

**Interviewee:** Rafael (pseudonym)

**Interviewers:** Breida

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**Format:** Audio recording

**Location:** Wisconsin

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

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**Abstract/Summary:** In this first meeting, the interviewee answers personal questions about how the pandemic has affected his life, his habits, those of his family and acquaintances. It also addresses the issue of the vaccine, fears and ignorance about the vaccine and the consumption of information and social media. The interviewee is a rural worker on a ranch and he is originally from Mexico.

**Breida 00:00:03**

Ah, mmm, so, today is Wednesday March 17, 2021, today there are 29 million three hundred nine hundred nineteen thousand 457 cases of Covid-19 in the United States. There are also five hundred thirty three thousand fifty seven deaths and 110 million 737,856, ah, vaccines administered so far. So, the first question is, when you first heard about Covid-19, what were your thoughts about it?

[Background conversation]

**Rafael 00:00:45**

Mm, when I first heard about Covid-19 I thought it was going to stick around. Then it was a pandemic. For example, in Africa when Ebola came out they were able to control it. So when Covid-19 came out I thought they were going to control it. But then it got out of control. [English background voices]

**Breida 00:01:04**

So, how have your thoughts changed since then?

**Rafael 00:01:07**

Since then they have changed a bit, ah, we had a bad time. Ahm, I am more careful. I am not having a lot of contact with people. So how did it change? Mmm maybe, now people are more aware of what can happen in the future. Now it was just this, and later on it could be that another stronger disease could come. Maybe more people will die.

**Breida 00:01:33**

More lethal, yes. Uh, [clicks] what problems have concerned you the most during the pandemic?

**Rafael 00:01:45**

Mmm, maybe, ahm, being locked down, not being able to go out, seeing family members or seeing friends. Going shopping is also risky because a lot of people go, getting infected, more than anything else is the most worrying thing. I was afraid of getting it and infecting my family, mostly young children, and grandparents.

**Breida 00:02:10**

Yes. Um. What concerns do you have about the effects of the coronavirus on your employment and your economic situation? [Background laughter]

**Rafael 00:02:20**

Well, uhm, on a ranch not a lot of people come like in other places, like big companies, or, ah, how do you say? Like big places where a lot of people work. A lot of ranches have few people working on them, like 10 or 11, depending on how big the ranch is. So, the top concern is getting sick, because if you get sick you can't work and that affects your family's economy, because, how are you going to work if you are sick? And you do not have money and it is impossible to pay for all the things that you need.

**Breida 00:03:02**

Yeah, right. Uh [clicks] what influence has Covid-19 had on your family?

**Rafael 00:03:08**

That, mm, maybe one is more cautious, more cautious of people coming in or people that we see. We are more cautious, we stay at home with the family, and more than anything, we are extremely careful.

**Breida 00:03:25**

Yeah. Uh, what, what, what precautions do you take?

**Rafael 00:03:27**

What precautions do we take? For example, every time we go out to buy things, for example, lunch for the fortnight or for the week, we wash our hands, don't grab things that we don't need to grab, don't greet people, keep your distance from people, wear a mask, use protection all the time, antibiotics, sanitizer, sorry, it's also very good. What else? For children going to school, we tell them to always wear masks, always be aware all the time to wash their hands and be hygienic, more than anything else.

**Breida 00:04:02**

Yes, it's very important. Ehm. Has Covid-19 changed your relationships with your family, with your friends or with your community? [Background voices]

**Rafael 00:04:16**

With my family no, because we're all together, ahm, we know who we hang out with and what we do. Well, and the rest, not so much, but maybe yes, in some way it changed with friends because you can't visit each other anymore. There is a concern about contagion, that maybe my friend is infected or maybe he's infected without knowing, and he spreads the virus.

**Breida 00:04:35**

Yes, yes, you can't go out anymore.

**Rafael 00:04:39**

Not anymore.

**Breida 00:04:41**

Uh, so, uh, do you know anyone who's been infected?

**Rafael 00:04:48**

Ah, close, close, no. But so, that I've been told and heard about, yeah.

**Breida 00:04:53**

People that you know?

**Rafael 00:04:54**

Acquaintances.

**Breida 00:04:55**

Yeah, ah, have you heard of anyone who's passed away?

**Rafael 00:05:00**

Yes, several, friends of my friends have passed away from Covid, unfortunately.  
[Background voices]

**Breida 00:05:10**

Yes, unfortunately. Uhm. Why did you decide to get the vaccine?

**Rafael 00:05:13**

Mostly to protect my family, for that, to protect them and protect myself as well. Because we don't know when this is going to be over. The more people get the vaccine, the better it is for this pandemic to end and we go back to the life we had before. I know that Covid is going to end eventually [his voice gets mixed with the background voices] and we are going to have a quieter life, and we won't have to worry about what to do and what not to do anymore. [Background voices]

**Breida 00:05:38**

Yeah, yeah. More normal. More like it was in the past. [Laughter] Ehm. What have been your main sources of news during this pandemic?

**Rafael 00:05:48**

Ahhh, the newspaper, TV news, from time to time on my phone. Well, I don't believe everything that I see or read, I check out various sources, some are more relevant than others.

**Breida 00:06:01**

Yeah, yeah, how do you decide who to believe?

**Rafael 00:06:04**

How do I decide? More than anything else, you figure out when it's fake news. For example, when the information is about someone changing their faces or something like that, then it's Photoshop, [both laugh] Do you know what I mean?

**Breida 00:06:20**

Yeah, yeah. [Background conversation] Have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your thoughts about your family, your friends, or your community?

**Rafael 00:06:29**

Mm, no. I still think the same about them. I haven't changed any of that. Just, as I'm going to repeat, I am concerned about not infecting them. Infecting them is my biggest concern.

**Breida 00:06:39**

Or that someone could infect you, right?

**Rafael 00:06:40**

Exactly, like catching the virus from someone.

**Breida 00:06:45**

Do you have any thoughts on how local, state and federal leaders are responding to the pandemic? [Background voices]

**Rafael 00:06:53**

Well here in Wisconsin, the president along with the leaders, I think is responding very well to the pandemic. He's doing an excellent job in my view. Right now I think Wisconsin became the second most, the most vaccinated state in the nation. So I think that is a very good, a very good response. Yes. They're doing a very good job.

**Breida 00:07:14**

Hey. Can I ask you where, where are you from, where are you from? Where are you from?

**Rafael 00:07:17**

I'm originally from Veracruz, Mexico.

**Breida 00:07:19**

Oh, Veracruz. I'm from Durango.

**Rafael 00:07:22**

Are you from Durango?

**Breida 00:07:23**

Yes. [Laughter in complicity]

**Rafael 00:07:24**

That's cool.

**Breida 00:07:25**

And how, what do you think about Mexico? How do you think the leaders are doing there?

**Rafael 00:07:31**

Look, I've heard very ugly comments. [Both laugh]

**Breida 00:07:33**

No comments [Laughter]

**Rafael 00:07:34**

No comments, it's very unpleasant.

**Breida 00:07:42**

Ehm [background voices] would you say that the coronavirus has affected your work?

**Rafael 00:07:45**

Affected, no. Work has not been affected. The virus has affected one's life, one can't go out anymore, as I said earlier. But not the work in the field, because there are not many people around us, ah, I mean, everyone has their own work. Some are in the feedlot, some are inside with the animals, and we don't usually have close contact with many people. [Background conversation]

**Breida 00:08:10**

Uh, do you think that if there was a contagion or several contagions that that would affect the work?

**Rafael 00:08:16**

Uh, yes, of course, of course, there always exists the risk of getting infected, because as I say, again, you have to go to the stores to buy things, there is always that danger that someone has infected me and starts infecting the whole ranch, but well, so we are lucky by now.

**Breida 00:08:33**

[laughter] Yeah well, now with the vaccine it's a little bit better.

**Rafael 00:08:38**

A little bit more relieved. [Both laugh] It's better.

**Breida 00:08:39**

Ehm. What have been the biggest challenges for you or for your family? [Background conversation]

**Rafael 00:08:49**

The biggest challenge was being locked down actually. For example, you want to go out, you want to have fun, but you can't because of the pandemic. Places are closed and it has been impossible to go somewhere since the pandemic started. I like to go out, to hang out at a bar and grab a beer. All of that was closed all of a sudden. [Both laugh] So, I was at home.

**Breida 00:09:15**

Just in the house. Yes. How has the Covid-19 outbreak affected your community?

**Rafael 00:09:23**

Ahhh. So about the community, I think there were not a lot of infections, something like 10 percent of contagions, something like that. Well yeah. But I guess it did not affect a lot, it was contagious but nothing beyond that. [Paper rustling] [Background conversation].

**Breida 00:09:45**

That's good. So I think that's all the questions I have for you, uhm. I'm going to stop the recording. Thank you very much for your contribution, is it okay, if we gave you one of these?

**Rafael 00:09:59**

Yes, yes.

**Breida 00:10:00**

If you want you can tell people about the project as well, uh. Thank you very much for your participation. It helps us a lot. Have a nice day. [Children's voices in background]

**Rafael 00:10:08**

Likewise. You too. [Background conversation]