

Interviewee: Mateo (pseudonym)

Interviewers: Claire Ganschow

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Transcription and translation by: Micaela Miralles Bianconi

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Abstract/Summary: In this first encounter the interviewee is getting the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and is asked personal questions about his thoughts and fears about the pandemic, how his life and those close to him have changed during this time, what he thinks about the government's response and the vaccination plan, and what his suggestions are for the future.

00:00:01 Claire

Well, is it okay if I record this interview?

00:00:04 Mateo

Yes.

00:00:05 Claire

Okay. Okay. Ah, my name is Claire and this is an interview from the project Voces del Campo/Rural Voices. Today's date is the, ahm, March 24, 2021. Today there are 29 million seven hundred and eight hundred and eight thousand three hundred and eighty-five confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the United States and 540 thousand five hundred and three deaths. There are also five hundred seventy-two thousand seven hundred sixty confirmed cases in the state of Wisconsin, and six thousand five hundred seventy-six deaths. Well, ahm, the first question is: When did you first learn about Covid-19? And, what were your thoughts about it and how have your thoughts changed since then?

00:01:02 Mateo

Mmm. Well at first I didn't believe it was true.

00:01:04 Claire

Yes

00:01:05 Mateo

But as time went by, I saw that people started dying.

00:01:12 Claire

Okey.

00:01:13 Mateo

And, especially the elderly and those who were in bad health condition. So, I was concerned because I didn't know what the outcome of the story was going to be.

00:01:26 Claire

Of course

00:01:27 Mateo

And, now that there is a vaccine available, I think this will improve little by little. I hope it won't happen again.

00:01:38 Claire

Yeah, yeah, sure. Ahm. And, what problems have concerned you the most during the Covid-19 pandemic?

00:01:48 Mateo

Mm. Well, the economy, because it got a little bit worse and so it's kind of worrying because some people are working and they still have their jobs, and others don't, and they have to pay the bills, the bills. [Background voices]

00:02:05 Claire

Yeah, it's hard when they don't have a job.

00:02:08 Mateo

Yeah.

00:02:09 Claire

Ahm. And, what do you do for work?

00:02:11 Mateo

Uh, I work on a ranch, with the cows. [Background sounds]

00:02:13 Claire

Ah. What concerns do you have about the effects of the coronavirus in terms of your employment and your family's economic situation, community, or even more generally?

00:02:26 Mateo

That there could be a shortage of jobs and the ranches will have to close. I am afraid that the situation could be very, very difficult for everyone, because we all depend on our jobs to support our families. It would be difficult if we can't work.

00:02:44 Claire

Yeah, it's hard for the, ahm, people, the ranch owners because if there's no people...

00:02:51 Mateo

Consumers.

00:02:54 Claire

Yeah, sure.

00:02:56 Mateo

If demand drops...

00:03:00 Claire

It's hard for everyone. Ahm. And what influence has Covid-19 had on your family? In particular, in what ways did your family's daily activities change? [Background conversation]

00:03:10 Mateo

Well, we have been spending more time at home, and it's a little bit difficult because it is boring, because we don't have anywhere to go, we cannot have fun or get entertained. [Background conversation]

00:03:28 Claire

Ahm and what have been the biggest challenges that you or your family have faced during the Covid-19 outbreak?

00:03:38 Mateo

Uh...At first it was, the stores because all the people let's just say went crazy.

00:03:46 Claire

Yeah. [Laughter]

00:03:48 Mateo

Because they started panicking and buying things. There was some scarcity and we had no groceries. So, it was very difficult.

00:03:59 Claire

Ehm. And now we have some questions about the community. Ah, how has the Covid-19 outbreak affected your community? For example your school, clubs, church, work.

00:04:14 Mateo

Well, uh, maybe, uh, there is no place to go anymore. Just those, the places aren't as crowded as they used to be anymore.

00:04:38 Claire

One is just, just at home. [Background voices] Ahm, have you seen people's opinions or ideas change in your community about the coronavirus since the first, since they first heard about the pandemic?

00:04:57 Mateo

Yes, they're a bit more afraid and they avoid going to crowded places.

00:05:05 Claire

Yes [clears voice] Well [paper rustling] Ahm, has Covid-19 changed your relationships with family, friends and the community?

00:05:17 Mateo

Yes, because nobody gets together anymore.

00:05:22 Claire

Yeah, right. [Laughter] Ahm, it's hard communicating in person, now it's just by phone or message, or social media. Has anyone you know been sick during the pandemic?

00:05:43 Mateo

Uh, yeah. I have acquaintances that have been sick.

00:05:46 Claire

What was your experience of the disease or people you know?

00:05:53 Mateo

Well, some people I know are older, so it hit them a little bit more, a little bit harder than the younger people. [Background voices]

00:06:02 Claire

Sure, yeah, yeah. It's different for everybody. Yeah, uh, I had Covid-19 in December and it was, not super bad, but it's, I was sick. Ahm. What were your main sources of news and information during the pandemic?

00:06:29 Mateo

Social media.

00:06:30 Claire

Like Facebook?

00:06:32 Mateo

Yes.

00:06:33 Claire

Okay. Okay. What about TV? Or not?

00:06:35 Mateo

No, we avoided watching the news so we don't panic.

00:06:40 Claire

Yeah, and is the news on social media from one source or multiple sources?

00:06:51 Mateo

From multiple sources, because everyone has their own story to tell about it and sometimes it gets confusing.

00:06:58 Claire

Sure, yeah, there's a lot of information, but different types of information. Some sources. Uh, okay. Do you have any thoughts on how local, state, or federal leaders are responding to the crisis?

00:07:19 Mateo

Yeah, they have been very supportive, I think. [Background voices]

00:07:25 Claire

Well, ahm, have your experiences during the pandemic transformed your thoughts about your family, friends, and/or your community?

00:07:34 Mateo

Yes, we need to be more careful about getting together and doing activities.

00:07:43 Claire

Yes. And, ahm, given what you know now, what do you think people, communities and governments should be mindful of for the future?

00:07:53 Mateo

They have to be prepared for something like this in the future. Because this time it was very, very sudden and they weren't ready.

00:08:01 Claire

Yeah. Ahm.

00:08:03 Mateo

It got a bit out of control.

00:08:05 Claire

Yes. There was a lot of confusion and misinformation. Confused. Oh, and one more question, why did you decide to get vaccinated?

00:08:18 Mateo

Because I see that everyone is being careful and I want to be part of that as well.

00:08:24 Claire

Well, and it's free.

00:08:26 Mateo

Yes [both laugh].

00:08:28 Claire

Do you have any more comments or something else to say? [Background voices]

00:08:32 Mateo

Well, that we should be careful, and try not to panic when something similar happens again.

00:08:43 Claire

Well, that's the end of it.