

Interviewee: Sergio (Pseudonym)

Interviewer: Breida Torres Berumen

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Abstract/Summary: In this meeting, the interviewee responds to personal questions about how the pandemic has affected their life, customs, and those of their family and acquaintances. Also this interview addresses the topic regarding the vaccine, fears, and unknowns about the vaccine, the interviewee's consumption of information, and the government's response against the COVID-19 crisis.

00:00:00 Breida

Today's date is March 24th, 2021. Today there are 29,708,385 confirmed cases in the United States and 540,503 deaths. There are also 572,770 confirmed cases in the state of Wisconsin and 6,576 deaths. To start, when did you first find out about COVID-19 and what were your thoughts about it?

00:00:38 Sergio

Well we heard about everything from the TV and we started to take measures to prevent getting sick from it, from COVID-19.

00:00:49 Breida

And how have your thoughts changed since then?

00:00:55 Sergio

Now, going out and being with family are things done with greater caution. In this respect, it has changed a lot. It's no longer the same as it was many years ago, we aren't as calm as we were. Now, it's more caution and hygiene.

00:01:08 Breida

Yes. Would you say that you took more, more methods of precaution when the pandemic started or right now? [background voices]

00:01:18 Sergio

I think that at the start and until right now, we've kept up on following those methods. We can't lower our guards, so to speak. Mhhh.

00:01:26 Breida

Yeah, not yet. Ehhh, what problems worried you the most during the pandemic?

00:01:32 Sergio

Oh, one problem is that our family that we have in México is further away. That's what worries us the most because here it's a more developed country. In México, it's a little different. So, we worry for the family members that we have there.

00:01:45 Breida

Yes, can I ask where your family is from?

00:01:51 Sergio

From Veracruz.

00:01:54 Breida

I'm talking, I'm talking with [stutters] ... what worries do you have about the effects of coronavirus regarding your job or economic situation?

00:02:09 Sergio

Ah, could you explain the question a little differently?

00:02:12 Breida

What worries you, like how the coronavirus could affect your economic situation or job?

00:02:22 Sergio

Well, currently we are working fine, but I think that there are cases where companies have closed because of COVID-19. Currently, we're alright in this aspect, regarding work, yes.

00:02:31 Breida

Yes, you aren't worried about...

00:02:34 Sergio

At the moment, who knows what's coming, but I think that it's already a little more controlled.

00:02:40 Breida

Yes.

00:02:43 Sergio

Mhhh. [background conversation-background noise]

00:02:47 Breida

What influence has COVID-19 had on your family?

00:02:53 Sergio

It isn't as calm anymore, so to speak. Now they are all more careful, taking more precaution, being more alert about COVID-19.

00:03:03 Breida

You, what, what measures have they taken?

00:03:05 Sergio

Always using masks, hand sanitizer, washing hands, not being in big groups of people, avoiding going to places where there are a lot of people.

00:03:16 Breida

Eh, has COVID-19 changed your relationships with your family members or friends in your community?

00:03:26 Sergio

I think that it has changed the whole world. It's still not the same as it was before, it's not the same. So, yes I think that it has changed things completely for everyone.

00:03:38 Breida

In what way?

00:03:39 Sergio

Now you can't live with others, you can't go out, you can't have fun, so to speak, with your family like before. Family outings or stuff like that. Now it's a little more restrained in that aspect.

00:03:50 Breida

Did you or someone you know get sick from COVID-19?

00:03:54 Sergio

Until now, no. No, I haven't met anyone.

00:04:03 Breida

Not even here, a doctor or anything?

00:04:04 Sergio

No, I haven't met anyone. I've heard of people, but I haven't met or seen the reactions from COVID-19 or that type of thing.

00:04:16 Breida

But that's good, right?

00:04:17 Sergio

Yes, mhhh.

00:04:21 Breida

Why did you decide to get vaccinated?

00:04:23 Sergio

In order to be more protected. But still, being vaccinated is not, I don't know if it guarantees that I don't get sick. I think that we should follow the protocol, the hand sanitizer, masks, and that type of thing. [background voices]

00:04:37 Breida

You still have to protect yourself, no?

00:04:40 Sergio

Exactly.

00:04:43 Breida

Eh, what have been your primary news sources during the pandemic?

00:04:49 Sergio

Now, it's social media. It seems that either checking Facebook or the news, is what helps a lot with being more informed. Mhhh.

00:05:00 Breida

Have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your way of thinking about your family, friends, or your community?

00:05:10 Sergio

Yes, they have been, I tell them to take more precaution above all. It has changed those types of things a lot. Now, you have to be more alert in that sense, more regarding adults with kids. So we

should be very careful.

00:05:27 Breida

Yes, what have you heard about the vaccine on Internet news sources?

00:05:37 Sergio

Well, like everything, there are a lot of people that are scared to get vaccinated for different reactions. I don't know if there will be a negative reaction to the vaccine, but I think that it's good to get vaccinated because you are being equally protected. You hear comments about the vaccine, that it isn't good and that type of thing. But it's still the decision of that person to get vaccinated or not. They can't force everyone to get it. [background conversation]

00:05:58 Breida

That's right. [background voices] Do you have any opinion about how local, state, and federal leaders are responding to the crisis or how they responded?

00:06:12 Sergio

The crisis about this...

00:06:14 Breida

Yes, about the pandemic.

00:06:15 Sergio

But crisis in what sense?

00:06:18 Breida

Eh, yes like what was your response to seeing how, at a certain point, they made masks mandatory? What opinion do you have about the response that they took, eh, the government officials?

00:06:38 Sergio

Partly, it was exactly what we needed in order to avoid a lot of that, how would you say, the infection spreading to a lot of people. So I think that they did a great job implementing the masks, hand sanitizers, and now this vaccine. I think that they are doing their job.

00:07:07 Breida

Eh...[background voices—papers shuffling] What have been the greatest challenges that you and your family have faced during the outbreak?

00:07:14 Sergio

Well, we still have to go out, for example to buy food or x-things that you need and yes that's like the biggest challenge, not knowing if you will go out and come back sick, so to speak. It's more of a challenge now, yes.

00:07:31 Breida

Yes, it's what caused you to more...[background voices and laughing]

00:07:33 Sergio

Yes, because you go out for example, for food and things like that, and you don't know, you don't know what could cause you to get sick. That's the fear you have.

00:07:43 Breida

Yes, and it's something that you have to do.

00:07:45 Sergio

Correct.

00:07:47 Breida

Eh [papers shuffling] have you seen, eh, people in your community change their opinions or ideas about the coronavirus since it first started?

00:08:03 Sergio

Okay, yes because some said that it didn't exist, or that it was invented by the government for a certain reason. There are different viewpoints from people. There are, yes, we have listened to the types of things that people say like this isn't right, or this is all wrong, stuff like that.

00:08:24 Breida

And have you seen them change their opinion?

00:08:26 Sergio

No. There's just pressure. For example, today a boy came with us to get vaccinated and he said no because he didn't think the vaccine was legit, and so we can't force him to get it. He knows if he wants to get vaccinated or not.

00:08:38 Breida

Each person.

00:08:39 Sergio

Correct.

00:08:42 Breida

Do you have kids?

00:08:44 Sergio

Yes.

00:08:46 Breida

Family?

00:08:47 Sergio

Yes, I have kids.

00:08:49 Breida

Do you worry about them?

00:08:52 Sergio

Yes, sometimes. They are my family. I have to worry for my kids, my wife, my parents, my brothers, for my entire family, I have to be worried.

00:08:58 Breida

Your kids go to school?

00:09:00 Sergio

Yes.

00:09:01 Breida

So, do you think that there's a risk of contracting COVID-19 at school?

00:09:08 Sergio

Everyone has the risk of being contagious. I can't say that we are exempt from that. Now, the vaccine helps us a little more, but we don't know if we can spread COVID-19 again or not. [background voices] We are at risk, so to speak, of being contagious, I don't know how.

00:09:23 Breida

Yes, I think so. I believe that is all the questions I have.

00:09:33 Sergio

Okay.

00:09:36 Breida

So that you record them. [stops suddenly]