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Covid-19 Pandemic life in NM (2022)

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Isaac Reichsfeld

Interviewed by: Daniel Gavin

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University of New Mexico

Transcribed: Daniel Gavin

Keywords: Covid, family, social life, pandemic, mask mandate, masks, vaccine, boost/boosted, paranoid, clubs

Daniel: Hi my name is Daniel Gavin and I'm here to interview my friend Isaac (pause) Reichsfeld? And Today were going to be taking about pandemic life, so let's switch it on him.

Isaac: Hello, I'm Isaac.

Daniel: So how has pandemic life effected your social life?

Isaac: Well, I haven't been able to see like as many friends as I use to before. It has really affected my social life like at school, because since Covid I haven't been really able to go to school that much. So, I don't have as many classes in person as I did. So, I don't have like that many opportunities to meet other people. (pause).

Daniel: You talked about how in high school you had ROTC, and that was that was a main social club for you.

Isaac: Yes.

Daniel: Are you supplementing that in any way to meet people? Or has it just kind of been stagnant?

Isaac: I (pause), no I haven't. I was thinking about it and I probably should (1:00). I was thinking about joining some club or activity and then probably meet some people there. So far, right now since this is my first year, here at UNM I (pause). I'm just going a little slow, and then I'm just going to wait and see how it goes, and then later on I still have three more years, so I should be able to join something later (lowered voice).

Daniel: Well there's tons of stuff on campus. Have you looked at anything on campus to join, to meet people? Like, maybe some of the (small pause), I think they have a Harry Potter quidditch thing. They have all kinds of other things, different things, book clubs, have you looked at any of those? Or are you just (pause)?

Isaac: Yeah, I think so that could be interesting. Maybe I would like a sport, maybe a little more (small pause). I know something like basketball or something like that. Like It would be fun but it would be pretty challenging and a lot of working out. But yeah maybe. Maybe something like that. Some club.

Daniel: There's tons of (pause) MMA clubs, and whatever that you can join.

Isaac: That would be cool (2:00), that would be cool. I know the gym over here is really big so.

Daniel: Let's see, oh! How has pandemic life affected your parents' life or your interaction with your parents (small pause) and your family in general?

Isaac: Well (small pause to think), we use to go to the gym more, but because of the masks and the mask mandate it kinda sucks going the gym because you can't really breath to well. Like let's say you are running on the treadmill or something, (small pause). So, we haven't been able to do that a lot, we've done more like walking outside. But now they took off the mask mandate so now were probably thinking of going to a gym. Other than that, it hasn't really like changed a lot a lot. It's mainly just school.

Daniel: So, your parents like to go to the gym too? They like to do that?

Isaac: Yeah, yeah, yeah. (3:00) They like walking.

Daniel: They're very fit.

Isaac: Yeah.

Daniel: And what about your grandparents, or your extended family whose probably little bit older?

Isaac: Uhh (thinking response)

Daniel: How do you interact with them?

Isaac: I only have my grandma who lives here in Albuquerque. The rest of my family lives in Mexico or other parts of the US. She's (small pause), I think she's doing fine. I don't think it has affected a lot of her work, I think she's doing a lot of Zoom meetings instead. Like Before it used to be in person, so like she would have to go to like a court and then do some translating. And I think now she just does them on Zoom calls, and then she translates through that. Yeah.

Daniel: I just want to add, you didn't say it but, right now we still have the mask mandate on campus.

Isaac: On campus yes.

Daniel: What do you think about that? Do you think we should get rid of the mask mandate on campus? Because there's no mask mandate anywhere else as far as (small pause), today's date is March 3rd 2022, and there's no mask mandate in New Mexico. So, do you think we should get rid of the mask mandate (4:00) on campus or what do you think?

Isaac: Well, I personally think we should, just because I don't really like it a lot you gotta be wearing it all the time. It's just, the longer you wear it, the more annoying it becomes.

Daniel: Yeah.

Isaac: But I understand like its like, here at UNM we got a lot of students, they're all in rooms together, classrooms, I understand they're trying to prevent Covid. But since the mask mandate, most of the country is not using masks, so I personally think we should get rid of it.

Daniel: Yeah, did you or anyone in your family get Covid? And how did they react? Or what happened if they did?

Isaac: I think probably I wasn't sure like 100 percent sure if it was Covid, like we did get those little (small pause) little vaccination tests, those little thingies, the Covid tests.

Daniel: Quick tests? (interrupting)

Isaac: Yeah, you can do it at your home. So (5:00) we tried it, my dad took one, my sister took another one, I didn't do one because I wasn't really feeling sick, but both of them showed negative. So- (small pause)

Daniel: But no one in your family got Covid, or anyone that you know? (interrupting)

Isaac: Well, they think they might have gotten Covid, because they felt some of the symptoms, they felt kinda sick and (small pause). Like none of us had that thing where you can't taste, I didn't get that symptom at all. But I did get some other symptoms of Covid, so I think I might have gotten it, and it's not very fun.

Daniel: Yeah.

Isaac: Yeah.

Daniel: No, it's not (laughs). Let's see, Covid (long pause). Anything else you wanna add?

Isaac: ...(small pause). I don't know, I think this whole Covid thing is probably gonna like, it's still gonna last quite a bit longer. But I think, I'm hoping some day things go like back to normal (6:00).

Daniel: Yeah.

Isaac: In some way, ya know (shrugs shoulders).

Daniel: Yeah, how do you think that will look?

Isaac: Well right now, I've been like to Smiths or Walmart, and like I'd say about half of the people are not wearing their mask, and the half are wearing their mask. So, I think eventually at some point when people get enough "boost" so they feel confident enough not to wear their mask. I still see people who are driving, and inside the car they are by themselves and they are wearing the mask. So, I don't really know how that works, I think those people might be a little paranoid. But, I'm hoping that, like here on campus I would say like most I don't know probably like 80, 70 to 80 percent of people are wearing masks even outside. Which is surprising since you don't need to wear it outside. But I don't know someday that's probably just gonna change a little bit, I mean it's good it's probably preventing people from getting sick, not just Covid but other things (7:00) as well.

Daniel: Yeah, they're preventing the spread, but they are also, maybe they are giving into their fear a little bit too much, you think?

Isaac: Yeah.

Daniel: Cause Even though it is deadly. For most people it's not as deadly, and as long as we treat it, and getting vaccinated and all that helps.

Isaac: Yeah, I agree. I probably wasn't gonna get the vaccine, but since it's mandatory at UNM I had to.

I had to get the vaccine and the boost. Yeah.

Daniel: Yeah. Okay, anything else to add? Final thoughts?

Isaac: (shrugs hands and shakes head no) I don't think so (in low voice).

Daniel: Alright, live life and don't be too scared of Covid.

Isaac: (puts thumb up)

Daniel: Take care guys. [End 7:38]

100 word write up

This was the first time I ever conducted an oral interview. I enjoyed it a lot, but also despised transcribing it. Ultimately it was a good experience that revealed a lot about myself. I realized how often I interject my words and opinions while others are talking. Most of the time I am agreeing and nodding my head, but sometimes I interrupt the interviewee. This is something I need to work on. This project really exposed some of my flaws, but hopefully I can learn to overcome these things. I may do this sort of interview again; to record some of my family history. Either way if I ever do this type of history work, I am not transcribing it.