

The following questions have been compiled as a primer to topics to cover during oral histories recorded during the Global Z Oral History project. Recordings will be self-guided, with no interviewer present. Feel free to use these questions as a guide to collecting your thoughts and answer any, all, or none of them as part of your oral history recording.

General Questions

- Where do you live? (Note: no need to include specific addresses)
- What were your circumstances prior to the Covid outbreak? Occupation? Circumstances with children, family, loved ones?
- When was the first time you learned about the coronavirus known as COVID-19? What do you remember about that first time?
- When you first started hearing about COVID-19, what were your feelings (worried, unconcerned, etc)? Did that initial impression change as time passed – if so, what triggered the change? How has living through this experience made you feel?
- Did you have to quarantine or social isolate at any point? If so, what did you prioritize in your preparations? Did you have trouble tracking down any important household items?
- How did covid-19 affect your Spring 2020? The rest of the year?
- What are the major or most significant impacts on your day-to-day life, and why? Have the major impacts changed?
- Did you ever think you would experience something that would impact society on a global scale, the way COVID-19 has?

Employment

- Did you continue working during the lockdown? What is your job? How was it affected during the lockdown? Were you able to work from home?
- If a student, how has your coursework or class structure changed during this pandemic?
- Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the employment of people you know? In what ways?

Family and Household

- How has COVID-19 affected you and/or your family's day-to-day activities?
- How did you explain the situation to your children?
- What have been the biggest challenges that you have faced during the COVID-19 outbreak?
- What have you, your family, and friends done for recreation during COVID-19 (feel free to include details about shows, games, books, etc.)?

Community

- How has the COVID-19 outbreak affected your community (Remember, you may be part of many communities including school, club, church, job, etc. You are welcome to speak about all of these communities)?
- Have you seen the people around you change their opinions, day-to-day activities, or relationships in response to the pandemic?

- “Self isolation” and “flattening the curve” have been two key ideas that have emerged during the pandemic. How have you, your family, friends, and community responded to requests to “self isolate” and “flatten the curve”?
- Did you have important events and/or milestones in your life put on hold, canceled, or otherwise left unmarked due to social distancing? How have you marked these events or milestones in the meantime?
- Has COVID-19 changed your relationships with family, friends, and community? In what ways?

Health

- Have you or anybody you know gotten sick during the COVID-19 outbreak? (Do not use names.) What has been your experience in responding to the sickness?
- Have you been vaccinated? What was that experience like and how does it feel to be vaccinated?
- In what ways do you think that COVID-19 is affecting people’s mental and/or physical health?

Media

- What have been your primary sources of news during the pandemic?
- Have your news sources changed during the course of the pandemic?
- What do you think are important issues that the media is or is not covering?

Government

- How have government officials in your community responded to the outbreak?
- Do you have any thoughts on how local, state, or federal leaders could have responded to the crisis differently?

The Future

- What do you think you will remember most about this time?
- Has your experience transformed how you think about your family, friends, and community? In what ways?
- Has your perspective on life changed because of the pandemic? In what ways?
- Knowing what you know now, what do you think that individuals, communities, or governments need to keep in mind for the future?
- 100 years from now, what would you tell someone who wanted to know what it was like to live through the Covid-19 outbreak in the United States? What about globally?

Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven’t covered, or would you like to revisit any topics we discussed?