

An interview with David:

On November 4, 2020 I interviewed a science professor who is a friend of the family. The interview was conducted via Zoom, and was tape recorded for transcription with the agreement I would erase the tape after creating a written transcript.

David is a science professor with a community college system in south Texas, Prior to the pandemic he was dealing with being HIV+ , on expensive medications he has had to buy a premium medical insurance policy to cover (one not provided by his employer who he fears will release him if his HIV status is known). So this interview was consented to on the condition that I could only provide a written transcript and not supply his name or the name of the college he works at.

Chris: Hello buddy

David: Hey there...So...We want to discuss how I conduct class and office hours while protecting my health in the Era of Covid-19?

Chris: Yes if you would?

David: As you know Chris, I have a fatal autoimmune disease. Even without the potential of Covid-19 I'm at high risk of contracting any number of potentially fatal viruses just be coming in contact with the wrong person.

Chris: Yes, I know.

I also know that you had to set up a video studio in your home to demonstrate the experiments to the students Could you tell me more about it?

David: Yes. I had to go out and duplicate most of the lab materials needed to conduct the experiments as well as purchase a video camera , lighting , a more powerful microphone and a wireless printer just so I would be set up to demonstrate the experiments and create on-the-spot visuals for my students.

I also had to set up not only the usual official office hours via Zoom but give my students extra time when they could reach me if they had problems duplicating the experiments.

Chris: Has there been problems with students insisting upon doing the experiments in the lab of the college where you normally would conduct class?

David: There have been some. But they tend to be the same students who were problems before the pandemic. Those who want an easy high grade knowing they can't take any course that my freshman level introductory class is a prerequisite for from anyone else but myself unless they receive at least a B in my class.

Chris: Are there any new precautions you have to take in order to protect your health or does the ability to teach from home preclude the need for more?

David: Being at home and not having to go on campus except for faculty meetings is honestly better on my health at present. But I'd still prefer to teach in person next semester if possible. Most of my courses next semester are freshman introductory and it's important they get a good basis.

Chris: Thank you for your time and honesty buddy, I look forward to seeing you in person. Don't forget your mask when we go out to eat.

David: (smiling) You're welcome Chris. You know I won't forget that (meaning the mask). I hope our waitperson remembers theirs.