

Students: Documenting Your Experience during the Coronavirus Outbreak

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to record and preserve the personal experiences of DePaul University students during the coronavirus outbreak. While official University responses to this unprecedented event will be recorded and preserved in the University Archives through administrative records transfers, there are no such provisions in place to ensure the inclusion of our students' experiences and reactions in the permanent archives. You can help with that by participating in this project.

Directions: The method that you use to record your thoughts during this time period is up to you. Some suggestions include writing a journal of your thoughts and experiences, recording voice memos to make an audio oral history, saving your social media posts, or taking photos and/or videos of life as you see it. We are interested in stories about the shift to remote learning, being displaced from student housing, off-campus jobs (in retail, the service industry, grocery stores, etc.), the ways you and your friends are staying in touch during this period of social distancing and self-quarantine, the challenges of international students or those with families abroad, and so on.

Prompt Questions:

- Did you move off campus suddenly due to COVID-19? What was that experience like, what kind of help did you have? Do you still have personal belongings on campus?
- How are your online classes going? What kinds of messages have you received from professors? How are other students handling the changes? How are you handling it?
- Are you involved in student organizations, sports or clubs? How has COVID-19 and campus response affected those?
- What is happening in your daily life at home? How are your parents/friends/partners/etc. doing?
- Do/did you have a job on or off campus? What kind of work did you do, and how has that been affected by COVID-19, lock-downs, and quarantine?
- Are you or anyone you know sick? What have the symptoms been? The response from medical personnel and availability of COVID-19 testing?
- Have you participated in any volunteering or community work - delivering groceries to vulnerable families, donating blood, etc.?
- What role has technology played during the pandemic - as a method of sharing information, as a method of communicating, or as a method of entertainment?
- What are your impressions of the media coverage surrounding the virus and pandemic, both before it arrived in the United States and your state/city, as well as after?

Guidelines:

- The University Archives can handle just about any format you create, but if you're uncertain about something in particular and need technical assistance please reach out to brittan.nannenga@depaul.edu.
- Please use this [Submission form](#) to submit your items. It will allow for you to sign a virtual deed of gift and provides important information about the copyright and use of your content.
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis, it is likely that your submissions might include the personal health information of yourself or others. This information is legally protected by the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\)](#). At the time of submission you will be asked to agree to a Personal Health Information Agreement. It's important to note that you must agree not to include personally identifiable health information about another person or persons, or information that could allow a third party to identify other people. This might include members of your family, neighbors, etc.
- If you interview other people in the course of your documentation, we will also need their permission so that we can preserve and share the recordings with future researchers. Please have any colleagues, friends, family members, or community members fill out the [Submission form](#) if you wish to record with them. **If we do not receive completed forms from you and all other participants, we cannot preserve the materials.** NOTE: Only you will need to attach the files to the form, co-creators can simply fill in their personal information along with a description of the materials and agree to the submission terms.
- Events are changing by the day, and we encourage you to regularly record your thoughts during this time period. You may choose to compile the materials you create and submit them together in one batch. You may also complete the [Submission form](#) more than once and submit materials periodically throughout the project.
- Please be aware of any "stay at home" orders and social distancing best practices while self-documenting and stay at least 6 feet away from any people you wish to interview, wash your hands frequently with soap and water, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow, and stay home if you feel sick ([as recommended by the CDC](#)).
- We know that the pandemic has affected our community emotionally, physically, spiritually, mentally, and financially. Please visit [DePaul's COVID-19 Resources page](#) for methods on finding health and wellness support.