

Diego: Hello my name is Diego Perez and today's date is March 10th 2021 and we're going to be doing an oral history over my friends experience with COVID-19. So Michael can you please state your name where you're from and when you were born, and your occupation please.

Myckael: Hello my name is Myckael Perez I was born here in San Antonio TX on October 24th 2001 and I work at a retail store called Zumiez at South Park mall.

Diego: Ok so how has your experience with the virus been?

Myckael: It was actually quite interesting I thought I would get a lot more like worse symptoms like we've had many other people you know pass away from such a virus and with me I was a little scared at first because when I got it, it really was kind of unavoidable I mean I work at a retail store at a mall you know but on when I got it it just kind of hit me one day like during night time around maybe like 10:00 o'clock at night and out of nowhere I'm lying in my bed and I felt really heavy chills like to the point where I was cold so I was like Oh my God its super cold so I mean I can't change the central area parents would be like "Dude why is it so hot" so I decided to wear multiple layers when I go to sleep so I'd wear a long sleeve and a hoodie and then I would put my blanket on and the crazy thing is that I didn't sweat I was just really cold an another thing that was kind of annoying in a way was that I lost my sense of taste. I remember the first meal I was that I was made was spaghetti, simple spaghetti and it just felt to me that I think it had no taste you know and I couldn't so the first couple of days when I had it I couldn't eat I had to force myself to eat because I mean if you can't taste anything then why eat it, you know? it just felt like it just felt gross you know what I mean so at that point and it sucked in my mind I was like I don't want to eat this I can't taste anything and in a way kind of made me stick because I was like what am I eating really. Another thing is my smell I couldn't smell which was probably one of the common symptoms is not tasting or not eating and I couldn't smell either so I mean that really bother me too much but the fact when it came to eating I was like I can't eat at all and when it came to like sugary drinks like sweet tea I just could not taste the sugar and just felt like I was drinking unsweet tea and I don't want to be like "let me add more sugar" or anything, I just cut down to water really and that was kind of like my diet during Covid it was like I would eat a lot of bread crackers a lot of fruits and then water

Diego: Dang so how long did like the effects last or how long were you quarantined?

Myckael: Man, I was actually quarantined for an entire month you know. There's this this quick little test you can do for free its called Curative and I would always double mask up my sister will take me take me and she would double mask up too. Every single result I got it was just positive-positive-positive-positive and with that it was it was kind of bringing not only my emotions down, but it was also like unmotivating me I was like I'm not getting paid I don't I don't get like paid time off. I'm struggling financially and the fact that I'm stuck in my room I have nothing to do other than that because I also like broke my PS4 controller anything to do so I was just lay in bed I would write a lot yeah it was - it sucked you know it was off work for about an entire month I didn't get paid and then when I got back to work I was like "Oh my God I got to pay my phone I got to beat this" like I had like 2 late fees on my phone so I had to pay like pretty much double for that, it was awful.

Diego: Dang that's insane, so a whole month like that?

Myckael: An entire month dude. I had nothing to do I was stuck in my room, I was scared to even leave my room 'cause I don't want to get my dad sick like I had to be really cautious of things you know what I mean? Like for example like I sneeze now I have to sanitize my arm you know what I mean like I have to sanitize pretty much everything I touch because even though I thought to myself like yeah its going to go away its going to resolve soon but everything I touched my room is pretty much contaminated so I have to clean this room you know what I mean I have to clean everything I touch it you know I sprayed like all this sanitizing stuff on my bed and spread it all over my room I wiped everything down yeah it was just it was a crazy crazy process but when it came to the symptoms it wasn't really like horrible symptoms It was actually I guess you could say less than mild symptoms, all I had was chills and I did have a headache in a way but I took some vitamins but everyone doesn't work as fast as capsules and pills and all that and Jesus Christ the taste was awful but I had to drink it after that it calmed the symptoms down and it was at this point where I think 2 weeks after I didn't feel any more symptoms like I still completely fine I feel like I'm pretty much do a backflip or something you know I could run an entire mile but then again when I went to get tested I was still positive you know so I got it and that's what actually maybe more like a little bit more sad was the fact that I feel fine I feel like I work, I can skate, I can go out but I kept testing positive and that's just the big no you know what I mean yeah it was just horrible like it really really – the symptoms weren't horrible, like I'm a very talkative person I like seeing people I like doing things and doing the complete opposite it's just a game changer, you have to fix your mentality and be like "I have to be in this room for at least 20 days plus" you know what I mean I was googling I was doing a lot of research that was OK what is that what is the fastest way to like get over it size just like to wait it out two weeks or more and I was like OK "what is the fastest way to get over [covid]" and it kept saying just wait it out two weeks or more it was just it was just awful, but then again when I got back to work I've actually had I think one of like my store managers actually lend me a couple of like a couple of bucks because we was like here man I understand that you're a second assistant you didn't get paid time off especially when working at a mall so my manager's like here's 50 bucks to start you off so I was like cool thank you very much and they helped me with a little bit of things like groceries and stuff but yeah it was awful.

Diego: So how do you think you've adapted to the coronavirus, like how's it changed your lifestyle or how you work and everything?

Myckael: I notice that word when I'm like you know doing shipment updating shoes up going up and down a ladder you know storage or it get's packed I tend to lose like a breath pretty fast like I tend to be out of breath pretty fast and there's times where I'm eating and I'm taking deep breaths and its hard to catch my breath sometimes.

Diego: Wow, that sucks!

Myckael: Yeah but then again as time goes by I notice it happens less and less like at the beginning I had to take breaks but now my body's getting used it it.

Diego: So it's not as bad now as when you first had it?

Myckael: Oh no, like now I don't need any medication or anything, like at first I was like am I going to need a ventilator or something? But I feel like I'm getting more on track with things.

Diego: Nice that's good, so I have another question I wanted to ask, with corona guideline that make people wear masks, do you think that theft has increased because the masks are hiding their identities?

Myckael: Really no because when it comes to you know working at such a store for so long I know the blind spots I know everything you know? I know that store inside and out so when it comes to people wearing masks it makes no difference to me because I can see their eyes, their outfits, the things they're who they are you know? When it comes to like theft and all that I mean we still have it you know yeah it's a really common thing even before covid we still had people stealing and all that, if anything I've seen it less which is really crazy because I thought I'd see a lot more also, we have a lot less people come into the store because of social distancing.

Diego: Wow so the opposite?

Myckael: Yeah, yeah its weird.

Diego: So to close this interview up, what would you tell future generations about covid?

Myckael: I just want to say like as every scientist and health specialist says, just follow regulations stay 6 feet apart, wear masks, sanitizing yourself. I always carry a hand sanitizer now a little clip on one now to stay safe and even at work I ask people if they want sanitizer.

Diego: Yeah, even after this pandemic I feel like people are going to keep these safety habits

Myckael: Yeah, if another pandemic does come, you'll be ready you know? Getting vaccinated, double masking and all that. Especially older people and with health conditions. But we've had all types of age groups pass away from such a virus but you have to be ready, you always have to be ready for something like this like covid cam out of nowhere. The numbers are crazy and we have to make sure everyone's vaccinated and everything to get over this. Just be prepared for something like this. I'm just glad none of my other family members got it and glad I'm still walking on God's Green Earth having a blast and I recovered fully but at the same time you always have to be ready.

Diego: Alright, have anything else you want to add?

Myckael: Just to be safe everybody, sanitize, mask up. Even when us – you, me, and Jay, we always sanitize and mask up when we go skate, all the time. So just want to add everyone be safe and sanitize.

Diego: Alright well that's the end of the interview, my name is Diego Perez, can you say your name Myckael?

Myckael: This has been Myckael Perez, and no we're not related, we're just really good friends!

Diego: Thank you Myckael I appreciate it!

Myckael: No problem man, any time dude!