

**Life in the age of the Coronavirus.
Interview Protocol – 4th Wave.**

Note to interviewer. Remember that this is not a yes/no interview. Ask follow-up questions as needed to encourage the interviewee to be expansive in their answers. Remember, you can always say, “Please tell me more about that,” or “Could you tell me more about what happened,” or “Could you give me an example,” or anything similar.

Some of these questions are especially important to the research. We have marked them with an asterisk () at the beginning of the question. Make a special attempt to probe on these questions and get plenty of details and examples.*

Also, remember to record the informed consent script and answers.

1. *[Interviewer:] Speak your name and email address into the recording. Spell your name and email address clearly so that it can be transcribed.*
 - a. *If you are an LSU student, use your LSU email address.*
 - b. *If you are interviewing as part of an LSU class, speak your course number and professor’s name into the recording.*

2. *Ask and record the following information about the Interviewee:*
 - a. *Age*
 - b. *Gender*
 - c. *Race/ethnicity*
 - d. *Relation to interviewer*
 - e. *Ask if they’re currently a college/university student*
 - f. *[For New Orleans interviewees only]: ask what neighborhood they live in*
 - g. *[If interviewee agreed to give name & contact info]: ask and record that. Ask them to spell everything for the transcriber.*

3. *Describe your household. Do you live alone, with family, or with roommates?*
 - a. *Who are the members of your household? What is their relation to you?*
 - b. *Are there pets?*

4. *What is your job/occupation? [if they’re unemployed or work part time] does somebody else in your household have a job? If so, what is it?*
 - a. *How has your work life changed since the start of the pandemic?*
 - b. *Do you currently work remotely from home?*
 - i. *[if no] Did you work remotely earlier in the pandemic?*
 - ii. *What adjustments have you made in order to work from home?*
 - c. *Do you work at an “essential” job?*
 - d. *Do you feel your work exposes you to a high or low risk of infection?*
 - e. *Are you worried about infection at work? Do you have access to protective gear or have you asked your employer for protective gear?*

- i. Do you think your employer has taken adequate precautions? Have their policies changed over the course of the pandemic? *[if change]* Do you think the changes are for the better or worse? Why so?
 - ii. Have you quit or considered quitting?
 - iii. Do you fear a trade-off between having a job with income and being exposed to infection?
 - f. Since the start of the pandemic, have you been laid off or furloughed at any point?
 - i. *[if no]* Do you fear being laid off or furloughed?
 - ii. *[if yes]* Did you receive unemployment payments? Were they enough to compensate for your job loss?
 - iii. Have you been able to return to your old job or find another job? What changes have you faced? Did your employers change working conditions? Talk about what has happened.
 - iv. *[if returned to work]* What were some factors that influenced your decision to return to work? If you received unemployment insurance due to a furlough, did that impact your decision?
 - v. Did you return to work before you felt it was safe? *[if yes]* How do you feel about it?
5. I want to ask some questions about precautions, lockdowns, and the stages of opening up.
- a. What covid safety laws/orders are in effect where you live? (e.g., mask mandate, vaccination mandates, stay-at-home order, limited seating capacity for businesses, travel restrictions). Do you feel safer as a result?
 - b. Compared to earlier in the pandemic, do you now go out of the house more? What things do you do now that they're allowed? (e.g., traveling, restaurants, bars, salons, barbers, fitness center or gym, stores or malls, water parks, team sports, etc.)
 - i. Are there still things you avoid?
 - ii. How do you feel about the reopenings - are you in favor or against?
 - iii. How have your shopping habits changed during the pandemic? Have you been shopping online or gone back to more in-person shopping?
 - c. Do you feel like social gatherings have become more common again? Have you attended a social gathering recently? How do you feel about gatherings at this stage?
 - d. Do you feel covid safety laws/orders are a burden or unfair? Do most people adhere to the mandates?
 - e. Overall, do you feel people have become exhausted with the precautions and are starting to ignore them? What are your feelings on this?
 - f. How do you feel about students returning to school this semester? (K-12 or college). Is it going better or worse than you expected?
 - i. *[if the interviewee has children, or children significant in their life]* What has your children's school experience been like? What are the policies in place for your child's school? Have the policies changed over the course of the pandemic? How do you feel about

the policies? Which policies do you prefer? Do you think there will be an impact on students' academic abilities?

6. Contacts with people outside the home.
 - a. Have you had an internet connection throughout the pandemic? A reliable phone?
 - i. *[if no]* Do you feel this has affected you in any way? How so?
 - ii. *[if yes]* What has your experience with this been? Have your online activities changed if you've been spending more time at home?
 - iii. Have you invested in better internet or cell phone services because of the pandemic?
 - b. How do you have contact with people outside the home?
 - i. In person, By telephone, Online (e.g., Zoom, social media), Other.
 - c. Do you have more contact with some people than you did before Covid? Is it remote? Have some relationships improved since Covid?
 - d. What people do you have contact with? (family & friends, neighbors, colleagues at work, officials or agencies).
 - i. Do most people you have contact with agree or disagree with you about how we should respond to the pandemic?
 - ii. *Have you felt increased tensions or avoidance between people due to disagreements about Covid response? Tell me about this.
[Interviewer: these tensions are an important, but sensitive topic. Please probe for answers here, but use your judgement so as not to offend the interviewee.]
 - iii. Has anyone you have contact with outside the home tested positive for Covid? What about other members of your household? How did you cope with that or respond? How did members of your household cope or respond?
7. Psychological Impacts
 - a. How has the pandemic affected you emotionally?
 - b. Have you felt cut off or lonely at any point during the pandemic? Do you feel that way now?
 - i. *[if they've felt an improvement]* What led you to feel less isolated? Have you found more ways of connecting with others? Have you been seeing more people?
 - ii. *[if they still feel lonely]* What do you think would help improve your situation? Have you tried things that did or didn't help?
 - c. Have you heard of other ways people are coping with the pandemic?
8. Assistance
 - a. Do you have people who can assist if needed? (e.g., family, friends, colleagues, others).
 - b. Do you feel able to assist others? In what ways? (e.g., delivering food, donating medical supplies, donating blood, making face masks).
 - c. If you were to lose your job, what could you do to get income?
 - i. Could you get food assistance or unemployment insurance?

- d. Could you get medical assistance if needed? Do you have health insurance? Is it adequate? Do you have a doctor if needed?
 - e. Do you need childcare? Can you obtain it, & are there issues with it?
 - i. Do you face trade-offs with childcare & employment? How do you handle that, or what have you tried?
 - f. Do you anticipate any trouble or have you had any trouble with rent/mortgage payments? Do you know of anyone who is facing hardship with regards to housing?
 - i. Are there any policies that have helped (such as the eviction moratorium)? Are there policies you feel are still needed?
9. How do you generally get information about the pandemic? (e.g., friends, family, neighbors, social media, local, state, or federal government, the CDC, the news).
- a. What news outlets do you prefer? (e.g., CBS News, The New York Times, Fox News)
 - b. Do you trust the information you're getting? Which sources do you trust most? Trust least?
 - c. Do you feel like your social media habits have changed throughout the course of the pandemic? For example, do you feel you use social media more/less frequently, or for different reasons than before the pandemic.
 - d. Do you feel that social media has become more political since the pandemic began? *[if yes]* What sites? (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
10. Problems, dangers, fears
- a. Compared to earlier in the pandemic, in this past month, how worried have you been about you, your friends, and your family contracting covid?
 - b. In the past month, have you worried about access to essential things or services? (e.g., food, prescription medications, phone, internet, sanitation, soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes). Has your access changed over time? Compared to months ago, are you now more or less worried?
 - c. Are you worried about a lack of hospital beds? Are you worried about a shortage of doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel to treat Covid patients? Are you worried that hospitals can't treat people with non-Covid medical issues because they're filled with Covid patients?
 - d. Do you worry about people gathering & spreading the virus? Members of your household? People in your neighborhood? People at work? Are you more or less worried since the pandemic started?
 - e. *Do you worry about crime in the neighborhood and whether the police or authorities could/would help?
 - i. Have you perceived a rise in crime since the pandemic began? *[if yes]* Do you think it's due to the pandemic? How so?
 - f. Do you worry about substance abuse in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
 - g. Do you worry about domestic violence in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
 - h. Do you worry about disturbances or noise in the neighborhood? Or on the contrary, do you worry that things are too quiet?

- i. Have you gone to demonstrations against police violence, because of the elections, because of mask mandates, or any others? (Which ones?) Do you fear that infections have or will increase because of the demonstrations?
 - j. How do you feel about the various demonstrations?
11. *Community organizations
- a. *Do you hear about community organizations helping in the pandemic? What kind? Religious, neighborhood, ethnic, arts groups, sports groups
 - i. What kind of services or assistance do they provide? Have their services changed over the course of the pandemic? *[Common types of assistance: food, rent, financial, health services, mental health services, etc.]*
 - ii. Did any community organizations start providing new services or finding new ways of providing services?
 - b. *Do you have contact with community organizations?
 - i. Do you participate in community organizations? Do you give assistance to others? What kind?
 - ii. Do you receive assistance from community organizations? What kind?
 - c. *Have you heard about community organizations that had to shut down or reduce their services because of the pandemic? Have they been able to resume providing services again?
 - d. *Do you belong to a service organization that currently has activities? (e.g., Rotary Club, neighborhood association).
 - e. Do you participate in any group gatherings online? (e.g., book clubs, reconnecting with old friends, religious services, bible study groups).
 - i. What about virtual playgroups for your children?
 - ii. Are you happy with these activities? Do you feel more connected or less connected than before the social distancing?
12. *In the past, when there was a disaster or emergency, people could come together in person to work for recovery. Have you seen new or inventive ways that people are working together to respond to the pandemic, especially considering that it's not as easy to come together in person? Please describe what you're seeing.
- a. *[Interviewer: Please probe on this question to get as much response and as much detail as possible. This is one of our most important questions.]*
 - b. Are people in your community/ neighborhood more or less active than before the pandemic? Please describe what you're seeing. Have you met neighbors you hadn't met before the pandemic?
13. Speaking of disasters, I'd like your thoughts about when people experience both a disaster and Covid together. For instance, the people of Louisiana, Florida, and other places regularly experience hurricanes, and the West Coast has been having wildfires.

- a. Have you been affected by a disaster, for instance, Hurricane Ida, or Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Delta last year, or the wildfires in the West?
 - i. *[if they've been affected]* how long did you experience the effects of the disaster? Or, are you still experiencing them? What impact did the disaster have on you or your community? (e.g., property damage, financial, mental health, injury)
 - ii. *[if they've been affected]* Did the risk of Covid infection make you afraid in the course of the disaster?
 - iii. *[if they've been affected]* What did you do to mitigate Covid risks during a disaster or disaster recovery?
- b. From your own experience or what you've heard, how did these disasters affect the Covid situation?
 - i. Was there more risk of infection because of a natural disaster?
 - ii. How did people respond? For instance, did fear of Covid make people neglect disaster safety? (e.g., not evacuating, avoiding hotels, Airbnbs, or shelters). Or on the contrary, did the disaster lead people to neglect Covid precautions? (e.g., worry about property damage, prolonged loss of power and/or Internet).
 - iii. Did Covid interfere with people's attempts to recover from a disaster? What disaster recovery troubles have you experienced or heard of?
- c. Any other thoughts about Covid during a natural disaster?

14. Vaccines and Variants

- a. Have you, or will you, get vaccinated for Covid? Why or why not?
 - i. *[If they have been vaccinated previously]* If a 3rd dose or booster shot becomes available to the public, will you get it? Why or why not?
 - ii. What have you learned about the 3rd dose so far? Who or which sources did you get the information of the booster shot from?
- b. Do you have any at risk family members who have chosen not to get the vaccine? How are you handling that decision?
- c. Some Americans are distrustful of the vaccine. Have you observed distrust among some groups? Why do you think that is?
- d. Have you encountered any campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the vaccine? Do you recall who has organized those campaigns?
 - i. How do you feel about lotteries or other measures to encourage people to get vaccinated?
- e. Do you feel that there is much misinformation about vaccines that affects people's decisions on getting vaccinated? What do you think are the sources of any such misinformation, and where do you think people hear about misinformation?
- f. How do you feel about vaccination mandates, that is, requiring people to get vaccinated?
 - i. Does it matter to you whether a vaccination mandate comes from an employer, a school or university, the government, or some other source?

- ii. How do you feel about politicians or community members who resist vaccine mandates? Some people say they're protecting freedoms. Other people say they're increasing the risk of infection.
 - iii. Some people have been getting angry either about people refusing to get vaccinated or about vaccination mandates. Have ever felt angry about this issue? Do you know people who have gotten angry? Have you seen or experienced conflict around this issue?
 - iv. Once most people are vaccinated, do you think we will return to normal?
- g. Other than the Delta variant, have you heard about the new strains (i.e., variants) of the virus? Do you worry that new strains might emerge? Do you think this may impact our recovery from the virus?

15. The Change of Administration

- a. Politicians have blamed each other about response to the pandemic. What are your feelings about this?
 - i. Do you feel that things have become politicized that shouldn't be? (e.g., healthcare, assistance, nonprofits). *[If yes]* Could you give some examples of what you've seen or heard?
 - ii. On the contrary, do you feel that some political leaders deserve to be blamed?
- b. Do you think things have changed since the Biden administration came into office? Has it been for the better or worse? How so, and why?
 - i. Do you feel that some political leaders have changed their policy positions on Covid just because of who's in office?
- c. How about the response of news sources to political leaders? Do you feel that the news is politicized about Covid? Do you feel that the news is reliable or unreliable due to political leanings? Do you feel that there are unbiased sources of news and information? Which ones?

16. Recovery

- a. What do you think will happen when things become safer again?
- b. What are you looking forward to when we get back to a more normal situation? What is one of the first things that you will do?
- c. How do you think the world will look in 3 months? 6 months? A year?
- d. Do you think we will ever get rid of Covid?

17. What city or town and state do you live in? And what Zip code?

- a. *[if interviewee is from New Orleans]: ask what neighborhood they live in*

18. *Is there anything I did not ask about that you feel is important?