

HIST 1302:605  
Alex Deluna  
Oral History Interview

Alex: Alright my name is Alex Deluna, today is March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. Today we will be discussing the experiences of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today we are in Seguin, Texas and I am interviewing...

Rebeca: Rebeca Salas

Alex: Okay Rebeca, uh, do I have your permission to record this oral history?

Rebeca: Yes, you do.

Alex: Okay, um, I already had you sign the deed and release form, uh just informing you that this is protocol for tramusa, TAMUSA, for transparency, and so we can begin. So, when were you born?

Rebeca: So, I was born on November 21<sup>st</sup> 1997.

Alex: And where are you from?

Rebeca: I'm originally from California but I moved here to Texas with my husband.

Alex: Okay, uh, what was what is or what was your occupation.

Rebeca: So, my current occupation is a sales associate at Bath and Body Works.

Alex: okay, and when and how did you first hear about the virus? Can you explain.

Rebeca: So the very, yes so the very first time I heard about the virus was around December of 2019, um, people were just talking about it briefly um but I felt like it wasn't affecting our country directly. I would see that it was in other countries, but I never thought that it would really affect the US as much as it has. And the one time where I felt like it really impacted us was um, for me because I was an intern at mental health systems in California, when I was doing my last semester as a senior. I was interning, and I remember my supervisor calling me and telling me not to go in the next day um just because of covid and the cases have gotten really bad it didn't allow for personal interaction just because of the level of contagiousness was really high.

Alex: Can you explain how the coronavirus has affected you and your family or friends? What has changed?

Rebeca: Yeah, so I feel like the, because of the covid 19 virus it really did change my interaction with family and friends just because with the whole covid 19 virus you can't really interact with people as much as you used to or have any social gatherings just because you have to be precautious of your health and other people's health. Um, and just because the virus is so aggressive and it's been deadly and it's been shown that its killing a lot of people around the world, and so for that you really have to be precautious in putting your own health first and as well as loved ones and friends and family members. And it also changed because um, I'm from California and over there in California when I was there, there would uh be police officers giving out tickets for um social gatherings uh with friends or family so if you were in a large group uh or a large gathering you would be cited, and we would try to avoid that just because didn't want to be cited and covid 19 also um brought up a lot of hardships for a lot of people.

Alex: Can you explain how Covid 19 has affected your daily or weekly routine like going shopping for groceries and spending time with family?

Rebeca: Yes so I feel like covid 19 actually did affect me um when it came to grocery shopping and spending time with family, just because when the covid pandemic hit a lot of people um, they went crazy especially in the grocery stores. There was a shortage on a lot of items, uh toilet paper, I remember toilet paper was a big thing where it went um short, also the, a lot of produce and meats, that was short too, so it was kind of hard to get the essentials that you needed when the pandemic hit. And uh it also changed the way people shop, you had to be really precautious, and you also had to be cautious when you come home and you have to disinfect all your groceries and you know, clean everything before you put it away, or before you eat it. That's something you always have to remember to do, and you always have to you know, disinfect yourself after the store and wash your hands real good. And um for the COVID -19 how that affected me with my family, spending time with my family, was um I would spend more time actually with my immediate family um but less time with my extended family just because of the virus and that would kind of affect um our dynamic of you known, hanging out with our families and having barbeques and, all that stuff.

Alex: Okay uh, due to the pandemic, are you able to work from home? Why or why not?

Rebeca: So, due to the pandemic I know there are some jobs that do allow people to work from home, but in my situation with my current job as a sales associate at Bath and Body Works, I am not able to work from home. So, I always have to go in, in-person for my shift and interact with other customers and um people who may potentially carry the virus, and that's something that you always have to, you know, always have to be vigilant of and precautious of.

Alex: Do you know anyone who has been infected with the virus?

Rebeca: Yeah so, my grandma, well both of my grandmothers, they were actually infected with Coronavirus. And my grandmother on my father's side of the family, she was infected with Coronaviurs as uh along with my aunt on my dad's side of the family and I for that, I I got worried just because my grandma is elderly and I heard that the Covid 19 virus uh affects the

elders more and its uh a bit more aggressive with them. So I did, I was worried and scared um just because her symptoms where she was having uh leg pain and muscle pain she couldn't really walk and her breathing, that was something, definitely her breathing was affected. And with my grandmother on my um mother's side of the family, um I was scared for that one too just because um shes also elderly but um and right now shes living in Mexico so over there I feel like, the cases are more aggressive um maybe because um the medical care is not as effective as it is here in the US its very different I feel like its harder to get medical attention over there so I was definitely worried for for her um shh for her she was actually put onto a ventilator and that made me and my mom worry a lot, and um my grandpa which is her husband actually got it too and they had it together um so that was, that was kinda scary and um a stressful momment

(Both Alex and Rebeca speaking at the same time)

Alex: Okay uh how

Rebeca: Um, but now shes better

Alex: Okay, how has adapting to the virus affected your work slash school responsibilities?

Rebeca: So I feel like adapting to the virus made me realize that I am more flexible or I can be flexible, now everything is through technology like with classes and everything there's zoom meetings um and everything has just become over technology.

Alex: Okay

Rebeca: And what was the other what was the other part of your question? I'm sorry I didn't catch that.

Alex: How has adapting to your, the virus affected your work slash school responsibilities.

Rebeca: So I feel like um, its affected my responsibilities with work and school uh just because everything is online now um and with school it um its online so for me I have to like work at my own pace and learning, at first I thought it was going to be harder uh online but I became adapted to learning online and you know, learning at my own pace and having my professors be very supportive through learning online and with work for me I would say I have to go in person for work so I feel like there's no change there for me.

Alex: Okay uh since you are in Texan, Texas, were affected at all by the winter storm that just recently happened? And when were you hit with the, the um, wh-when you were hit with the winter storm, did you think about the virus? Why or why not?

Rebeca: So um, being in Seguin, we were affected by the winter storm but um not as affected as other people were, we still had power and water um thankfully, thank god, um but um, when the winter storm hit it did bring me back to when covid started just because of the freeze um and the roads were really icy and slippery, you know the food trucks weren't able to travel um

to get uh the food that was needed to the grocery stores, so there was a shortage on food so that's something that you know made me think of the start of COVID 19.

Alex: Okay and uh so finally before we wrap this up uh, what would you like to tell future generations about the pandemic?

Rebeca: So something I'd like to uh share with future generations about the pandemic is um to be careful because even though that you think you are young and healthy, you know, it can still affect you, um and a pandemic is just a way for people to grow adapt to their future environment.

Alex: Okay Rebeca well, thank you for your time and sharing your experiences, we greatly appreciate it.

Rebeca: Oh yeah thank you, you're welcome.

Alex: Thank you.