

**Interviewee:** Victor (Pseudonym)

**Interviewer:** Angela Flicker

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**Location:** Lyster Church, Nelson, WI

**Transcriber:** Avery Dresel

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**Abstract/Summary:** In this meeting, the interviewee responds to personal questions about how the pandemic has affected their life, their customs, and their family and close friend's customs. Also, this interview covers the vaccine, the interviewee's consumption of information, and the response from the government against the COVID-19 crisis. The interviewee is originally from Mexico and works on a farm here in Wisconsin.

**Angela 00:00:02**

Today is April 7th, 2021. We are in the United States Central Time zone in Wisconsin. Today, there are 30,596,830 cases of coronavirus and there are 554,420 deaths in the United States and there are 639,553 cases and 7,341 deaths in Wisconsin. So, we are going to start with some background questions. Where do you live right now?

**Victor 00:00:57**

I live in Urne, Wisconsin.

**Angela 00:01:00**

Okay, ahm, thinking a little about your daily schedule right now, what are the main things that you do on a normal day? [indistinct background voices]

**Victor 00:01:10**

In the morning I get up for work at five in the morning and I leave at nine in the morning. From there I go to my other job and work in greenhouse gardens farming tomatoes and chiles. And there I work five more hours. I go back home again, and go back to work on the farm with the cows. [background conversation]

**Angela 00:01:47**

Okay, that's a long day. [laughing]

**Victor 00:01:49**

Yeah. [both laughing]. Yes and I get off at nine in the evening.

**Angela 00:01:54**

Ah, another question. When did you first find out about the coronavirus? What were your thoughts? How have your thoughts changed since then?

**Victor 00:02:12**

Well, at first, I didn't really believe it.

**Angela 00:02:17**

Yeah.

**Victor 00:02:18**

Time went on, I was seeing how serious it was. Partly, I was scared because I have a big family and I didn't think that COVID-19 would ever come and impact my family. And when it infected some of my family, two people passed away. Then, I saw how serious COVID-19 was and we wondered if there were going to be vaccines available for us or not.

**Angela 00:02:55**

Mhm.

**Victor 00:02:56**

But when they told us that there was going to be a vaccine, I was scared about that too.  
[laughing]

**Angela 00:03:01**

Yes, mhm. [nods head in agreement]

**Victor 00:03:02**

At first.

**Angela 00:03:03**

Yes.

**Victor 00:03:04**

But then I said I was going to see what happens. And yes, I got the first vaccine and I had a little fever later that afternoon. I took some medicine, the fever went away, and then I felt normal.

**Angela 00:03:19**

Okay.

**Victor 00:03:20**

Yeah.

**Angela 00:03:21**

Yes and what problems had you most worried about during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Victor 00:03:29**

Well some people didn't have jobs, and they suffered because of that. I believe a lot of people lost a lot, maybe houses, cars, they lost a lot.

**Angela 00:03:43**

Yes.

**Victor 00:03:44**

And that was worrying, because if we stayed here without a job, we didn't know what we were going to do.

**Angela 00:03:52**

Mhm. [nods head in agreement]

**Victor 00:03:53**

But okay, in our case, there was work the whole time. We have maintained our distance and we haven't gone out to parties. I have tried to work as much as possible. We tried bringing our lunches from home instead of going out, and now we only go out to eat every 15 days.

**Angela 00:04:13**

Mhm.

**Victor 00: 04:13**

Not very often. We always take precautions when we go out because we have two kids.

**Angela 00:04:22**

Mm, mhm.

**Victor 00:04:23**

And sometimes it was risky to bring them out of the house, and my kid is young, and he doesn't want to wear the mask.

**Angela 00:04:29**

Yeah.

**Victor 00:04:30**

So, yeah that worried me. [background voices]

**Angela 00:04:33**

Yeah. Now we are going to talk about your job. Ahm, has the corona virus affected your job and in what way? [background laughing]

**Victor 00:04:44**

It affected my job a little with the milk production, it didn't sell a lot.

**Angela 00:04:53**

Mhm. [nods head in agreement]

**Victor 00:04:54**

Yes there was a little loss maybe here and there, [chair squeak] but work kept on like always. The cows had to be milked everyday at certain times of day.

**Angela 00:05:09**

Yeah.

**Victor 00:05:10**

But our boss always paid us the same. He never lowered the salary. We kept making the same.

**Angela 00:05:19**

Mhm.

**Victor 00:05:20**

And now, I believe that we are recovering a little bit.

**Angela 00:05:24**

Mhh, okay. And what worries did you have about the effects from COVID-19 regarding your job, family's economic situation, community, or anything else in general [pronounces in English], more, gen, general [pronounces in Spanish]. I'm sorry. [both laughing]

**Victor 00:05:43**

Well, mmm, some people lost their job in part. They fired people, but in my case, I feel that everything was all good. It didn't affect me a lot.

**Angela 00:06:12**

Mhm. [nods head in agreement]

**Victor 00:06:13**

For some people, the pandemic affected some friends of mine, but for us, thanks to God, we were alright because of our jobs, we were working and still are.

**Angela 00:06:27**

Yes, okay. Now we are going to talk about your family and your home. Please tell me a little about your immediate family. Are you married, tired, or married? I'm sorry. [laughing]. Not tired, but married. I'm sorry. [share laughing]

**Victor 00:06:47**

No, we are together, but nothing more than my partner.

**Angela 00:06:53**

Yeah.

**Victor 00:06:54**

But we aren't married. We live together and we have a 6-, 12-year-old girl and a 5-year old boy.

**Angela 00:07:04**

Okay. That's great! And now, what influence has COVID-19 had on your family? In particular, in what way have your family's daily activities changed?

**Victor 00:07:18**

Well, in my family I think that it's pretty much the same. Everyone has worked or has been alright with being alone and not being able to freely go out and about. We have to be careful, so we don't come down with COVID-19.

**Angela 00:07:39**

Mhm. [nods head in agreement]

**Victor 00:07:39**

But everything has been good. Beyond myself, a couple of my distant aunts contracted COVID-19 and two of them lost their lives, but only because they were elderly and had the sickness. But, it was a little strong, I think that it was because they didn't put up with it and hold on.

**Angela 00:08:01**

Mhm. [nods head in agreement]

**Victor 00:08:02**

The COVID-19 strains.

**Angela 00:08:04**

Yeah. And what influence has COVID- oh wait, I already said that. [laughing] I'm sorry. What have been the greatest challenges that you or your family have faced during the COVID-19 outbreak?

**Victor 00:08:23**

Like I said, mmm just not being able to go out whenever. Having to, well, do that everywhere. A lot of people didn't take it very seriously and they would still have parties and because of that, I think that's why it still affected some people.

**Angela 00:08:46**

Yeah.

**Victor 00:08:46**

For not taking that necessary distance.

**Angela 00:08:49**

Mhm. [nods head in agreement]

**Victor 00:08:51**

In my family, just those two people passed away. The rest recovered, but when my cousins got it, they kept fighting against it and kept progressing. Now, everyone is good.

**Angela 00:09:13**

Yeah.

**Victor 00:09:13**

That happened in Mexico.

**Angela 00:09:17**

Oh..

**Victor 00:09:17**

Not here.

**Angela 00:09:18**

Mhm.

**Victor 00:09:18**

It was in Mexico.

**Angela 00:09:20**

Okay, we are going to talk about your community. Ah, in your community, have you seen opinions change or people alter their thoughts about the coronavirus since the first time that they found out about the pandemic? [background voices]

**Victor 00:09:38**

Okay, well some people took precautions, but some I believe did not and would go out without a mask. However, sometimes I forgot my mask and would go to a store, but I was scared to go inside. I just did what I needed to do and left, but some people, I think that a lot of people were only playing their part a little bit and that was discouraging. When we would hear about people throwing parties or something, we would say something to them like that they should really wait to have parties. I believe at some point once this (COVID-19 outbreak) has lessened a bit, that then they could have a party.

**Angela 00:10:27**

Okay and has COVID-19 changed the relationships you have with family, friends of your community?

**Victor 00:10:38**

On my end, a little, because we have distanced ourselves; we don't visit each other a lot. It has affected us in that aspect, but we talk on the phone and we try to visit them, but at the same time we are very careful if we go out and visit somewhere. But it's all good.

**Angela 00:11:03**

Okay, and we are going to talk about health. Has you or anyone you know gotten sick during the pandemic? And how has your experience been with the sickness?

**Victor 00:11:17**

Like I mentioned, two of my aunts passed away from COVID-19 and I was, we were scared because it's a small town. There was a rodeo happening, bullfighting, horseback riding, and that was where they got COVID-19. And so I talked with my Mom and told her that my aunts knew about the pandemic but they really didn't believe it. They said that COVID-19 was more or less invented. However when they got COVID-19, they saw death from COVID-19 and after that, they got worried and saw that it was real. So then I talked with my Mom and told her to bring my grandma to another place where no one could visit her because she is overweight and has high blood pressure and if she catches COVID-19, she won't survive. So my family members moved my grandma to a house where she was isolated with some cousins and she was there for a month until the pandemic got under control. Then, she went back home, but now everyone is alright.  
[background noise and background voices]

**Angela 00:12:46**

And why did you decide to get vaccinated?

**Victor 00:12:50**

Well, because I don't know if I'm going to get COVID-19 or not. I didn't know if I would have an intense or bad reaction. I didn't know whether it would affect me much or not, but now I have the vaccine and I am a little more protected. As soon as they told us that there would be the possibility to get vaccinated, I said yes I'm going. And we decided to come.

**Angela 00:13:23**

Okay, now I'm going to ask about information. So, what are the most important issues that the media may or may not cover, in your opinion? [indistinct background voices]

**Victor 00:13:41**

Well, I think that everything, there isn't a problem with anything.

**Angela 00:13:51**

Okay. Ah, now I am going to finish with one more question. Ahm, have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your way of thinking about your family, friends, and/or your community? In what way?

**Victor 00:14:11**

Well, it hasn't transformed my thinking in any way. Right now because we don't visit each other, my family, well, because we don't see each other, we can't have parties or birthday celebrations. We can't do much about that. But I think that my friends and stuff, I see them, but I don't see them frequently because I work and there are only a few days where I just call them on the phone, but for parties and stuff we haven't been together.

**Angela 00:14:52**

Okay, ahm, thank you for your participation. Is there anything else that you want to say?

**Victor 00:15:00**

Mm, well that everyone gets vaccinated if possible. I think that at first, if you're a little scared because you don't know what reaction you'll have, know that it will be okay. Maybe a fever will happen a little while after getting the vaccine, but you'll be okay. [share laughs]

**Angela 00:15:20**

Yes. Good, thank you so much.

**Victor 00:15:22**

Yes, thank you. [background voices]