



## Be a witness to history! Share your COVID-19 experiences

We are living in a historic moment in time! The COVID-19 crisis is reshaping our daily lives and our communities. In the future, others will look back and learn from our experiences. This is why it is so important to begin recording the history of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on New York State's people and communities. What is happening to us right now must not be forgotten! We need to document our experiences so that they can inform the response to future crises.

The Association of Public Historians of New York State and New York's 1,600+ government-appointed historians want to record your witness-to-history experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please use this form to tell us what you are experiencing. How are you feeling? What are you hearing and seeing around you? What are you doing, and what effect is this having on you, your family, your neighbors, and your community? How is your life different now than it was before the pandemic? Please answer only those questions that are pertinent to you and that you wish to answer. Be creative in your responses. You may reply with written text answers or you may respond with poetry, artwork, video diaries or something else. We also want to see photographs of what is happening around you, in your home, and in your community. You will be able to upload images and artwork at the end of the survey.

With your permission, we will preserve these responses in our archive and in the archives of your local government historians and/or historical societies where they will be shared with researchers and the public now and in the future. Thank you for participating!

\* Required

Email address *	
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Name *	
Today's date *	
Your age	
Your occupation	
Your village, town, city *	
Your county *	

Please grant us permission to include your answers and images in a publicly accessible archive. I understand that my answers and images may be shared across online social media platforms, used by researchers, published, included in exhibits and used for other educational purposes. \*

- Yes
- No

What were your thoughts when the first COVID-19 cases were being diagnosed in China?  
Did you expect it to spread to the US?

What were your thoughts when the first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in the United States?

What were your thoughts when the first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in New York State? In your county?

How has your behavior changed since the media first started reporting the spread of COVID-19? Did you continue your everyday activities? Did you start stockpiling groceries and toilet paper? Did you start washing your hands or using sanitizer more frequently?

How have you practiced social distancing?

How have things changed for you and/or your family since the outbreak? Are you or people you know working from home? Do you have/know children who need to do schoolwork from home? How are you/they dealing with that?

Are you a business owner who has had to close or an employee who has been laid off? If your business/employer is still open, how have you had to adjust how you and/or your business operates? If you are still working, what precautions are being taken?

How have your local government and community organizations responded to the crisis? What have you noticed has changed in your community since the outbreak? What has surprised you most?

What is the worst thing about this? Are there any “silver linings” in what has happened (spending more time with family, catching up on tasks around the house, reading, doing projects, etc.)?

Pretend it is the year 2050 and another pandemic is looming--what would you tell someone who has just asked what it was like to live through the 2020 pandemic? How would you suggest they handle what is about to come? What did officials/community/you do (or not do) in 2020 that those in 2050 might consider doing differently?

Is there anything else you would like to add that hasn't already been discussed above?

Please feel free to attach any photographs you may have taken during the quarantine period.. Please send your response to [mckennacarol6@gmail.com](mailto:mckennacarol6@gmail.com).

Thank you.