

# Interview Questions

The questions below are prompts to help you complete your own oral or written history. You can answer all of them or some of them. And, you can add your own questions. You do not have to complete questions in the order listed below. They are a guide to assist you.

## Background Questions

- What is the current date and time?
- What is your name, and what are the primary things you do on a day-to-day basis (for example, your job, your extracurricular activities/hobbies, etc.)?
- Where do you live, and what is it like to live there?

## Outbreak

- When was the first time you learned about the coronavirus known as COVID-19? What do you remember about that first time?
- How did family and friends react to the unfolding news?
- Are there any particular sources you used to find out information at this time?
- What decisions have you had to make (if any) to protect yourself and your family? When did you make these decisions?
- Did you have to quarantine or social isolate at any point? If so, what did you prioritise in your preparations?
- Did you have trouble tracking down any important household items?

## Concerns

- How have your thoughts changed since first hearing about the pandemic?
- What issues have most concerned you about the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What are the main issues of concerns for other members of your family/friends?

## Employment

- What is your job or profession? If you are a student, what are you currently studying right now?
- Has COVID-19 affected your job? In what ways?
- If you are currently a student, how has your coursework or class structure changed during this pandemic?
- If working/studying from home: What is it like working and/or studying from home?
- What concerns do you have about the effects of COVID-19 on your employment and the economy more broadly?
- Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the employment of people you know? In what ways?

## Personal

- Have you had important events put on hold, changed or cancelled?
- Have you marked any big events or occasions during this time?
- How are you passing your free time at home during the pandemic?
- Are you pursuing your hobbies or have you picked up any new ones?
- How are you staying in contact with friends and loved ones if you cannot get together face-to-face?
- Have you come across any funny or sad stories?
- What new terms or phrases have you come across since the outbreak?
- For some people, the outbreak has prompted them to look at other events such as the Spanish Flu, polio or TB outbreaks. Have you any family stories related to such events? If so, can you share them?

## Family and Household

- How has COVID-19 affected you and/or your family's day-to-day activities?
- What are you missing most now that COVID-19 has affected daily life and routines?
- How are you managing day-to-day activities in your household?
- Has the COVID-19 outbreak affected how you associate and communicate with friends and family? In what ways?
- 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)?
- How are people around you responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- 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”?
- Has COVID-19 changed your relationships with family, friends, and community? In what ways?
- Can you describe any events you have witnessed or heard of that capture your community’s response to the virus (example: community activism, organised activities such as bingo, gym classes)?

### Health

- Have you or anybody you know gotten sick during the COVID-19 outbreak? What has been your experience in responding to the sickness?
- In what ways do you think that COVID-19 is affecting people’s mental and/or physical health?

### Information

- 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 may or may not be covering?

### Government

- How have leaders and government officials in your community responded to the outbreak?
- Do you have any thoughts on how other jurisdictions are responding to the crisis differently?

### The Future

- Has your experience transformed how you think about your family, friends, and community? 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?
- What do you think is important for people to remember about this moment in global and Irish history?
- If you were asked to pick one object or artefact (apart from obvious ones such as masks or hand sanitisers) to represent life during COVID, what would it be?
- Do you have any final thoughts?