

Interviewee: Alvaro y Maria (pseudonyms)

Interviewers: Lucy/Breida

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Abstract/Summary: In this first meeting, interviewees answer personal questions about how the pandemic affected their lives, their customs, and those of their family and acquaintances. They also talked about the vaccine, fears and ignorance about the vaccine, and the consumption of information during the Covid-19 pandemic.

00:00:01 Interviewer 1

Good! [Paper sound]. Okay, do you want to start?

00:00:04 Interviewer 2

Yes. Today is Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Today there are 29 million three hundred and nineteen hundred and nineteen thousand four hundred and fifty-seven cases of COVID-19 in the United States and 533 thousand fifty-seven deaths and 110 million 737 thousand 856 vaccines have been administered. [Background laughter] So, the first question is: When you first heard about COVID-19 what were your thoughts about it?

00:00:46 Alvaro

Whether or not that was true or false.

00:00:48 María

Yes it was, there was a lot of doubt. There was a fear of not knowing what was going to happen at all, if we were going to die. Yeah. [Nervous laughter]

00:01:01 Interviewer 2

And, how have your thoughts changed from then?

00:01:10 María

Well in my case, well, it didn't happen to us, we haven't had that disease and we're calm, yeah, more so with the vaccines. Now we are a little bit, ahm, nervous about the issue of vaccines because there are a lot of contradictions about them, that they have many effects, that if they are effective, so we are afraid of that but here we are. [Group laughing]

00:01:39 Entrevistadora 1

That's great, what about you?

00:01:42 Alvaro

[ps] Yes, the same. Yes, the same thing. We were scared. Well, right now with the vaccines, in fact, we were nervous, but here we are and we're keeping up with it. Let's hope the vaccines work well for everybody. [Conversation and laughter in the background]

00:01:59 Entrevistadora 1

Okay. The second question is: what problems have worried you the most during the COVID-19 pandemic?

00:02:11 María

[breathes heavily] Ah. It changed our daily routine. Well, we used to go to play sports before. My son likes soccer. He really likes it. Then, being at home, the confinement. The truth is, it is very frustrating. And so, yeah, it was a huge change.

00:02:33 Entrevistadora 1

Yes, and you?

00:02:34 Alvaro

I think the same. Well, we used to go out for sports and everything. All of a sudden we couldn't do it anymore, we had to take care of ourselves, and the others. We were scared because we didn't know whether to go out or not to go out for groceries if we needed to buy a lot of food and stay in the house. [unclear-mumbles] Everything changed a lot.

00:03:03 Entrevistadora 1

Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

00:03:15 Entrevistadora 2

And what are your concerns about the effects of the coronavirus in terms of your employment, your family's economic situation, wellbeing, or more general? [Nervous laughter]

00:03:29 Entrevistadora 1

[laughing] That's a big question.

00:03:30 María

Yeah, yeah. It's a big and analytical one. Well, the economy changed. Well, it's just, yeah, thinking about if you get sick, I mean, uh, we have a child. He needs attention. Who is going to take care of him? Who is he going to stay with? He is not used to staying with anyone else. What if I get sick? Can I make him sick? People say that the children, ahm, weren't as prone to getting the virus. So we were worried that if something happened to us, who was going to work to provide for my son? How are we going to buy food? Hey, who was going to help us financially? It was a huge concern because it was going to affect our work and economy. Well, no way, because, well, if you don't work you don't have money.

00:04:22 Interviewer 2

Yes, does your child go to school?

00:04:24 **María**

Yes, he's 7 years old.

00:04:28 **Interviewer 1**

[laughing] Oh, how cute.

00:04:30 **Interviewer 2**

Does he have online classes?

00:04:32 **María**

Excuse me?

00:04:34 **Interviewer 2**

Does he have online classes?

00:04:35 **María**

No, he has in-person school.

00:04:36 **Interviewer 1**

Okay.

00:04:36 **María**

And, he wanted to go because we also had a lot of problems with the technology, and then the connection cuts off.

00:04:46 **Alvaro**

He's a kid, he's just learning English. He's in the first grade, so it was complicated for us and him. And then we decided that it was better, it was better for him to go to school because there he learns more.

00:04:58 **Interviewer 1**

Yes.

00:04:59 **Interviewer 2**

Sure.

00:05:00 **Alvaro**

Yes, and now...

00:05:02 **María**

They gave us the option between online schooling and in-person school. We chose to send him to school (in person) because it was very complicated for us at home. During the day I'm at home and I could help him, but I don't speak English. And he is beginning to learn English, so we couldn't help him.

00:05:27 Interviewer 1

And kids like school, they have their friends there?

00:05:33 Alvaro

Yeah, and since he's an only child, he's bored at home; he doesn't have anyone to play with. We play with him but it's different.

00:05:39 Interviewer 1

Aha [affirmation] I have a 6-year-old brother, he has a lot of energy and he likes to go to school.

00:05:50 Interviewer 2

[background voices] Aha. What do you do for work?

00:05:54 María

Ah. We work on a farm. He's our employer. Yeah, he brings us. [Points to someone-laughs]

00:06:07 Interviewer 2

Uh What influence has Covid-19 had on your family? How have daily activities changed?
[Background laughter]

00:06:18 Alvaro

Well again as we said before, it's the confinement. We've been in the house and it affects us a lot. Our families, in Mexico, are the same. If we don't send them money or something, they don't have anything. So we have to take care of ourselves a lot.

00:06:42 María

I didn't go out, we didn't go out; we were at home all the time. We go out only if we need something, to do some groceries and to buy things we need, nothing else. Sometimes we visit our nephew because he wants to play with our son. But that's it. Hopefully, things will change after the vaccination.

00:07:05 Interviewer 2

May I ask where you are from?

00:07:09 María

We are from Veracruz, the state of Veracruz Texohuacan. The municipality is called Texohuacan-Veracruz.

00:07:17 Interviewer 2

I am from Durango, from Durango. [Laughs]

00:07:21 María

Oh, okay. Were you born here?

00:07:25 Interviewer 2

No, in Durango.

00:07:26 María

You were born in Durango? And you came to the States as a student? Okay, congratulations.
[Background conversation]

00:07:32 Interviewer 1

Okey. The next question is: how has the Covid-19 outbreak affected your community? Oh, and you can mention or talk about many communities like school, clubs, church, work, all of those.

00:07:52 Alvaro

I would imagine that it did affect a lot because everything was closed.

00:07:54 María

We were not even able to go out. If we wanted to spend time with the family, eat out, for example, we couldn't, we had to stay at home and that was it.

00:08:07 Alvaro

We did not feel comfortable with people [stammers] because we didn't know what they were doing. We were just taking care of ourselves, if they got infected we're at risk too, and well, it's better to stay home.

00:08:27 Interviewer 2

[paper noises - background voices] Have you had situations at work where you have contagions or something like that?

00:08:40 Alvaro

Thank God nothing like that happened. So far so good.

00:08:50 Interviewer 2

Has the Covid-19 pandemic changed your relationships with family, friends, and your community?

00:08:55 Alvaro

Well, not so much. Well, this is good, not so much, because as I said, we don't go anywhere, only by phone, but now that everything is changing, things are getting better little by little. We only had communication by phone.

00:09:14 María

Yes, in fact, yes, it did affect a lot because we were not meeting people, the meetings were canceled until now. We are starting to see each other very prudently little by little. That's for now.

00:09:34 Interviewer 2

Do you like to talk to your family? Do you prefer to talk over the phone or video calls?

00:09:40 Alvaro

We like video calls, we enjoy them.

00:09:43 María

We schedule video calls. That is our, our way of communicating, even with the people that live around us here in the state of Wisconsin. We couldn't visit them so we stayed in touch just by video calls. It is good that we can do that; it's a great option. [Indistinct voices in the background] [Background laughter].

00:10:23 Interviewer 2

Do you know anyone who has gotten sick from Covid?

00:10:28 Alvaro

Well, in Mexico my father got sick.

00:10:31 Interviewer 1

Oh, your father?

00:10:34 Alvaro

But everything was fine. It went well, and now he's fine.

00:10:39 Interviewer 2

Did he recover well?

00:10:40 Alvaro

Yes.

00:10:41 María

Here in the US my brother got Covid. It went well too, it didn't get worse.

00:10:50 Interviewer 1

Yes. What have been your main sources of news and information during the pandemic? Like TV or the Internet?

00:11:01 María

Both.

00:11:02 Alvaro

Television and the Internet. [ps] mostly Facebook, people post many things there.

00:11:07 **María**

Oh, yes. It is scary [laughs] to see how so many people suffered, the truth is, and social media manipulates the information a lot. Oh, oh, I saw a website where they showed dead people and their eyes. It was old news. Later they published it again like it was related to Covid-19 and I don't know what else. Well, it was creepy. That is how we kept informed.

00:11:38 **Interviewer 2**

How, how do you check if the news is real or fake?

00:11:45 **María**

Ah, well, by the comments on the news. That one was published a few years ago, it was about I don't know what. One gets informed little by little. Well, it's better not to pay attention to some things people say, only the news, the ones that have more, a little more veracity and are more recognized, that's the way we trust them the most. [Background voices].

00:12:16 **Interviewer 2**

Why did you decide to get vaccinated today?

00:12:22 **Alvaro**

Well, to be healthy. [All laugh] We are better if we get the vaccine. That's why, and for the sake of our kid.

00:12:28 **María**

Well, in fact, it's for his sake, if we didn't get sick all this time, then...

00:12:38 **Alvaro**

We have this possibility to get the vaccine.

00:12:41 **María**

Well yes, they gave us the opportunity and we decided to take advantage of it. With a little bit of fear because we don't know what is going to happen.

00:12:52 **Interviewer 1**

Well it's new. It's safe because there are a lot of lab tests that prove the vaccine is safe and good. So. Okay, the final question is: have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your thoughts about your family, friends, or your community?

00:13:22 **María**

In my case, yes. It is important to appreciate those moments that passed, ah, because sometimes we just let them go and take them for granted. We get together and that's it, and then we go back to our personal lives. Now that the telephone is very fashionable, everyone has his or her own phone. And the truth is, when we were locked down at home we missed those special moments. I feel that on the one hand, this was useful because we valued those moments, people, friendships, and freedoms. [Laughs] We realized that because we were stuck at home.

00:14:04 Alvaro

Now that we are here, we have to value everything we have. Because we know that something else can happen and we don't want to regret things. Before the pandemic we really couldn't do that, we were not conscious of that. [Background voices]

00:14:18 María

It is a lesson learned. Many things can happen later on and you have to take advantage and live every moment, as it should be. As if it was the last day of your life.

00:14:31 Interviewer 2

We're excited for everything to be over and to be able to do the things that we couldn't do at all.

00:14:39 Alvaro

Yes, exactly.

00:14:40 Interviewer 1

Do you have any more questions?

00:14:42 Interviewer 2

No, I have no more questions. Would you like to add something?

00:14:47 María

Well, no, it was an honor to share our experience about this and we wish you the best in your project. We hope everything goes great.

00:15:00 Interviewer 2

Thank you. Thank you for your participation, it helps us a lot and it's an honor.

00:15:09 Alvaro

Thank you, thank you very much.

00:15:11 Interviewer 2

Would you like to take this...?