* Preocupación
* Concerned
* Coronavirus
* Mental fatigue
* Desastre
* Crying
* Survive
* Depresión
* Soledad
* Enloquecer
* Desprotegidos
* Isolation
* Desinformación
* Desigualdad
* Incertidumbre
* Enloquecer
* Zoom
* Unemployment
* Estrés
* Inestabilidad
* Inmigrantes
* Afectados
* Confused
* Ansiedad

*La pandemia del coronavirus ha afectado a los latinos 3 veces más que a las personas blancas en los Estados Unidos. Es la comunidad con mayor índice de mortalidades. Más de 60 mil de los nuestros han muerto este año en Estados Unidos. Poco más del 70% de ellos fueron nuestros padres y madres y casi 45% fueron nuestros abuelos. Somos la comunidad que ha muerto más. Que ha muerto at a higher rate because we have no other choice,"”Because don't have the privilege to stay home for two weeks and not have to work. We don’t have it. We never had it. And we won’t have it any time soon”.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Script | Translation |
| Escuché del virus por primera vez en febrero. Era un día como cualquier otro la verdad. Llegué a las 6 am y empecé con mi trabajo. Me acuerdo que estaba limpiando el lobby del Hotel donde trabajo en Downtown, cerca al State House. En la televisión, los noticieros hablaban de un virus “chino”, un virus que estaba muy fuerte en China y varios países por allá. Pero te soy sincera, no entendía mucho (risas). Yo hablo poco inglés, solo lo básico para mi trabajo. Y en el noticiero todo lo hablaban rápido y con palabras que no había escuchado jamás. Me acuerdo que me reí con una compañera de trabajo, mi amiga Patty, porque me dijo “! Ay, Aurelia, ¡si hay tantos virus! Uno más, uno menos… ¿qué nos va a pasar? ¡Uno ya ni caso le hace! (risas)”. Era algo lejano ¿no? Otro continente y otro virus más. Quién iba a pensar que unas semanas luego todo iba a estar de cabeza.  | I heard about the virus for the first time in February. It was a day like any other day. I arrived at 6am and started to work. I remember I was cleaning the hotel lobby where I work, downtown, near the state house. On the television, the news talked about the “Chinese virus,” a virus that was really strong in China y many other countries over there. But to be honest, I didn’t understand much. I speak some English, just enough to do my job. In the news channel, they spoke fast and used words I never heard before. I remember laughing with my co-worker, my friend Patty, because she told me “Oh, Aurelia, there are so many viruses! One more, one less… What could happen to us? We don’t even pay attention anymore!”It was far away, no? Another continent and one more virus. Who would have thought that a few weeks later, everything was going to be upside down? |
| Aurelia se enteró sobre el COVID-19 en febrero, pero *The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS)*declared*a public health emergency on January 31, 2020, in response to COVID-19.* *Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II said:**“While this virus poses a serious public health threat, the risk to the American public remains low at this time, and we are working to keep this risk low,”“We are committed to protecting the health and safety of all Americans, and this public health emergency declaration is the latest in the series of steps the Trump Administration has taken to protect our country.”* R*etrieved 18 January 2021 from* [*https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/01/31/secretary-azar-declares-public-health-emergency-us-2019-novel-coronavirus.html*](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/01/31/secretary-azar-declares-public-health-emergency-us-2019-novel-coronavirus.html)Para febrero, cuando Aurelia vio las noticias, la CDC ya anunciaba que el COVID-19 tenía una alta posibilidad de que se convirtiera en una pandemia. | Aurelia found out about COVID-19 in February, but By February, when Aurelia saw the news the CDC was already announcing that COVID-19 was very likely to become a pandemic.  |
| Luego, empezaron las noticias a dispararse. Información por todos lados. Mi familia empezó a mandar cadenas de información por WhatsApp sin parar. Tanta información. No sabía qué creer y qué no. Los gobernadores hablaban. Decían que no usemos mascarillas, que solo mantengamos la distancia de la gente. Yo pensaba ¿cómo voy a hacerlo si trabajo en un hotel? ¿si veo gente diferente todos los días? En mi casa, vivimos toda la familia junta. Todos tienen trabajos afuera. Todos salimos todos los días desde temprano y regresamos en la noche ¿cómo vamos a hacerlo? Era imposible de pensar una forma de hacerlo. Mi hija, pensaba yo, ella trabaja en el hospital. Trabaja con las enfermeras que están atendiendo a la gente y no saben quién está enfermo. No se sabe quién está enfermo y quién no.  | Then, news were everywhere. Information everywhere. My family stared to send chain messages via WhatsApp non-stop. So much information. I didn’t know what to believe and what not. Governors were speaking. They said that we should not use masks, only keep social distance. I thought, how am I going to do this when I work at a hotel? I see different people every day. In my household, the whole family lives together. Everyone has jobs outside the home. We all leave early for work and return at night, how are we going to do it? It was impossible to think about a way to do it. My daughter, I thought, she works at a hospital. She works with nurses, who see patients and they do not know who is sick. Nobody knows who is sick and who is not.  |
| Yo trabajo para un hospital. Cuando todo esto empezó fue como un relajo, porque las enfermeras, las trabajadoras sociales y nosotros decíamos “esto es otro virus ¿no?” Ya estamos acostumbrados a la influenza, nosotros. Ya estamos acostumbrados a bregar a lo que sea, so, era un chiste. Las primeras dos semanas era un chiste y una de mis enfermeras retiradas, me llamó y me dijo “mira que estoy haciendo mascarillas” que si necesitan mascarillas, me dijo… “¿yo?, ¿mascarillas? No se necesitan mascarillas de otros virus ¿qué tú estás hablando?” Esa fue mi reacción, completamente negación. Estoy trabajando en un sistema de hospitales y nosotros somos los expertos, nosotros sabemos lo que estamos haciendo, no nos tenemos que preocupar. Yo diría como en la tercera semana que empezaron los casos a subir en los Estados Unidos que empezamos a escuchar lo que estaba diciendo el World Health Organization, lo que estaba diciendo en los briefings de Dr. Fauci y allí fue como que empezó la ansiedad a subir.  | I work for a hospital.When all of this started, it was a mess because nurses, social workers, and all of us said, “this is just another virus, no?”We are already used to influenza. We are used to deal with anything, so, it was joke.The first two weeks, it was joke and one the retired nurses called me and told me, “look, I am making masks” she wanted to know if I needed masks… “me? Masks? They are not needed for other viruses, what are you talking about?” that was my reaction, complete denial.I am working in a hospital system and we are experts, we know what we are doing, we don’t have to worry. I would say around the third week, when cases began to rise in the US, we started to hear about what the World Health Organization was telling us, and Dr. Fauci’s briefings, and that’s how anxiety began to rise.  |
| Llegó marzo. Ahora hablaban de un *stay-at-home order,* que nos teníamos que quedar en casa porque los casos del corona solo aumentaban y aumentaban. Yo solo pensaba en mi familia, en mi trabajo. Mis nietos me decían “*don’t go, abuela, don’t go back*”, pero solo pensaba “Tengo bills. Sé que es mi vida, pero, no sé, no tengo otra opción ¿qué hacer en ese momento? ¿cómo vivo sin trabajar? ¿cómo hago para trabajar sin contagiarme? El bus, el hotel, el supermercado, en todos los lugares que voy hay gente y nadie sabe qué hacer. Nadie sabe nada, solo nos dicen que nos quedemos en casa, pero no nos dicen nada más.  | March arrived. Now they were talking about a stay-at-home order, that we needed to say home because the corona cases were going up and up. I just thought about my family, about my job. My grandkids told me, “don’t go abuela, don’t go back,” but I thought, “I have bills. I know it’s my life, but I don’t know, I don’t have another option, what to do at this moment? How do I support myself without working? How do I work with getting sick? The bus, the hotel, the supermarket, everywhere I go there is people, and nobody knows what to do. Nobody knows anything, they just tell us to stay home, but don’t tell us anything else.  |
| My father has still been out working since he was considered essential because he works in the food supply chain. So, he has been out working as if nothing has happened and I think they're the most impacted at the moment … They had to go out and work so it's been rough, because it's kind of like damned if you do damned if you don't and now you have it, and now you can't work. |  |
| By March 22, 2020, Ohio reported 3 deaths, 83 hospitalizations and 351 confirmed cases. That same day, Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine said “Ohioans must focus on what they can do as citizens to protect themselves, their families, and everyone else in Ohio. We must act as if we’ve been invaded by an enemy, because, in truth, we really have been attacked.The same day, Dr. Amy Acton, director of the Ohio Department of Health, said “Our stay at home order is not a joke. It is not a drill. This will help lives. This is the time that you will see quiet descend on our country – as it should – so we can protect those who protect us.  |  |
| If you're talking about people who are undocumented, or who have to [trail off]— our essential workers who rely on those paychecks and to be told to stay home? I don't know how you choose [trail], not take care of your family or not have a roof over your head. Those are VERY basic needs, I can't imagine what that must feel like for some of our community. |  |
| De un día para el otro. Todo cambió. Me comunicaron del trabajo que no podía regresar. Que todo estaba cerrado. Que no regresara hasta que me volvieran a llamar. Me pusieron en furlough, no sabía qué era ni cómo funcionaba. Yo solo andaba preocupada. ¿Qué iba a hacer ahora? ¿Me quedé sin trabajo? Me dicen que ellos me llaman para volver, pero ¡si nadie sabe cuándo va a terminar todo esto! Ay, yo no sabía qué pensar, qué hacer, solo andaba preocupada. Todo cerraba ¡todo! Mi hijo, mi hijo y mi nuera, yo me preocupaba todos los días por ellos. Su restaurante pasó de estar lleno a estar todito vacío al día siguiente. Nadie quería ir. Todos tenían miedo, solo miedo, nadie quería entrar a restaurantes, pedir comida ¿cómo va a sobrevivir mi hijo, decía yo? ¿Cómo van a hacer? | From one day to the next, everything changed. I heard from my job that I could not return. That everything was closed. That I should not returned until they called me. They put me on furlough, I didn’t know how that worked. What was I to do now? Was I out of a job? They tell me that they would call to return to work, but nobody knows when all of this will be over! I did not know what to think, what to do, I was just worried. Everything was closed, everything! My son, my son, and my daughter-in-law, I was worried about them. Their restaurant went from being packed one day, to completely empty the next day. Nobody wanted to go. Everyone was scared, fear, nobody wanted to go inside restaurants, order good, how was my son going to survive? How are they going to make it? |
| Cerramos casi dos semanas completamente y de ahí decidimos empezar a abrir, pero solamente con las órdenes para llevar. Pero no es nada comparado, como cuando está abierto completamente para las mesas y todo eso. Es bastante difícil. Solamente así, pero para mantener a todos los trabajadores, aunque fuera poco. Pero pues sí, estuvimos abiertos y vendiendo órdenes para llevar como mes y medio más o menos. La tienda la cerramos también como dos, una semana y media. Cuando cerramos la tienda por una semana y media de alguna forma nos afectó. Estaba triste porque muchas personas que vienen para hacer sus compras y para unos clientes, este es la única tienda que vienen para comprar sus carnes, sus vegetales. Especialmente los clientes que no saben inglés, que no, que no tienen acceso a ir a otras tiendas.Nos afectó y vimos cómo afectó a nuestros vecinos. A nuestros clientes. | We closed for almost two weeks and then we decided to open, but just for carry-out order. But we cannot compare it to when we have all the tables open and all of that. It’s really difficult. We did that to keep the workers, at least something.  But yes, we were open and selling food for carry-out for about a month, more or less. We closed the store, too, for about two or three and a half weeks. When we closed the stores for a week and a half, we somehow were not affected by it. I was said because many people come to do their shopping here and for some, this was the only store they use to buy their meats, vegetables. Especially those clients who do not speak English, that do not, that do not have access to other stores. It affected us and we saw how it affected our neighbors. How it affected our clients.  |
| Pobre mi hijo, solo lo veía preocupado. No es lo mismo tener un restaurante así. En una crisis así. Sin ayuda de nadie. Ellos solos viendo cómo hacer para poder seguir de pie. Ayudando como sea a sus empleados. Una de mis nietas también trabaja en restaurantes. Ella empezó con sus padres, pero luego poquito antes que empezara el corona es que se fue a otro restaurante para tener otras experiencias. Tú sabes, los nietos a veces quieren probar cosas diferentes. Ya no en el restaurante de sus padres. Pero ahora con este virus yo andaba preocupada de que se contagiara, de que perdiera su trabajo. Mi nieta solo andaba angustiada. Muy ansiosa todo el tiempo. | I felt sorry for my son, I watched him worry. It’s the same to operate a restaurant like that. In crisis like this. With nobody’s help. They just were trying to get their feet off the ground. Helping their employees. One of my granddaughters also works at restaurants. She started working with her parents, but a little before the corona started, she went to another restaurant to get new experiences. You know, grandkids want to try new things, no longer at their parents’ restaurant. But now, with this virus, I was worried about them getting sick, that they would lose their job. My granddaughter was always worried. Very anxious all the time. |
| Para mí, los efectos del virus se hicieron realidad el día que cerraron los restaurantes y bares. La tele en centro del restaurante en donde trabajo dio las noticias a mí y a mis compañeros de trabajo que estaban ahí ese día. Podías sentir el pánico de todos, porque todos íbamos a perder nuestro trabajo. El trabajo como mesera es precario; nunca sabes cuánto vas a ganar ese día, y si no hay clientes, o si tu no vas a trabajar ese día, no haces nada de dinero. Entonces ese día, me fui sin saber cuándo iba trabajar otra vez.  | For me, the effects of the virus became a reality the day that bars and restaurants were closed. The TV in the middle of the restaurant where I work, is how me and my co-workers received the news. There was a sense of panic from everyone because everyone was about to lose their jobs. The job of waitress is precarious; we never know how much we will make that day, and if there are no clients, o if you cannot go to work, then you do not make any money. So that day, I left without knowing if was going to work again.  |
| I work in the food service industry and I tested positive for coronavirus. I took the job although I knew I’d be exposing myself during a pandemic. [keep going] I had to pay for rent and food. [pause] This isn’t uncommon in Latino communities … |  |
| I've kind of shut down, myself. The first few months I was in kind of a shock because I had spent the better part of a year finding a job. |  |
| **Mike DeWine** appointed on April 7th 2020: Today we're announcing the creation of the Office of Small Business Relief to identify ways to provide support to Ohio's small businesses. This office will be housed within [@OhioDevelopment](https://twitter.com/OhioDevelopment?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1247592686980300800%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es2_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fox19.com%2F2020%2F04%2F07%2Fcan-ohios-small-businesses-recover-coronavirus-economic-shutdown%2F). April 8, 2020, Ohio reported 193 confirmed deaths, 472 people in intensive care, 1495 hospitalizations and 5148 confirmed cases. Exactly one week after, Ohio reported 361 deaths, 677 people in intensive care, 2237 hospitalizations and 7791 covid cases. Almost 2500 more cases in a week. 2500 more cases. |  |
| Nuestras familias latinas de clase trabajadoras se la ven duro. Muchos hemos perdido trabajo y si tenemos el examen positivo, no sabemos cómo manejar esa información.  Y no sólo es eso. Pensamos en si nos juzgan como latinos con un examen positivoQue eso también ha sido un impacto para nosotros y en la comunidad africana-americana. ¿Cómo nos ven a las personas que tenemos un examen positivo? Muchas personas no quieren decir o no quieren aceptar que tienen un examen positivo.  Pensamos “Ahora no tengo trabajo, no tengo beneficios, no tengo ayudas.”  | Our working-class Latino families, have it rough. Many of us have lost our jobs and if we get a positive test, we do not what to do with this information. And not only that, but we also think about whether we would be judged as Latinos with a positive test. That also has impacted us and the African American community.How do they see people with a positive test?Many people do not have to reveal it or accept that they have a positive test.We think, “now I won’t have a job, I don’t have benefits, I don’t have any help.” |
| En este tiempo, yo creo que como negociante, lo que más me preocupa, el volver a cerrar otra vez, el que los trabajadores se queden sin su sueldo, el que nosotros tengamos que procurar mantenerlos. Porque al momento de que se cierre o se llegue a cerrar, el trabajador va a buscar por donde ganar dinero. Entonces, cuando se vuelve a abrir, para nosotros sería muy  difícil encontrar trabajadores otra vez. Entonces esa cosa de tener un negocio que uno no sabe, si el futuro vaya a ser más difícil para nosotros. No sabemos si tendremos que cerrar de nuevo, porque para cerrar este ya vamos hablando de que tres o cuatro semanas, esto es muy difícil para el restaurant o para cualquier tipo de negocio. Pienso yo ¿no? porque para estar pagando a los empleados que no haya ninguna entrada es demasiado ¿no?Fue difícil, fue difícil. Como empresaria pequeña, como mujer, como inmigrante, porque se sumaron muchas cosas al mismo tiempo. | During this time, as a business owner, what worries me most is to have to close again, that my employees lose their salaries, and that we would have to support them. Because the moment things close or are about to close, employees go look where to earn money. So, when we open again, it would be very difficult for us to find workers again.So having your own business, but that we don’t always plan for, is that the future could be hard for us. We don’t know if we would have to close again, because if we close, we are talking about three or four weeks and that is very difficult for a restaurant or any other type of business. That’s what I think. Because paying employees with a no income, it a lot, no? It was hard, it was hard. As a small business owner, as a woman, as an immigrant, because there were many thinks happening at once.  |
| Yo, en mi trabajo, duré casi dos meses sin trabajar porque cerraron las tiendas, porque ves que cerraron todo, todos los lugares menos lo esencial. Y mi tienda no era esencial, entonces, este yo no recibí nada de dinero ni desempleo, ni nada, porque donde yo trabajo es non-profit. Entonces ellos dijeron que no tenían los derechos de colectar nada de dinero. Y, no alcanzamos este dinero, como mucha gente que agarró desempleo. Lo único que llegó fue el dinero que mandó el presidente. Y mi esposa, o sea, ella tampoco estaba trabajando. Y cuando regresamos a los trabajos yo regresé y a mí me cortaron mis horas. No me dieron todas mis horas porque [trail off] como le digo [trail off] esa tienda no era esencial.  | I, at work, was out of work for almost two months because all stores were closed, because you see how they closed everything. Everything except the most essential. My store was not essential, so, I did not receive any money or unemployment, nothing, because I work at a non-profit. So, they told me they did not qualify for any assistance. And we didn’t receive any money, like many people who collected unemployment. They only thing that I got was the money that the president sent. And my wife, like, she was not working either. And when we came back to work, I came back, and they cut my hours. They didn’t give me hours because, like I said, the store is not essential.  |
| Para mi la pandemia ha sido fuerte porque todo **es medido**, el salir, el vestir, **todo es medido,**tengo que estar detrás de los hijos y los nietos para que se usen las máscaras… El salir, dónde sentarme, con quién voy a hablar. Uno piensa en los hijos, porque si el virus me pasa a mí, yo ya estoy vieja, entonces estoy encima de mis hijos, “¿traes la máscara?” “mire, no se acerque mucho a la gente, ni hablen cerca”.  | The pandemic has been hard on me because everything is measured: going out, getting dressed, everything is measured. I have to be after my children and my grandchildren, so they wear their masks. Going out, where to sit, with whom I speak. One thinks about the kids, because if I catch the virus, I am already old, so I am after my kids, “do you have your mask?” “listen, don’t get too close to people or talk to closely.” |
| Hubo algo en mi mente ¿un desbalance tal vez? La invitación a no tener interacción con otros amigos o familiares. Si sigues las reglas como debe de ser y te cuidas como debe de ser. Los demás lo deben de hacer o no tener las reuniones que regularmente los hispanos estamos acostumbrados a tener entre familia. Todo eso. Pero sí, sí afecta, porque realmente no tienes absolutamente nada que hacer. No puedes ir a ningún lado. O sea, son muchas cosas que hace que estés en casa y que quizás una depresión te llegue porque realmente no tienes la misma libertad. O sea, te sientes como que Okay. Yo sé que estoy sano, pienso ¡qué pesado! Pero y ¿qué tal si voy a la tienda... y alguien se acerca... y es esa persona la que me infecta? Yo tengo familia y ¿qué tal si regreso con el virus? Te pones a pensar. Hay veces que quizá lo mejor es quedarme en casa.También la ansiedad de querer ir a visitar a mi madre, pero no quiero entrar a la casa porque yo me siento bien, yo hago ejercicio, como mis verduras, entonces yo sé que yo me siento bien, pero ella es más vieja, ya no es bebé entonces no quiero arriesgarla. Entonces, el resultado es no ver mucho a la madre. | There was something in my mind, perhaps an imbalance? The invitation to not have any interaction with friends and family. If you follow the rules as they should be and if you take care of yourself as you should. Everyone should do it and they should not have gotten together like many of us Hispanics are used to having among our family. All of that. But yes, it affects us, because we really have nothing to do. We can’t go anywhere. So, there is many things keeping you home and that can cause depression to come because you really do not have the same freedom. So, if you feel like, okay, I know I am healthy, so I think, this is heavy! But, what about if I go to the store and someone gets close, and that person is the one that gets me sick? I have a family, what if I come back with the virus? There are times when the perhaps the best thing is stay home. Also, I feel anxious to visit my mother, but I do not want to go in the house, because, I feel fine, I work out, eat healthy, so I know I feel fine, but she is older, not a child so I do not want to put her at risk.So, what that means is that I do not see my mother much. |
|  |  |
| Miedo. Puro miedo todo el tiempo. Ansiedad. No saber qué hacer, qué va a pasar. Tiempo de aprender también. La tecnología ahora era la única forma de comunicarme con mi familia. Mi nietecita de 5 años enseñándome cómo usar un teléfono para hacer videollamada ¡Una experta era! Me iba enseñando en inglés, además, así también aprendía cosas nuevas. Mi otra nieta llevaba sus clases de primaria por Zoom. Me acuerdo que fue un poco caos al principio, pero los niños se adaptan rápido. Mis nietos mayores sufrieron más. Mi nieto Jesús se mudó a las afueras de Ohio en enero, nos venía a visitar todas las semanas. Nos vino a visitar poquito antes de que empezara la pandemia. Ahora, por la videollamada. Pero no es lo mismo. Lo extraño a mi nieto.  | Fear.Only fear all the time. Anxiety.Not knowing what to do, what’s going to happen. A time to learn, too. Technology is the only way to communicate with my family. My little granddaughter, just 5 years old, teaches me how to use the phone to make videocalls, an expert, she is! She is teaching me in English too, so I am learning new things. My other granddaughter was doing her elementary school classes via Zoom. I remember how chaotic it was initially, but kids learn quickly. My older grandchildren suffered more. My grandson, Jesús, moved right outside Ohio and came to visit every week. He came to visit shortly before the pandemic started. No, via videocalls. But it is not the same. I miss my grandson. |
| Además de temor y cuidado sobre el Covid, existen otros síntomas que hemos experimentado en mi familia. El aislamiento, el contacto físico, y el tratar de compensar esta falta de conexión a través de la tecnología. No podemos abrazarnos. Nos hace una falta terrible. Parece algo simple, pero navegar esto con la comunidad latina es difícil. Dentro de la misma familia, cuando se trata de cuidar a otros, el no extender la mano para saludar o abrazar y besar a los abuelos puede ser visto como una falta de respeto. Yo no he abrazado a mis padres desde enero y se me ha hecho bien difícil.  | In addition to the fear and care regarding Covid, there are other symptoms that my family has experienced. Isolation, the lack of physical contact, and we try to compensate via technology. We cannot hug. We miss it terribly. It’s seemed like something so simple but dealing with this in our Latino community can be difficult. Among family members, when we are supposed to care for each other, it’s hard not to shake a hand to greet or to kiss and hug our grandparents, it feels disrespectful. I have not hugged my parents since January, and it’s been hard. |
| I know the news (pause)[covid] rates are higher among Latinos and Black individuals. I think the isolation part of it, it affects people's mental health. If they are trying to stick to those things, as a community that is very loving and wants to get together, it is difficult on people's mental health to do so. To isolate, and only have a zoom phone call, or only have certain channels of communication. |  |
| Ohio has seen an increase of upwards of 16% in opioid overdose since the pandemic.May 04, 2020. Ohio reports 1,056 deaths, 1,090 total admissions to the ICU, 2,809 hospital admissions, 20,474 COVID cases. By the end of May 2,131 deaths, 1,533 ICU admissions, 5,947 hospital admissions, and 34,566 cases. 15,000 more cases in less than a month. |  |
| Ya para junio me llamaron del trabajo. ¡qué alivio! Dije, pero luego me entró la ansiedad de volver. Volver a trabajar me aliviaba económicamente, tantos meses sin trabajar. Pero pensaba ¿cómo me voy a proteger? ¿cómo voy a llegar a mi trabajo ahora? Yo tengo que tomar 3 buses para llegar a mi trabajo. Toda la gente que toma los buses. Gente que no se sabe si se cuida o no. ¿cómo hago distanciamiento social en un bus? ¿Qué hago si el bus se llena? ¿me subo al bus? ¿llego tarde al trabajo? ¿me arriesgo a contagiarme? Encima mucha gente no usa las máscaras o las usa mal. Tanta gente que no se preocupa en usarlas. No les importa. No hay respeto por los otros.  | They called from work in June. What a relief! I said, but then I started getting anxious about returning. Coming back to work would help me financially, after so many months without work. But I thought, how am I going to protect myself? How am I going to get to work? I need to take three buses to get to work. All the people that take the bus, people who we don’t know if they protect themselves or not. How can I social distance? Do I take the bus? Do I get to work late? Do I risk getting infected? On top of everything, many people are not wearing masks, or they wear them incorrectly. So many people don’t care about wearing them. They do not care. There is no respect for us.  |
| I think my, my biggest concern was, [continue] when am I going to be able to visit my family again safely, what's going to happen in the Dominican Republic, if this is the United States, and this is the sort of crisis that we're facing, what does a third world country with limited resources, not necessarily the most stable and reliable government, do? [pause] I got there, everyone there wears a mask which I thought was interesting. Compared to the United States and our freedom, Dominicans are very patriotic, and that sentiment is very popular. Which is why I was very curious to see like, [quick pause] everyone's wearing a mask almost like [quick pause] if we do this together that we can get over it. We can live our lives again, for there's maybe a stronger sense of community there, I think so.  |  |
| In an effort to understand why some Americans are resisting this [nearly universally recognized infection reduction approach](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html), we asked respondents why they choose to not wear a mask. We find that 40% of Americans who do not wear a mask say this is because it is “their right as an American to not wear a mask.” This modal response was followed by Americans who say they do not wear a mask “because it is uncomfortable” at 24%. The data reveals that a combined 64% of Americans believe that their right to not have to be inconvenienced by wearing a mask or scarf over their face is more important than reducing the probability of getting sick or infecting others.Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/08/31/american-individualism-is-an-obstacle-to-wider-mask-wearing-in-the-us/> |  |
| Pero bueno, siempre hay personas así ¿no? Siempre. En todos lados. Los que creen y los que no. Yo decidí enfocarme en lo positivo, como volver a mi trabajo, no hay más opción ¿no? Pensar positivo y esperar que todo siga bien. Yo pensé, ya está todo volviendo a la normalidad. La gente poco a poco está volviendo a sus trabajos. Los restaurantes se están adaptando, haciendo deliveries y adaptando los espacios para que todos estén seguros. Todo está mejorando, pensaba yo, pero otra crisis llegó, de otro tipo, pero llegó: las protestas y marchas por la muerte de ese muchacho afroamericano. Mi hotel en downtown cerró otra vez. Muy peligroso me decían, no vengas. Todo downtown está como una guerra. Ventanas rotas, incendios, la policía y los ciudadanos como en una guerra.  | Oh well, there are always people like that, no? Always. Everywhere. Those who believe and those who don’t.I decided to focus on the positive, like returning to work, there is no other option, no? Think positive and hope for the best. I thought, everything is going back to normal. Little by little, people are returning to work. Restaurants adapt by providing delivery service and make enough space so it’s safe. Everything is getting better, I thought, but then another crisis started, a different one: the protest for the African American man. My hotel, downtown, closed again. Too dangerous, they told me, do not come. All of downtown was a battlefield. Broken windows, fires, police, and people in a type of war.  |
| Protests in Columbus started on May 28, 2020 demanding justice for George Floyd, killed by officer [Derek Chauvin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek_Chauvin) who knelt on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds during an arrest the day beforeProtest continued until the end of June.  |  |
| y mis nietos, mi nieta va a Ohio State y mi otro nieto va a Columbus State. Son los primeros de mis nietos en ir al college. Mis nietos empezaron a ir a las marchas por ese muchacho. Yo les decía “¿cómo van a ir, hijos?, ¿están locos? ¡se van a contagiar, les decía! No me hacían caso, ellos solo me decían que había que salir a las calles porque de otra forma las cosas no cambian. Yo preocupada, les decía ¿acaso no ven que están arrestando a los que van? La policía está deteniéndolos, está golpeándolos. La gente está exaltada, está harta, está cansada. Muchas cosas, muchas cosas pasando al mismo tiempo.  | My grandkids, my granddaughter goes to Ohio State and my grandson to Columbus State. They are the first ones to go to college. They started to go to the protests for that man. And I told them, how are you going to go? Are you crazy? You are going to get infected! They did not listen to me, they said they had to go to the street or things would never change. I waws worried and told them, don’t you see they are arresting people that show up? The police are arresting them, they are hitting them. People were upset, fed up, tired. There were many things, many things happening at the same time. |
| I think just all of these things, the past couple months. Having a global pandemic, also having civil rights and everyone's kind of just really reaching a pinnacle point where Black lives are being murdered by our government, by the police, by systems of oppression, I think just really seeing that heightened and both of those things collide at this time is kind of difficult— it's overused,  but unprecedented moment and I think that we kind of have to use this time as a point to make change that this is— we, everyone's lives have changed drastically so we need to start making those changes that will actually better those other people's lives.   |  |
| During this pandemic, I’ve created three posters. My goal with these posters was to create some solidarity with a lot of the terrible social injustice events that occurred. In regard to what happened to George Floyd, I created a poster just taking his words, I can't breathe … I mean, I couldn't believe when I witnessed that event … And the words, I tried to semantically convey, that even the intonation of the words, the word breathe gets smaller and smaller as the whole word completes. And I did it all on a black field and a white ground. |  |
| Llegó el verano y la gente se empezó a relajar. Si antes se lo tomaban a la ligera, ahora era más. Creo que era una mezcla de todo ¿sabes? La gente estaba ansiosa, quería salir, ver a su familia después de meses, ir a hacer compras de forma “normal”. Bueno “la nueva normalidad” que le llaman ahora. Igual nos seguíamos cuidando, claro. Usábamos las mascarillas, nos limpiábamos las manos siempre. Ya como que a uno le da un poco más de confianza de salir, con miedo ¿no? eso ya te queda, pero ya ves a más de tus amistadas y familiares empezar a salir y no les pasa nada. Así que uno dice, pues yo también puedo. Una vez a la semana, al menos, para poder hacer algo diferente. También llegaron las pruebas ¡benditas pruebas! Finalmente, uno ya se podía hacer la prueba y saber si tenía ese virus o no. Eso me dio también más tranquilidad y confianza de poder salir.  | Summer arrived and people started to relax. If they took it lightly before, now even more. I think it was a mix of everything, you know? People were anxious, they wanted to go out, see their families after many months, go shopping in a normal way. The new normal, that is. We continued to take care of ourselves, of course. We used our masks, washed our hands always. It’s like you are more comfortable going out, fear, sure! That is permanent, but now you can see your friends and family, and nothing happens. So, you think, I can do that too. Testing arrived too! Thank goodness! Finally, one can get tested and know if we had the virus or not. That, too, gave me peace y trust about going out.  |
| By June 1st 2020, Ohio reports 2206 deaths, 1569 total admissions to the ICU, 6112 hospital admissions, 35,984 COVID cases. June 30th: Governor DeWine declared Level 3 Public Emergency in 7 counties, Level 2 in 28 and level 1 in 53 counties. July 8th: Masks required in Public in Red Alert Level 3 CountiesJuly 23rd: DeWine declared a Statewide Mask OrderBy July 29th 3,422 deaths, 2,513 ICU admissions, 10,553 hospital admissions, 87,893 cases. 50,000 more cases than the month before. |  |
| En agosto, yo fui al hospital, no quería ir, en verdad no quería ir, ya no me daba la respiración y andaba agitada. No me caía nada la comida, nada, no me llegaba el sabor, no comía, entonces, dije "¿Sabes qué? Llama al hospital." Llegué allí, luego me internaron. Y luego me hicieron el test del COVID-19, y me dijeron "No, tienes COVID-19, te vas a quedar."  ni modo, entonces me quedo, y dijo te vamos a checar tus pulmones. Y salió que tenía ah, este, COVID-19 en los pulmones, que se llama como neumonía, viene del COVID-19,  se llama COVID-19. Y me llevaron para el cuarto, y yo decía "Pues, no, no sé el inglés." Me metieron en un cuarto todo frío, estaba frío. Y ya yo decía un poquito en inglés, decía "Eh, está cold. Tengo-" decía, "Tengo frío." Y no me entendían. Le decía "Le puedes abajar el este, el cuarto está muy frío, le puedes abajar porque no aguanto, aquí está muy frío, y no, no podemos." No, no, no hablaban nada de español. Ni uno hablaba español. Nadie habla español. Y tenía que hacer a señas, que si no me entendían. No me entendían nada, y para la medicina, pues tampoco no me entendían nada. Fui al baño, no me entendían nada, nada. No, el cuarto todo oscuro, está feo estar allí, feo. Está feo estar allí.  | I went to the hospital in August. I didn’t want to go, but I could not breath, I was distressed. Food didn’t set right, nothing, I could not taste it, I didn’t eat. So I said, you know what? Call the hospital. I arrived and the checked me in. Then they tested me for Covid-19, and they told me, You have Covid-19, you have to stay. What are you going to do? I had to stay, and they said they were going to check my lungs. And it showed that I had, mmh, Covid-19 in the lungs, that is was like pneumonia, from Covid-19, it was called Covid-19. So, they took me to the room, and I said, mmmh, no, I don’t speak English. They took me to the cold room, it was cold. With a bit of English, I said, Eh, it’s cold. I am, I said, I am cold. And they did not understand. I told them, can you turn down, the room is very cold, can you turn it down, it’s very cold here, and they said they couldn’t. No, no, they do not speak any Spanish. Not one person speaks Spanish. Nobody spoke Spanish. So, I had to try to show them with my hands, but they did not understand. I went to the bathroom, no, they did not understand anything, nothing. No, the room was dark, it was bad being there, bad. It was bad. |
| Unequal access- Spanish-speakers health information High mortalityEnglish only Broken health system Social vulnerability Limited English proficiency linguistic inequality  |  |
| Las enfermeras, las enfermeras no me atendían ¿por qué no me entendían?Con el doctor, tampoco. el doctor no hablaba español. Le tenía que hablar y localizar a mi hija para decir qué es lo que está pasando. Me ponían algo. Es más, imagínate, me ponían algo, y yo no sabía. No sabía ni qué me ponían algo a la vena pues, no sabía ni qué preguntarles "Oye, ¿qué me estás poniendo?" ¿Cuántos miligramos me estás poniendo?" "¿Para qué es eso?" Tú crees cómo me sentía yo. ¿Para qué es eso? A lo mejor me van a poner algo, pensaba "A lo mejor me van a poner algo para morirme.” | The nurses, the nurses did not understand me. Why did they not understand me? The doctor was the same. The doctor did not speak Spanish. I had to talk and locate my daughter to tell her what was going on. They gave me something. Guess what, they gave me things and I did not know what they were giving me.I didn’t know what they were putting in my veins, I didn’t even know what to ask, hey, what are you giving me? How many milligrams are you giving me? What is that for?Can you imagine how I felt? What is that for?Maybe they’ll give me something, I thought, maybe they’ll give me something to die.  |
| There are 60.6 million Latinos living in the United States, representing almost 20% of the total population. Nearly a third of Latinos are not fluent in English.This makes the healthcare system less accessible to those who often need it the most. Nadie habla español |  |
|  |  |
| Well for the Latino community and LGBT community, a lot of that community depends on apartments and rented housing and that sort of thing and during a pandemic, where 90% of them lost their jobs and can't do online work, it's either you go work in retail, or food services, or any of those, and risk getting yourself sick while potentially leaving kids at home with nobody to watch them is very hard for a lot of them. I've heard so many stories of people who are in the LGBT community who are about to lose their housing, who are about to lose everything, because they can't afford the rent anymore, they can't get their job back or they don't have the physical health to do retail and being immunocompromised is a big factor in a lot of these. |  |
| The percentage of Hispanic decedents increased from 16.3% in May to 26.4% in August in the US. Hispanics were the only racial and ethnic group among whom the overall percentage of deaths increased. By September, More than 36,500 Latinos have died of the virus in the US.Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6942e1.htm>  |  |
| Pude ver a mami porque trabajo en el hospital. When I opened the door to her room, she was just laying on her bed. Her eyes had really deep dark circles. She looked very sick. And when she saw me, she tried to get up and pretend she was fine. She wasn't. Ella estaba mala. Se me moría frente a mi. A los días la indujeron en un coma. She was intubated, her oxygen levels were extremely low. Pasó 6 semanas en ICU. Ahí no me dejaron entrar. No pude verla. I don’t wish this on anybody. Desesperación. Angustia. Incertidumbre ¿qué hago? ¿qué siento?Estuvimos rezando el rosario por los familiares que estábamos perdiendo en esta pandemia. Uno reza el Rosario a través de Zoom. Así nos conectamos con mi familia, así les decimos qué está pasando acá. Pero nada pasaba. 6 semanas y todo seguía igual. | I was able to see my mom because I work at the hospital. Desperation. Anguish. Uncertainty. What am I to do? What do I feel? We prayed the rosary for all the family members we were losing with the pandemic. We read the rosary via Zoom. That’s how we stayed connected with the family, that’s how we told them what was going on over here. But nothing happened. Six weeks and everything was the same.  |
| By the end of September 2020, Ohio reports 4,635 deaths, 3,210 admissions to the ICU, 14,899 hospitalizations and 145,850 COVID-19 cases.Ohio State reached 2,580 cumulative positive tests, surpassing the total cases at the Marion Correctional Institution, to become the largest outbreak in the state.  |  |
| No recuerdo nada. No entendía lo que estaba pasando. No sabía dónde estaba. Mi cuerpo sin energías.Vi que la enfermera entró y me hablaba. Estaba cansada. No entendía nada. Desorientada. Tenía un tubo para respirar. No entendía qué estaba pasando. El médico hablaba y me trataba de explicar y algo me decía, y entendí que me iba a sacar el tubo. Todo pasó rápido, miraba a todos, a todos lados. Estaba llena de cables cuando de repente escucho la voz de mi hija. Como que me sacudió, las energías que no tenía se regresaron a mi cuerpo. “Mi hija” decía yo “dónde está mi hija”. Y la enfermera me pone una Tablet enfrente. Mi hija siempre estuvo ahí, hablándome todo este tiempo. “6 semanas” me decía llorando. La enfermera me miraba y me decía “6 weeks, 6 weeks”. Tantas cosas que pasan en 6 semanas. Pude morir. Quizá hasta me morí, pero acá sigo. Regresé a escuchar la voz de mi hija. | I do not remember anything. I did not understand what was going on. I didn’t know where I was. My body was weak. I saw the nurse come in and she talked to me. I was tired. I did not understand anything. I was disoriented. I had a breathing tube. I did not know what was happening. The doctor talked and tried to explain and said something, and I understood they were going to take the tube out. Everything happened quickly, I looked at everyone, I looked everywhere. It shook me, my energy came back to my body. My daughter, I said, where is my daughter?The nurse put a tablet in front of me. My daughter had been there always, talking to me all of this time. Six weeks, she said crying. The nurse looked at me and said, six weeks. So many things happen in six weeks. I could have died. Maybe I died, but here I am. I came back when I heard my daughter’s voice.  |
|  No sabía cómo decirle a mi mama que su hermano Damian falleció en solo dos días, que lo tuvimos que llevar de emergencia al hospital y que después de solo un día, sus pulmones no pudieron darle más. Era el más joven de los hermanos, solo 30 años y no nos esperábamos que fuera posible que un hombre tan joven y saludable muriera del virus. La vecina de al lado murió también y una semana después, su esposo. Los dos tenían 80 años.Pero la que más nos ha dolido es mi sobrinita Angela. Ella solo tenía 5 años, y tenía asma, y fuimos tan cuidadosos con ella, pero en una sola visita al doctor, hubo personas sin mascarillas y fue una situación muy fea porque la pareja tenía covid y estaba allí por esa razón, y estaban peleando con las enfermeras y otro personal porque les pedían que se pusieran la mascarilla. Gritaban, y hasta le escupieron a una enfermera. Esa enfermera todavía está en coma ¿Como es posible? ¿Cómo es posible que esto pase? Pues creemos que allí contrajo Angela el virus también. Esa pareja merece ser arrestada, causaron una muerte y por lo menos un contagio más.  | I didn’t know how to tell my mom that her bother Damian had died in just two days, that we had to take him in an emergency to the hospital and that after only one day, his lungs could not take it. He was the youngest of all siblings, only 30 years old. We did not expect that a man that young and health could die of the virus. The next-door neighbor died too, and a week later, her husband. Both were 80.But the hardest one has been my little niece, Angela. She was only 5 and had asthma, and we were very careful with her but in just one visit to the doctor, there were people without masks. It was an ugly situation because the couple had covid and they were there for that reason. They were fighting with the nurses and other personnel because they were asked to wear their masks. They were screaming and even spat at the nurse. That nurse is currently in a coma. How is that possible? How can this happen? We think Angela got the virus there, too. That couple need to be arrested, they are responsible for a death and at least getting one more person infected.  |
| Nadie habla de lo difícil que es la recuperación del covid. Yo estuve en coma por tanto tiempo A mi cuerpo parece que se le olvidó hacer cosas básicas como llevarme al baño, levantar un vaso para beber agua, o simplemente ayudarme a sentarme. Después de solo 10 minutos de sentarme al filo de la cama, me vuelvo a acostar completamente sin energía. Y no sé cuándo podré dejar de utilizar el oxígeno. Me duele respirar, me duele comer, me duele transportarme, me duele haber perdido tantos familiares y amigos a causa de la pandemia. Me duele saber que la gente muere por no estar informadaMe duele saber que al gobierno no les importa que nosotros seamos informadosMe duele que estemos muriendo porque la información no nos llega y no nos llegará por ser nosotros. | Nobody talks about how hard it is to recover from covid.I was in a coma for a long time.My body feels like it forgot how to do basic things like take me to the bathroom, pick up a glass of water, or help me sit. After only 10 minutes of sitting on the bed, I lay down with no energy.I don’t know when I can go without oxygen.It hurts to breath, to eat, it hurts walk, it hurts to have lost so many family and friends in this pandemic.It hurts knowing that people die for lack of information.It hurts to know that the government does not care if we are informed.It hurts that we are dying because information does not reach us, and it won’t reach us because of who we are. |
| As of mid-October 2020, more than 215,000 COVID-19 deaths had occurred in the US, 22% were Latino.By the end of October, in Ohio, Gov. DeWine said: “Right now, more than three-quarters of Ohio's population is living in a county where there is very high exposure and spread. All but four of Ohio's counties are considered high incidence. Despite this grim data, I'm optimistic. Ohioans have the tools, they know what works, and we always rally when we need to rally. I know people will do that. We can slow down this invader. The decisions each Ohioan makes each day will determine what kind of winter we have.” |  |
| I don't think that there isn't enough factual information, [up] I honestly think we have a good amount of factual information in all colors of language, Spanish, English, French, whatever; I think that's been there. The problem, and what PAINS me, is that our community doesn't really take the effort to seek it, and to educate themselves to ask questions, to research. When I'm looking through my social media, or just seeing some of the conversations that people have, how they interact or comment about certain things, it pains me when I see misinformation being used. It's hard, on one hand I can do my part in trying to lead people to the information. But the CHALLENGE is that I think it is just that mindset. It’s not so much access to information, it's that people are not doing their due diligence to discern what's real, what's not real, and what to engage with. |  |
| Ahora sigo confundida porque los líderes están peleándose y es muy difícil entender claramente lo que es...o cómo nos puede afectar...o cuál es el plan para protegernos... y viendo los diferentes distritos escolares y algunos quieren meter a los profesores de UNA en las aulas... sin pensar cómo les va a afectar a los niños solamente... porque lógicamente los padres tienen que trabajar. No estoy criticando, pero también es confuso. | I am still confused about why leaders fight with each other and it’s hard to know what is going on. Or how it’s affecting us. Or what’s the plan to protect us. We see different school districts wanted to bring teacher back to the classroom just like that, without thinking how it will affect the children. It’s because, obviously, parents have to work. I am not criticizing, but it is also confusing. |
| November 5, 2020: Governor DeWine: “We are once again at a critical juncture in our fight against COVID-19. Cases are spiking and are at an all-time high, but, the good news is that we are closer than ever to getting the vaccine. It’s always darkest before the dawn, but the light is coming. Ohio needs to be ready. By end of November 431 003 cases were reported in Ohio. |  |
| Aurelia no fue una estadística más. She didn’t receive any information in her language.She wasn’t treated at the hospital in her language.No se despertó del coma hasta escuchar su lengua.This is not a miracle.Es suerte. Suerte de sobrevivir cuando el sistema no quiere que sobrevivamos.Suerte de sobrevivir para contar su historia y que no solo la escuchemos, sino que entendamos que este sistema busca que no sobrevivamosPor ser minoría. Por tener otras culturas. Por hablar otra lengua | Aurelia was not another statistic.She woke up from the coma when she heard her language.It is luck. Lucky to survive in a system that does not want us to survive.Lucky to survive to tell her story and we not only hear her, but that we understand that the system does not seek that we survive.Because we are a minority.Because we are from different cultures.Because we speak a different language.  |
| December 2020: 18.2% of U.S. COVID-19 deaths are among Latinos, according to the CDC. However, the Latino death rate became a more outsized 32.3% when CDC used weighted population distributions.By December 18, the number of total cases surpassed 600,000 in Ohio and deaths surpass 8,000.December 21 – The U.S. passed 18 million COVID cases.  |  |
| Lidia: Ya va a hacer casi un año que comenzó la cuarentena y hay una norma nueva en la vida que llevamos. Espero que unas cosas se queden y otros que nunca regresen. Lo más difícil para mí no fueron las mascarillas, el aislamiento ni no estar conectada al mundo como antes. Pero casi perder a mi padre. No sabemos si tuvo COVID porque nunca fue al doctor y casi muere solo en México por falta de comunicación. Yo no he abrazado a mi padre en más de cuatro años y era posible que nunca fuera a verlo de nuevo en esta vida. Covid-19 no es a lo que debemos temer sin no ver cara a cara a las injusticas que el gobierno impone a la gente que jura proteger. | It’s almost a year since quarantine started and there is a new normal in our lives. I hope some things stay and some things never return. Neither masks, nor isolation were not the hardest thing for me. Instead, it was to almost lose my father. We do not know if he had covid or not because he never went to the doctor and he almost died in Mexico, for lack of communication. I have not hugged my dad in more than 4 years, and it was almost possible that I never saw him again. Covid-19 is not what we should fear, without facing the injustices the government imposes on people who cannot protect themselves.  |
| Micah: De repente, la vida que conocía desapareció. Me mudé de casa, mis clases se pasaron en línea y mis amigos estaban más lejos que nunca. Tenía miedo de salir de casa y me preocupaba mucho. Todo me dio mucho estrés y ansiedad. Me estaba ahogando. No obstante, encontraba distintas maneras de cerrar la nueva abertura en mi vida. Aunque estaba lejos de mi familia, que vive en Bolivia, y de mis amigos, mantuvimos conexión a través de llamadas de Zoom. Aunque era diferente encontré nuevas oportunidades para conectarme con ellos. También, empecé a trabajar como mesero y poco después tuve COVID. No creo que la cuarentena ha sido todo malo o todo bueno, sino una nueva oportunidad para prestar más atención a los problemas sistémicas asaltando nuestro país. | Suddenly, the life I knew disappeared. I moved back home, my classes switched to online, and my friends were far away. I was scared about leaving my house and I was worried a lot. Everything gave me stress and anxiety. I was drowning. Despite that, I found ways to close this new opening in my life. Even though I was far from my family, from Bolivia, and my friends, we kept in touch via Zoom. Although different, I found ways to connect with them. I also started working as a server and got Covid. I don’t quarantine has been all bad or all good, rather a new opportunity to pay attention to systemic problems assaulting our country.  |
| Elena: Es difícil explicar lo que siento después de todos estos meses. Soy una persona positiva, pero si que me pega un tipo de grief, como una pérdida de compañía, de momentos que aun si se recrean, no será lo mismo. La graduación de mi hija no ocurrió. El viaje para ver a mi familia, no paso. Los cumpleaños han pasado y no hemos podido celebrar igual. La naturaleza me ha salvado. Camino, camino mucho. Caminar me hace pensar y despejar mi mente. Anhelo volver a la normalidad, solo me queda seguir esperando. | It’s hard to explain what I feel after all of these months. I am a positive person, but I do feel a type of grief, like a loss of companion, of moments that even when we try to re-create them, it is not the same. My daughter’s graduation did not happen. The trip to see family, did not happen. Nature has saved me. I walk, I walk a lot. Walking makes me think and clear my mind. I wish for normalcy; I must keep waiting.  |
| Heder: Encerrado, mi mente trabaja aún más. Me dice, quiero pasar un tiempo en las montañas de mi pueblo donde de niño veía las águilas volar entre la niebla y sus sonidos me hipnotizaban. Quiero respirar el aire puro, con aquel olor a tierra mojada. Quiero hacer cola para lavarme las manos después de bajar corriendo de los cerros, muchas veces con las rodillas raspadas. Deseo escuchar a mi abuelito decir “vénganse a la papa”, después de llegar del monte. Pero ninguno de mis abuelos esta. Vivo a 2,000 millas de aquellas montañas, en una casa donde fácilmente cabríamos todos para comer juntos. Un muro separa a parte de mi familia y la pandemia separa a la demás. Mi abuelita es high risk y algunos familiares tienen problemas de salud, decimos es mejor no arriesgarse. Ya perdimos una prima en México, aunque era lejana y no la conocía, es familia. Ahora la mascarilla ahoga el perfume de los árboles y el olor a tierra mojada. Las montañas no vienen a verme, ni yo puedo visitarlas. Me conformare con vivir un día a la vez. | Locked in, my mind tends to wander. It longs to spend time in my hometown mountains, where as a kid I spent countless hours watching eagles soar across the foggy skies. Many times, I sat or stood in the middle of a field, looking at the skies completely mesmerized by the sounds. I want to breathe and take in the earthy, fresh mountain air. I want to get in line to wash my dirty hands after running down the mountains, often scraping my knees in the process. I crave to hear my grandpa say, “come eat”, after an exhausting day. Neither of my grandfathers are alive. I live 2,000 miles from those mountains. The wall divides part of my family and the pandemic separates the rest. My grandma is high risk, and some family members have health issues, we’d rather not risk it. We already lost a distant cousin to the virus back in Mexico, although I didn’t know her well, she is still family. Currently, the mask’s fabric drowns out most scents, the mountains don’t come see me and I cannot go visit them. For now, I’ll take it one day at a time.  |
| Manuel: Usualmente no salgo mucho, me gusta más quedarme en casa. Este año que pasó me hizo falta tener por lo menos la opción de salir a compartir con mis amigos o ir de viaje con mi familia. Antes de que comenzara la pandemia, participé en clases gigantes, hice trabajo voluntario en el Hospital de los Veteranos y pase tiempo observando a diferentes doctores trabajar. Creo que para mí fueron las cosas pequeñitas las que más me hicieron falta. Por ejemplo, ir de visita a la República Dominicana y abrazar a mis abuelos, juntarme con mis amigos e interactuar con otras personas cara a cara. Cuando yo tuve COVID me sentí cansado, salir de la cama para trabajar en mis estudios requirió muchísimo esfuerzo. No me sentí bien por un par de días, pero mis hermanos de la fraternidad me ayudaron dejándome comida en la puerta del pasillo y mi mama y hermanas me trajeron antojos y vitaminas para mejorarme de los malestares. En total he tenido siete miembros de mi familia diagnosticados con COVID-19 pero afortunadamente todos se han recuperado. Mis padres son doctores, mi mama es un médico de emergencia en Pittsburgh y mi papá un neumólogo in Boardman, ambos han tenido mucha experiencia con la pandemia ayudando a sus pacientes en momentos difíciles. Estoy agradecido de lo que hacen y espero que vengan tiempos mejores para todos. | I do not usually go out much, I like to stay home. This last year, I missed the option to go out and hang out with friends and travel with my family. Before the pandemic started, I participated in large classes, I did volunteer work at the Veteran’s hospital and spend time shadowing different doctors. I think I missed most the little things. For example, visit the Dominican Republic and hug my grandparents, get together with friends, and interact with people face to face. When I had Covid, I felt tired, getting up to do schoolwork required a lot of effort. I did not feel well for a couple of days, but my fraternity brothers helped me by leaving me food outside my bedroom door in the hallway, and my mom and sisters brought me special food and vitamins so I could feel better. Overall, there has been seven family members with Covid, but fortunately everyone has recovered. My parents are doctors, my mom an ER doctor in Pittsburg and my dad a pneumologist in Boardman, both have gained a lot of experience caring for their patients during difficult times in this pandemic. I am grateful for what they do, and I hope for better times to come for everyone.  |
| Liz: I lost the feeling of certainty and comfort because of the pandemic. It felt like overnight, I lost all the “normal” aspects of my life: going to class, going to work, always being on the go. For once, I had to sit still and watch as the world changed before my eyes. I lost my job when Ohio closed restaurants and bars. I was uncertain of when I would return to work, and what work would look like when I came back. Would I get as many hours? Would I make as much as I did before? Would they be closed for more than a month? I felt for my family, many of whom are essential workers. Many of them also do not have sick leave, paid vacations, etc... they have to work in order to provide for themselves and their families. At this point, I am unsure if my life or job will ever go back to the way it was before the pandemic. Not all of the things I lost were unfortunate, because I also lost the feeling of always needing to occupy my time with work or school. For once, I felt like I had the time to think. I also realized that nothing in life is completely certain, and instead of being afraid of the uncertainty, I have chosen to prepare for it and embrace what may come my way. |  |
| Palo: No perdí a nadie. Pero me perdí muchas veces durante este año. Perdí la esperanza en mí. La esperanza en los demás. Muchas veces las ganas de vivir o las ganas de seguir. Me cuestioné muchas veces si este mundo vale la pena. La pandemia fue como la cereza. Solo me preguntaba ¿para qué? ¿Por qué tengo que seguir? Con el tiempo reforcé mi pérdida de esperanza en la humanidad, pero me di cuenta de que esta pandemia en verdad era la continuación de muchas otras. El COVID solo era otra razón más para que los más vulnerables sigan inflando las estadísticas. Para que el sistema siga abusando de los menos privilegiados. Para que no solo narremos lo que está pasando. Si no que hagamos algo para que no siga sucediendo. | I did not lose anybody. But I lost myself many times during this year. I lost hope in myself. Hope in others. Many times, the will to live and continue. I questioned, many times, if this world is worth it.The pandemic was like the last drop. I asked myself, what for? Why do I need to continue?With time, my lost hope in humanity got stronger, but I realized that this pandemic was the continuation of many others. Covid was just another reason for the most vulnerable to continue raising the statistics. For the system to continue to abuse the less privileged. Not only so we can narrate what is happening, but that we do something, so it does not continue.  |
|  |