

Oral History Questions for Maricruz Ramirez  
Interviewer: Jessica Castro

Jessica: My name is Jessica Castro. Today's date is March 8th 2021. Today we will discuss the experiences of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today we are here in San Antonio, Texas and I am interviewing Maricruz Ramirez. Hi, how are you?

Maricruz: Hi, I am good. How are you?

Jessica: Good, um... when were you born?

Maricruz: I was born in June 17th 2002.

Jessica: And where are you originally from?

Maricruz: I am from San Antonio, Texas.

Jessica: What was that?

Maricruz: San Antonio, Texas

Jessica: What is or was your occupation?

Maricruz: I am currently a student in Texas A&M University at College Station.

Jessica: When and how did you hear about the first virus?

Maricruz: I heard it when I was in high school my senior year and it was spring break. Um... I heard about it because the school mentioned it and they extended our spring break for about like two weeks and um... at first we had to like, obviously, wear our masks and like um... stay at home. Um... just kind of like prepare out of nowhere and it was all of a sudden which was, not a lot of people were prepared. They went to the stores and like panicked and it was a lot, but we're here now. And we kind of manage it like we already know what we are doing, but we still are trying to um... take care of each other and ourselves.

Jessica: Yea like you mean like we kind of got used to it?

Maricruz: Yes.

Jessica: Over the past year.

Maricruz: In a way, yes.

Jessica: Um... can you explain how the virus affected you, your family, or your friends?

Maricruz: So, it affected me personally because quarantine, at first, was very difficult. I kind of went into a cycle and like a... a routine which was not really healthy because I guess my mental health really was influenced by it. Um... also like the transition from high school to college was, during the pandemic, was a lot of like your information and just the transition to online classes was difficult. And I was also able to like I guess be in touch with my family but it was not... it was just like my close family members. I couldn't go out and travel to um... visit my other family members out of the city. And my friends, I guess we didn't have enough... like we don't

have um... we couldn't go out and like do a lot of stuff. Especially like when it first started, like our spring break, we couldn't enjoy it, but yea.

Jessica: Um... \*sigh\* Can you explain how COVID-19 affected your daily or weekly routine?

Maricruz: I already mentioned this um... it was just like a cycle and it wasn't... it was just getting boring or it was just not enthusiastic as much because we couldn't go out, um... but overall I think that it was just a depressing state, I guess... but

Jessica: Did you spend time with your family a lot during that time?

Maricruz: Yes and my family can be toxic at times so that's maybe why um... but I guess I was able to learn from it and I guess get to know myself a little bit more as well.

Jessica: Did you do your own shopping?

Maricruz: I did a lot of online shopping since we could not go out so I guess that. But In terms of like family shopping and groceries um... it was... we had to just stock up and one family member could only go. But overall, I think um...our shopping did reduce since we couldn't go out a lot and shop at the mall or like different stores. But it was...we could still do online shopping which wasn't bad.

Jessica: Has... Do you know anyone who has been affected with the virus?

Maricruz: I do know somebody, but I am not closely related to them. Um... but they just told me their experience and how they had to quarantine here in college. Um... it was difficult for them so that why I am trying to protect myself and others around me because I do not want to experience that.

Jessica: How has adapting to the virus affected your school work responsibilities?

Maricruz: Honestly being in college during the pandemic I did not know it was going to be like this... like my first year. Because I usually see in movies or other stuff like oh you can go out with your friends all the time, but still like study and do your homework. And I still kind of do that, but I just stay within my own little group of friends so that... it... um... so that like I don't ... um... like expose people and expose myself as well. But in terms of school work, I am not too concerned about it being online, I've been focused better online, but I still want to experience that in person. Experience like, I do have two classes in person, but it's not the same. We still have to be six feet apart um... its really difficult to communicate closely with others, but I mean we are... we are doing the best we can.

Jessica: Okay, when you were hit with the February's winter storm did you think about the virus?

Maricruz: In terms of being at home, no because we were obviously stuck at home. Like me and my roommates would stay here. We would not go out um... so we didn't really wear our masks because were always around each other, but when we did go out and wanted to see the snow, um... we obviously did wear our masks. We were um... also six feet apart from people um... but yea.

Jessica: Okay, what would you like to tell future generations about the pandemic?

Maricruz: I think I would tell them it was a really unexpected turn like nobody was prepared. It took a toll on all of us academically, socially, economically, and it was just a... a great experience... not a great experience, but like its cool seeing what other people in the... like back then experienced with the plague or whatever or the flu, um... but it's still was not a great experience. We are learning from it, but it is not easy.

Jessica: True! Okay bye!

Maricruz: Bye! Thank you!