

COVID-19 Oral History Transcript

Angelita Andrade: My name is Angelita Andrade. Today's date is March 10, 2021. Today we will discuss the experiences of people during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Today we are in San Antonio, Texas and I am interviewing

Jo Ann: Jo Ann Andrade

Angelita Andrade: When were you born?

Jo Ann: December 30th.

Angelita Andrade: Where are you from?

Jo Ann: San Antonio, Texas.

Angelita Andrade: What is your occupation?

Jo Ann: I'm an operations supervisor at the Social Security Office.

Angelita Andrade: When and How did you first hear about the virus? Can you explain your experience?

Jo Ann: I recall hearing about the virus last year. Um, during spring break.

Angelita Andrade: Can you explain your experience?

Jo Ann: We were working, and we were told suddenly that we needed to shut everything down and start working from home and have emergency meetings with our employees. So, at first it was a little hectic because we didn't know exactly what was going on.

Angelita Andrade: Can you explain how the coronavirus affect you and your family or friends? What has changed?

Jo Ann: It affected us in a sense that we don't get to see our entire family. We're one family, one huge family that visits often every weekend. And so, it changed to where we can only see our immediate family which is just a family of four.

Angelita Andrade: Can you explain how COVID-19 affected your daily or weekly routine? Like shopping for groceries?

Jo Ann: We, well for example, our groceries we do curbside shopping. When we get home with our groceries, we wipe everything down with a Clorox wipe. And that has continued to this day which has been about a year. We don't go out to restaurants and we don't gather with family or friends.

Angelita Andrade: Due to the pandemic, are you able to work from home? Why or why not?

Jo Ann: Yes, I am able to work from home. We handle all business by telephone.

Angelita Andrade: Do you know anyone that has been affected with the virus?

Jo Ann: I know a few family members and friends that have been affected.

Angelita Andrade: How has adapting to the virus affected your work?

Jo Ann: As far as working, I think my relationship with my employees has suffered because we don't have that one-on-one relationship. We don't get to talk as often and are doing more work because some of management do have to go into the office and I cannot go into the office, due to me being high risk. So, they take on more responsibility in the office.

Angelita Andrade: When you were hit with the February's winter storm, did you think about the virus at all? Why or why not?

Jo Ann: I did think about the virus. Especially, individuals who were displaced that had to meet other family members and maintain their social distance. So, I did wonder whether there were more infections going on. I did have a friend who was at home by herself and I did invite her to come to town. But because of covid she stayed home with no water and no electricity.

Angelita Andrade: What would you like to tell future generations about the pandemic?

Jo Ann: What I would like to say is, it was a rough year and it's still rough. We lost hundreds and thousands of lives because of the pandemic. Fortunately, I didn't lose any close family members or friends. But do take things seriously if these things come about. Listen to science and do take care of yourselves.

Angelita Andrade: Thank you for your time Ms.Andrade.

Jo Ann: You're welcome.