've tried everything we can, this is our only option. Let's give it a shot. So, did I answer the question?

AS 12:15

You did. I'm very proud of you. And hand clap. So, you mentioned that you are a student. Are you full time or part time?

TG 12:21

Full-time.

AS 12:22

Okay. And then you also substitute teach as well.

TG 12:29

Well, aid and -

AS 12:30

Okay, sorry, aid. Sorry. So, so like a substitute aid?

TG 12:35

Yeah, so somebody who helps out in the classroom, or I'll do secretarial work. So we'll be like the principal secretary, or the attendant secretary. Sometimes I get to work in the Skill Center, which is a study hall for kids who need a little extra help. So like, I'm there to help them with homework specifically, like they don't just sit there and do what they want.

AS 12:58

So how did COVID really affect that, like, explain how you found out about COVID and then do like the avalanche effect or like that type of thing, like what happened, like list the events.

TG 13:14

So actually I was taking out - when COVID happened I was at the tech college, the CVTC [Chippewa Valley Technical College] and I was taking an American government class with a professor who had studied in China, and had been around like [____?] I think, I can't remember exactly. So he was like, this is gonna be a big deal. Even before anyone. I mean, literally before everyone was like, this is gonna be a big - he was like, this is going to be a big deal. And he had a colleague who was a virologist, who was also talking about what a big deal it was. So he sent us on spring break and he's like, I don't think I'll see you again, for real, and he was literally the only person who said that, and he was right. So that's how I heard about it. Um, my husband is big in the news reading, being smart and stuff. And so he was like, hey, I think this is going to be kind of a big deal. So the avalanche for me, how did this happen? So that's how I learned about it. Um, and I got sent on spring break as well. And never to return ever again. Repeat [____?]

AS 14:33

Oh, never again. I love you Tiff. Um, for the, for your aid job, like were you at the aid job last year, or was

TG 14:44

I was actually there more often because I had classes only three days a week. And then they shut down school so I couldn't work. I actually I ended up filing for unemployment. So I was unable - they shut the school down. That's where I would be and that's where I could work. Also, I had to think about my kids and my husband. They both are asthmatic. So at the beginning, they were very like, hey, if you have any sort of breathing, anything like you're more susceptible to dangerous outcome. So I was kind of put in a position where I also didn't want to put my family in danger. Also, my father had, had, I can say had now, kidney cancer. My mother in law also has many pre existing conditions. So I just couldn't put myself in a situation where I could accidentally cause their death. [Laugh] So I just didn't. Didn't go anywhere. I didn't work - well couldn't, they weren't hiring or having anyone come in any way. Buildings wise. So.

Schneider, Alicia Marie 16:01

So sorry [____?] tough about that. Like, yeah, I can understand, you know, like, with living with my grandparents, you know, it's, it's a huge thing that we want to protect our loved ones and you know, with the kids and Joe. So when did Joe, cuz he - explain where Joe works.

TG 16:22

Oh, my husband is a paralegal. He works for Nicolay law. His aunt, who also works there was in the medical field for forever. So when this happened, she was like, yeah, it's kind of a big deal, we should probably not do the work thing [Laugh] for a while. So - Joe pretty quickly - it was mid March of last year, 2020. He moved his work computer home. Most of their files are electronic anyway. So it wasn't like hard in that respect. And a lot of courts were actually cancelled and shut down for quite a long time. And even when they first started to try and go back there was spreading, that wasn't good right away. So they're still behind actually. It kind of caused some difficulty for law offices, I mean, because you need the outcome to get the money to get paid to continue to pay for your rent and your employees. And so yeah, and like I said, he just went back yesterday. So.

AS 17:33

So I'm glad to hear Joe is back, because I'm sure you know, him being a ginger and all, you know,

TG 17:39

He doesn't want to go back. [Laugh]

AS 17:41

Oh, Joe. Oh, well, he needs to go back because - so does that mean that he's going back like - like the courts are back opening or he can just like be surrounded with the other, like employees? The other paralegals are - explain that.

TG 18:01

Joe and I are both fully vaccinated now. Um, so I mean, I guess that doesn't save our kids, per se, but we are still being safe in public. He's actually only going back part time, because of our schedules. Because Wyatt is home and Solana is still home three days a week, until the beginning of May. There's just too much for him to like - we're gonna have to reschedule everything again. So he went back part time. Only. Really. If that makes sense. What was the question? Sorry. [Laugh] ADHD.

AS 18:45

No, you're fine. It's - you pretty much answered it. It's - it's - I just wanted to get a sense of like, your not relationship but like what's going on with your home life, your jobs and everything like that. So you were at CVTC last year, and then you then you came to UW so explain what your major is and how COVID has really affected your learning, your classes, that type of stuff. Walk me through it.

TG 19:19

I'm going to interview better learning, classes, etc. Okay, so like I said, I went to CVTC I never went back again. I had already planned to transfer. So it affected me because I like I previously stated have ADHD combination type. So this is not an ideal way for me to learn. Most of my classes were kind of hybrid and one was asynchronous. If I'm using that correctly, which I'm sure I am It was all online and that was incredibly difficult for me. There was some communication error with that Professor just because he would use video like this, but it would be video of like his PowerPoint, not his face. So I couldn't like read his mouth if the audio was not great all the time. It was very hard for me. That was my lowest grade last semester. So learning for me in that style is not great. It also affected me this semester because I would have had to have some volunteer time that I had to get done last semester before this semester at the class, which I think, you know, that's a part of, oh, also, you should know, I'm a broad field Social Studies major, so I'm going to teach history, etc. So that experience of being out there with students or learning that kind of volunteer stuff I missed out on that kind of, um - This semester, I have one of my first like, actual teacher teaching classes like this is how you should teach stuff and it's such a big class that we have split it into two. So, I only have one class with that teacher, like in person and then the other day is, like, work on my own. And I, I'm mad. [Laugh] I'm mad because he is such a great professor and I feel like I'm missing out on some of that classroom experience where I could be reinforcing these ideas that he's trying to help us learn. Honestly though, a lot of this semester - One class was small enough that it was - it's full time anyway, so it was fine. Two of my classes were like, alternating. So, you logged in computer one day, you were in person another day. And then one class on Friday, everyone walks in and on the other class, it rotates. So one group is this day, and one group is the other day. And attendance has been so low in the classes that I just talked to the professors and I go every day. So that works out for me. And then one of my classes this semester is fully online, but you log in. And she does such a great job with it that I don't, I'm not mad about it. You know what I mean? Like it's, it's like interactive, she's very good about like giving space and time for learning. So that's been good. This semester, for me personally, has been better than last semester. But I've heard a lot of people say the opposite.

AS 22:55

I was just gonna ask you like, which one is better? What do you think would have made last semester better?

TG 23:05

Um, I think that it was just so new for everyone, that it was hard to change the entire way that you teach something and have it be good the first time. And you know what I mean, like, and not that I didn't learn anything, because I did. And my professors did an astounding job. I will not say that they did anything wrong. I think it was just, it was a new format. It was a new delivery system. There were so much more stuff to deal with, with people catching COVID then they're on quarantine. And then what do you do for points when those people are in quarantine, so they have to think of all these extra things to do with I just, I like I said, all educators. Hats off. That was a lot to deal with, I'm sure.

AS 24:02

Hats off to Yeah, all the teachers, professors, even a lot of students because I know, in my classes a lot, some people were just all the way out because of quarantine because they their living situation. You know, they're in the dorms, that type of thing. Um, I had a question, and now it just flew. Oh, yeah, just all the time. What are your hopes for next semester? What, what do you really want to see out of next semester?

TG 24:39

I'm really trying not to get political.

AS 24:44

Nope, get political. I don't care. Do it. Do it, Tiffany.

TG 24:47

I just want everyone to be safe. Right. So I really just hope that everyone that can get vaccinated gets vaccinated. I, I would like to be like a normal, right? I would like to be able to go to like team - like group meetings like for history enthusiast club. I would like to be able to go to events, like hear music. I would like to go to poetry readings. There's a lot of things I feel like I'm totally missing out on, like the college experience, like, like a university experience, because I, this is my first year, and it's been pandemic. So um, I think I also, I missed talking to people before class. Is that weird? Do you feel that way? It's so quiet.

AS 25:44

It really is. Because I've noticed that like, especially, like, even like small classes, like my Latin 102 class, has literally I think four students in it. And we're all still spread out so much, even

though the teacher's like oh, I kind of want you in the front that's still you know, spread out, still. So spread out and up until he walks in silence. It's like, really awkward. So I get what you're saying.

TG 26:11

I have one class where the professor has done a really great job of being like, she's very chatty at the beginning. Dr. Webber. You know Dr. Webber. She's very chatty at the beginning of class. And I think that lends to the students then chatting together. And that class is always loud. And honestly, sometimes I'm like, [shh] she started. Um, but otherwise, honestly, hardly anything in any class. And, and, and also, I have to say that I'm frequently shocked when I see people's faces. Like, say they have they have a mask on, right? You've only seen them with their mask for the last nine weeks, and then they take it down to take a drink or something. And you're like, that's, that's what you look like? Like not - it's not a bad thing. But honestly, like, I saw a professor, he has a whole goatee I didn't know existed. So, there we go.

AS 27:16

I get it. Like there's been especially like, when you do like, you have zoom meetings, and then you like meet in class and then on zoom. It's like, oh, did not know that's what you look like? never would have guessed? Because this is not really telling. So, what are your classes for next week? Next semester next year? Like what is what's happening in Tiffany's school life?

TG 27:42

I'm really trying to, I'm trying to make it so that my block classes, where I student teach, are like all I have to do. So, I'm taking three classes this summer. And then next semester, I have a constitution class, Intro to Public History, cuz I kinda want to see maybe if I want to get a Masters, maybe we'll see. If that's the path, I have no idea. We'll find out. Fine Arts k-4 requirements, something I don't know. It's something with arts to meet the requirement, obviously. It's not psych. I did that this summer. Geography? I don't - I just take so many history classes, like you, I'm sure that you're like, Is it a history class? Again? It might be. I don't know?

AS 28:56

Well, least you know that. If you take Intro to Public History, this might be something that you will be doing for next semester, because that is the class that I am in. So, you get to experience that. So, we're going to talk about the future a little bit. So, when - just think about in the future, like when do you think that you'll graduate and hopefully get into teaching? Explain that to me.

TG 29:25

I should be student teaching fall of 22. Um, and I honestly, I love going to school. So, I kind of want to just keep doing that forever. As long as I can. Um, you too?

AS 29:50

Well, I don't I don't want to teach but like, I love history and being in the thing. Um, what, what grade do you want to teach? Do you want to teach history? Like do you want to be like, Elementary, Middle, High School?

TG 30:13

So actually, when I transferred, I had a long battle with myself about what and how and what I want to teach. So I had it narrowed down to four things. First was just Elementary Ed, I love littles. They're so cute, and they're so happy to see you. And I love being on recess duty, because I also do that a lot when I stopped aid. But also boogers, and farts, and puke, and, you know. I'm so - also I thought facts, I love facts. That's like, that's it. I love baking. I like doing crafty stuff I like to - so I can't do anything super well, but I could do it a little. That would have required me to go to Stout [Wisconsin], which I mean, was not a big deal. Obviously, it's like 20 minutes. But, um, the other two options were at UWEC [University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire], it was Earth and Space Science, because I love astronomy. I don't however, love physics and that's kind of part of it. So that's why I ended up with History. And when I started looking at the program, because they just changed it this last year, it was it was Social Studies with a focus, there was always a focus that you had to have. And my initial focus was going to be Sociology, but they changed the degree and how it works. So, I don't have a focus anymore. So, it's just lots of History. Did I - What did you ask? See, see how this works? I'm the worst.

AS 31:49

You're fine, Tiffany. Like, what grade did you want to teach History in?

TG 31:55

That leads me to CVTC. I really love those kids, I think that'd be a great place to be right. So, I'm kind of into high school, upper high school. I really want to effect positive change for the future and I think history is so important. I think people do not learn history well. There hasn't been a lot of regulation, historically, of what you have to be taught about history. There's no, there's no standardized testing for that, really. Unless you're doing AP classes. So, I really want to effect change in the world through the teaching of History, especially in an anti-racist lens. So, I think High School, probably older, maybe, maybe at the tech. I think that would also be really cool. Who knows?

AS 32:57

So how do you think COVID is going to affect the classroom? Like you you've talked about, like, you know, getting student teaching also the future, you don't quite know what that is. But you you've talked about like high school or the tech or maybe - and how many years you'll be like a teacher - professor teaching high schoolers. You know, what, how do you think the classroom will have changed because of COVID?

TG 33:28

Well, I already watch movies and go, oh they're sharing a drink. Why are they doing that? So, I think it's just gonna be a little bit different. Maybe a little more focused on making sure that we have cleaner workspaces and cleaner hands. I think, I think we'll be back to not normal, but our new way sooner than we think. Um, I honestly think that it's not going to be that different and I wholeheartedly believe that it is actually how you present it. For example, with my children. They've never been like, oh, the epidemic is the worst. I mean, they kind of have sometimes but you know, I mean, like, I've always kind of enforced this. It's going to be fine. We're going to be we're going to get through this glass is half full, positive. Alicia you know me, we've known each other for years. Very, like, positive person just in general. And I feel like kids - feel that so when I get in a classroom and I am teaching, I think that they'll just be okay, like it's just gonna be fine. So, I don't think there'll be plastic partitions forever, which is weird. Yeah.

AS 35:00

So, I don't know what type of history you want to teach and everything like that. But if you have to teach future generations, about COVID-19, what do you think? Probably? What do you think you're gonna even say? Like would you bring up politics? Would you like - How would you make it relatable to them? You know.

TG 35:34

So Social Studies, we do a lot of work on intersubjectivity. And kind of being able to teach one topic and have it kind of touch all of the social sciences. So you could use it for politics. Absolutely. You could even locally, right, so you could look at the world and how various countries handled it, and what they put who they put in charge, what advice they put in. You'll remember, Italy was like, the first country that was like, Whoa, holy crap, we have got to do something now. And possibly, I remember specifically, like New Zealand, did like just a phenomenal job. And they were like back to normal right away. China has done a really great job. So you can relate that to really anything in the world, right. and world history. That way, US history, I think you could look at the various ways that the different governors handled that. And then you could look at that in a political science view as well, with the powers that the governors have to do these things. And look how different our neighbors are right? Like South Dakota handled it much differently than Michigan. And Wisconsin handled it differently than Minnesota. And like, how did that work for everyone? What were the results? of those things? Minnesota was very tight on their mascot mandates, restaurant restrictions, etc. Wisconsin was not. And then how does that affect the border? Border cities? That would be interesting to look at. I think you could look at it – geography. How did it spread? Right? Like, where did it go? Where are these major? Was it coming into ports? Is it coming to airports? Are we spreading it through business? You could look psychology like how did it affect these kids? How did it affect the teachers? How did it affect the elderly? You know, they're in homes, and they're not allowed visitors? Like, those are all really sad things and like mental health and economics obviously has a huge play in their stimulus packages. Does that really help? Does it work? Would it work faster? Should we have gone with a big amount first? Did we really need it? How many? Did we get three? Two? I don't remember. Um, you know, or should we go with more of a program like Canada where they paid their people. Ireland, they pay their people monthly to cover the average

rent. Like, is that something that would have benefited us? Will that have helped? Yeah, I mean, that's fascinating. Honestly, I could, I could probably do a bazillion hours of research on all the things and outcomes.

AS 38:41

So, what I'm understanding that if in the future, you're just a history teacher, whatever you want to do, and the topic of COVID-19 pops up, you'll have no problem teaching it. Sounds like you're [Laugh] very proud of you Tiffany. Thought of how many different ways and I love it, you know, so because I feel like sometimes we choose to, like, slide things under – like forget about it, you know, but do you think that we need to talk about - need to teach future generations of COVID-19?

TG 39:16

Yeah, um, people are still calling it the Spanish flu, for instance. That was 100 years ago, and we know better, so we should do better, is my opinion. And what did I learn about that? You know what I know about that? Or knew about that? Edward Cullen from the Twilight movies died of the Spanish flu. And that's when he became a vampire. Tada! So if that tells you anything, we knew nothing. I actually know more about it now because I was so interested in the correlations between the covid 19 pandemic and the influenza pandemic of the early 1800s. So, what was I saying?

AS 40:09

I love that you mentioned Twilight. It's brilliant. I remember that now, too. It's the pandemic in 1918. So, and.

TG 40:20

That's what I mean, I just you, you can't leave stuff out, right? Like, it's, it's like, it's like teaching the civil war without teaching slavery. It's like teaching World War Two without any of the Asian countries, like you can't, it's just like, a whole part of it. Like, you can't just take out a piece of the pie. Right? And so this pandemic affected the entire world. Globally, trade, economics, politics, countries working together. It just, there's no way you can't not teach it. And if you're not teaching it, you're not a good teacher. Thank you, Tiffany.

AS 41:05

You know, any teachers listening out there? Teach COVID-19. I'm speaking of COVID-19. And if you're going to ever talk about in the future with students. Have you experienced anyone close to you or know someone that got COVID-19 really badly?

TG 41:27

Not badly. Fortunately, for me, I'm very lucky. And I consider myself to be very lucky. My father caught COVID 19 in October of 20 2020. He has, he has kidney cancer, or did. He actually had his kidney removed last week. Yeah, very good. Very good. Um, and he got that, and I was - I'm still mad at the lady. But she was somewhat asymptomatic. So, she kind of had a little like, cough, but she had cleaned out her daughter's garage and like, swept and it was dusty. And she'd like cleaned out her rabbit pen. So she kind of just thought it was like that, right? She didn't feel really bad. The only reason she found out she had it is she had to have a procedure done at the hospital. So they had to pretest her for COVID. And then she, of course, contacted everyone she had been in contact with, which is probably a lot of people because she's like an import on an appointment person. Um, my friends from high school, I graduated with her and her whole family actually caught it two weeks ago. I think they're fine. Like the kids, like had a headache. That was it. They didn't even, they didn't even know. She didn't even think to - like that it was gonna be a testing thing. And then her husband came down with worse symptoms, and he got tested. And then the quarantine procedures are like the kids would have had to stay home from school for like three weeks or something crazy. So she just took them all to get tested, so that they could go back after the symptoms were gone, versus the extended extended. I do, however, have a friend of a friend who's like, it's like the saddest story I've ever heard in my life. Do you want to hear it? So my friend Kelly was in the military for a long time, and she was in the military with a friend of hers. And her friend now lives out in Los Angeles. And she was with her partner. And they were both police officers from all time and then the lady didn't do that anymore. They were trying to get pregnant and have babies, they're going to like through they're having difficulty getting pregnant. So they were doing like the hormone treatments and IVF treatments and stuff. And they were pregnant. And he actually caught COVID from his work partner, because they are officers so they're in the car together. And the work partner - This was early on too, I should also add some. This is like a year ago he went to work sick even though probably shouldn't have because it's like the American way like you just go to work sick because that's what you do. And yeah. Anyway, he caught it. And so did she, um, he got quite ill right away and actually called the lake they separated. And she ended up testing positive but she was like one of those that was like a cold right. And he went to the hospital within a week. And I think two weeks later, he was dead. So it was really, really sad because they had done all this work to have a baby She's pregnant with twins for them. And then she has to go through all this. It was actually very public. You can look it up. He was the first la police officer to pass away from Coronavirus. So sorry, I need to put a stamp on your day. But so like I have actually that friend is also has another friend who I think because she's so worldly and by worldly. I mean, she was in the military and she served across the so she knows she has so many friends, like all over the country, that she has more exposure to people who had more exposure. I feel like not that we're safer here. But we have less exposure to people who are traveling on a regular basis for work or those kinds of things. And actually, I think that's probably been a detriment to like my hometown area, which is trying to like Wisconsin. Population 814 I think nobody out there is worried about not at all. And you know, somewhat rightfully so. They're not, you know, traveling anywhere crazy. So, yeah.

AS 46:11

So I'm, I was like about ready to cry because the like, I hate you know, you hear those. You've heard those stories for the last year, year and a half were like, Oh, they finally got married then

one of them like - they're on their honeymoon or they're going to honeymoon one passes away. And you're just like, oh my god COVID. Why, why are you doing this to these innocent people? It's just awful. So, Wisconsin doesn't have a mask mandate anymore. But I believe Eau Claire still does. Do you, do you feel that more places need to have mask mandates? Do I know – your, your vax vaccinated, but doesn't mean everybody else. So how do you feel about masks? Do we need to have them? Mask mandates? Go.

TG 47:03

Yes, wear your mask. You told me not to swear. But wear your mask and you can put whatever little peep you want in there. I don't get it. I don't understand. It's not a hardship on me. I don't feel like it affects me and anyway, except for me walking up three flights of stairs at school, then I'm a little like, but um, it's really simple. Easy way for me to protect those around me. I, I honestly, I cannot understand. Yes, there should be a mask mandate and I actually, I will be honest, I kind of went back and forth on this when the last mask mandate kind of like expired. And they were like, you can't do that anymore. And I was like, Well, that seems fair like people are you could be responsible for your own business, right? Like in my head for a minute. I was like if it says mask wear a mask if it doesn't say masculine. If you don't want to go in there, then don't if you don't want to go into a place that asks you to wear masks then don't. And then I thought about it. And I thought there's no way to hold anyone accountable then. Unfortunately, they're just not. And there are enough people. There's enough videos out there people being reckless and rude and insensitive. Um, that just, just wear - I don't know. It's not hard. It does not hurt me. It does not do anything to me. Right? I can wear on all day. I just don't. It does not, does not compute. And the perfect example I'll give you of this is my kids played hockey this winter, which was a very hard decision because it's a sport. They're out there breathing on each other, running into each other. Is that going to be healthy or safe? Up turns out it was. It was okay. They did have to wear masks on the ice. Oh, the companies came out with masks that one right in their mask, their actual face mask and their face mask right away. So that was nice. We bought those for the kids. All of the places required masks, they all had guest limitations. Even the tournaments were pretty strict. We ran into one situation. One of the ladies on my son's team. One of the moms for my son's team had had brain cancer and had a tumor or something removed. Don't worry, it's not sad. So, we were playing against a team and the team. The one mom was just like, what else and so she asked nicely a couple of times, like Hey, can you wear a mask? Or can you put your Can you put it back up? And then she was like, Hi, I have brain cancer. Could you please like or or move away, either way. And the lady got really, really huffy about it like, rudely. It's the policy of the tournament. It's posted everywhere. It's not like it was new. This was this winter, we've been wearing masks for how long. And I saw her kid come out of the locker room, and he's wearing one of those mesh masks. You know what I mean? Like, it's just full on. I don't even have anything to show you. But you know what I mean? It is not a mask. It literally is like, the equivalent of a temper tantrum and a mask, like, I'll put it on, but it's not going to be a real one. Like, have you seen those videos where people are like putting underwear on their face? Like, how embarrassed Are you going to be when I wear this underwear in my face in public? Like not as embarrassed as you are? I don't know. Yes. So the the very long answer to that question is, yes, there should be a mandate. Yes, you should wear a mask. Yes, I wear a mask. I'm vaccinated, and I will continue to wear one.

AS 51:17

So I'm going to wrap up here really, really soon. But so my last question is, you've been vaccinated. And we have talked about you know, if the kids can get vaccinated, that's great. What do you want to tell the public about the vaccine? How did you react to it? Give me all the details.

TG 51:39

This is funny, actually, I'm not gonna like show, you show you, but I'll show you just a little bit. If you want to pass a skill, look at that. I had a friend who was like, I just I'm going to wait and see what happens. I'm like, okay, like, if that's how you feel, that's fine. Um, so I have talking points about vaccines right here. Um, I believe knowledge is power. So like doing research and checking sources, primary versus secondary, like, very important stuff, like good knowledge, deep thought. Hold on, ask me again. I don't want to get off track because I was about to I felt that.

AS 52:27

What would you say to someone? Like, I'm going to get vaccinated soon. What would you tell me about the vaccines? Like what we're like? Did you get really sick? Like, I'm kind of fearful of that I'm saying, oh, Tiffany, I don't really know about this vaccine. Tell me what what what do you think about it?

TG 52:46

Sorry, that you can't get the vaccine I got because it's on pause. But really, like six cases and 7 million shots, I feel like I am not worried. I never was worried when they put it on pause. I would say that I had zero symptoms, almost. I was upset that I had no symptoms. Because Did I really get a shot? like am I vaccinated? I don't know. Could be placebo. I felt nothing. I had a sore arm. And it hurt less than a tennis shot, like the initial. Like you could feel it going in your arm that was kind of painful. But I had no soreness. Now that is to say I did not get the mRNA vaccine, obviously. And those work different and biology, which I love. I'm cool. It's so cool. Like Science is so cool. Like they wouldn't put it in your body without testing it. And they've tested it. So like, no worries. And if you do feel symptoms, like some of my friends have had, like body aches or like a headache and some have been feverish. That's just it's working. That's what you know. That's, that's how you got to look at that. Like that's my positive silver lining. Like, oh, it's working. My body's gonna be safe. antibodies. I can feel so do it. It'll be fun. All the cool kids are doing it.

AS 54:23

Okay, Tiffany, I'm gonna give you one last thing about COVID-19. You're going to tell the public what's one thing that you will never forget about COVID-19.

TG 54:42

One thing I will never forget how scared I was when my dad tested positive. He's 57 right? Like he's not old. That would have been this terrible loss for me obviously as my parent but also his community. He's a businessman up where I'm from, he takes care of a lot of people. He's on a board for nonprofits elderly apartment building. Like he does a lot of stuff for his community and that would have been a loss and just seeing the stories over half a million people man just gone and if you like it's more than the Civil War. It does a lot of people. So that is the one thing I remember the the fear that I had after my father was for sure diagnosed and just knowing it could go either way like he could be fine which he is thankfully,. or he could be gone.

AS 55:56

We're ending on a like sad but also happy no because I'm very happy that you know he came out on top because like you said, there's many people that unfortunately have lost loved ones and like you said, this is more deaths in the Civil War. You know, I don't know about other wars like World War One World War Two, also the 1918 pandemic around the world This COVID-19 has really has, really sucked. But thank you for sharing your COVID-19 life with me and other people. I'm sure. Every, everybody's gonna love watching us because we're so fun. And

TG 56:35

Obviously.

AS 56:36

Obviously, we're the best. But.

TG 56:40

My running gear.

AS 56:42

I love it. It's great. But we are gonna end this oral history recording. But bye.

TG 56:48

Go learn something.

AS 56:52

Yep, go learn.