

Transcript of Interview with Zoe Tresemer by Tyler Urness

Interviewee: Zoe Tresemer

Interviewer: Tyler Urness

Date: April 22, 2021

Location (Interviewee): Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Location (Interviewer):

Transcriber: Tyler Urness and Aiden Ball

Abstract:

Zoe Tresemer was raised in Brodhead WI. She currently is a full-time student at the University of Wisconsin lacrosse. Zoe also works as a nanny in the lacrosse area. Zoe discusses how COVID-19 has affected her life including her work, family life, and mental health. She shares what it was like to be a college student and nanny during the pandemic. Zoe also tested positive for COVID-19 and shares her experience with that. So we also discuss her experiences with quarantining and getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Zoe also discusses her experience with news and the pandemic. The interviewer, Tyler Urness, and Zoe have known each other since both were kids.

Tyler Urness 0:00

The computer there. Alright, I think that's recording. Yeah. So just for the record, the date and time is April 22, 2021. The total cases in the United States currently are at 31,602,000. With the death toll 565,613. In Wisconsin, the current case number is 592,262. And death toll of 6721. The percent of the US population that's been vaccinated and full is 26.4%. And for one dose is at 40%. And then we are recording so we can begin. Can you state your name and any demographic information you'd like? Like your age?

Zoe Tresemer 0:53

I'm Zoey Tresmer, I'm 19 years old. And I'm white.

TU 1:01

What are your primary things you do on a day-to-day basis?

ZT 1:06

Um, I nanny and then school and a lot of homework. And spend some time with friends.

TU 1:13

I was gonna ask about any extracurricular activities. [laughs] Where do you live and what is it like to live there?

ZT 1:24

I live in an apartment building right next to campus. It's pretty good. Um, very expensive for what it is. But that's okay. It's very nice. Good security.

TU 1:38

At least you're right next to campus. When you first learned about COVID-19, what were your thoughts about it?

ZT 1:48

When I first heard about it, I didn't really think it would ever get like to the United States type of thing. Because at first it's started in China. And I was just like, thinking, Oh, it's just gonna, like happen over there. And it wouldn't like transfer over here. But now it's just like, shocking. I was very shocked.

TU 2:07

And what are your thoughts about it now? How has changed since the beginning? So, progressed over time.

ZT 2:13

Now I'm kind of, I feel like everyone's just living in it. And we're like finding ways to figure out how to live during a pandemic. And we have gotten the vaccines, so that's nice. But I, I feel like some precautions haven't always been like, used or like enforced as well as they should be.

TU 2:36

And then what issues have most concerned you about the Covid-19 pandemic?

ZT 2:41

Getting sick and getting like very sick and ending up in the hospital.

TU 2:48

Alright, so I'll ask you a little bit about employment. How is COVID-19 affected your job?

ZT 2:54

Well, when it first happened, like everything did shut down, so I did not have a summer job. And then I had a nanny, two boys that I did not know. And it was not the best experience. [laughs] Um, but other than that, it hasn't really affected my job at all. Because I've been nanny in a family here and La Crosse that they still have me come.

TU 3:17

Yeah, that's nice. You're still able to find employment?

ZT 3:20

Yes.

TU 3:21

How is COVID-19 changed your employment status? So I mean, you kind of touched on it, about not having a summer job, but remaining. What concerns do you have about the effects of COVID-19 on your employment now and the economy more broadly?

ZT 3:41

Not really anything because I still have a job. And then I already have like, a summer nanny job. So that's where I feel like we're kind of just living in it. And then the economic status, I'm not really into any of that kind of stuff. [laughs] So I don't really know that.

TU 3:59

No bold predictions for the future. [laughs] How's the Covid-19 pandemic affected the employment of people, you know?

ZT 4:08

I know for my brother, he, like coming out of college, he could not find a job like at all. And that was like really hard for him. type of thing. Probably took him like five months before he could actually find a job. And other than that, my like, Dad has been able to work still and my mom has always been able to work so I don't really know much people that have been like super badly affected during employment.

TU 4:37

We'll talk about family and household next. How has COVID-19 affected you and your family's day-to-day activities?

ZT 4:45

At first, we were all very cautious, and like we wouldn't see family members. But now we've gotten used to it and everyone in my family is vaccinated to now we all kinda just live with it. We me and my sister both did get COVID so there's two weeks where like we couldn't do anything or see anyone so that was hard.

TU 5:12

How are you managing day-to-day activities in your household right now?

ZT 5:16

Oh, good. Same old, same old. [laughs]

TU 5:24

How is the COVID-19 outbreak affected you? How you associate with friends and family? In what ways?

ZT 5:33

I definitely feel extremely antisocial now. [laughs] I feel like I'm not interacting with anyone in like from campus. It's all just a whole bunch of close friends and being like, online for classes. I feel like there's no connections or friendships being made.

TU 5:52

Yeah, you're watching like a TV show and you're like wondering where their masks are. What have you, your family, and friends done for recreation during the Covid-19 pandemic?

ZT 6:08

And at first, I started doing a lot of at-home videos, [inaudible]. But now me and my sister do cycle classes at the rec or else we go walk the marsh.

TU 6:21

Any show so you've caught up on during the pandemic or games or book?

ZT 6:25

I did watch Outer Banks. I'm not sure if I was a big fan of it. I was honestly scared after this episode, but we now are just watching reality TV.

TU 6:41

Yeah, it is John B. Everyone loves John B.

ZT 6:44

I mean I do like him, but the show is too scary

TU 6:49

Next will be the combative community. How's the COVID-19 outbreak affected your community? So different communities you're in like school, church, clubs, etc.

ZT 7:02

Yeah, I feel like for school, just the connections aren't being made. Like even with professors and like your peers and my classmates. I feel like we're not having those like in-person connections and like discussions, like in-depth discussions as we would in person. And I'm for like, intramurals type of thing kind of club, those aren't happening. And I was into that without little friend group. So not being able to do that is a bummer. And just getting competitive. [laughs]

TU 7:32

How are the people around you responding to the Covid-19 pandemic?

ZT 7:37

Pretty good. At first, I was like, I feel like everyone kind of went through a wave of like, ugh this is horrible. Like, kind of sad and like lonely type of thing. But I think we're doing a lot better now through like my friends. And we still like get together. And we do kind of like stay in our own little bubble of just our close friends.

TU 8:01

Have you seen the people around you change their opinion on like day to day activities or relationships in response to the pandemic?

ZT 8:10

Um, we definitely don't like go out as much and like, do things as what we would like probably usually do. So we do kind of be cautious about that. But since like, majority of our friend group is vaccinated, they are wanting to get out and do a little bit more

TU 8:29

Self-isolation, and flattening the curves have been two key ideas that have emerged during the pandemic. How have you, your family, friends, and community responded to a request to self-isolate and flatten the curve?

ZT 8:42

Um, the self-isolation has been, it was very hard, especially at the beginning of like, not going anywhere or doing anything. And then like close contact sometimes. We had that a couple times here. I'm like staying locked up in your apartment, sort of say it is really hard and like, I feel like it does really affect you mentally.

TU 9:06

You have like, groceries or something.

ZT 9:10

We were actually kind of very good on groceries. It was kind of nice because we like went grocery shopping the day before we learned that we need to be in isolation. Yeah, it was rough. And then like kind of the isolation part. Like it doesn't I feel like it. It's like a domino effect. Like, as soon as you're in isolation and then like for employment, then you have to tell like, I had to tell my family I nanny like I was technically I was in like close contact with someone so that like I couldn't babysit for them. And then I just like kept going on and on.

TU 9:44

Has COVID-19 changed your relationship? Oh, I already asked that one. We're going to talk about health now. Have you or anybody you know, gotten sick during the covid 19 outbreak, and what has your experience been in responding to the sickness

ZT 10:00

Yes, my me and my sister both tested positive and then it just ended up going through our entire little friend group. Because I was like asymptomatic, so I didn't really know I had it. But Morgan [sister] had symptoms and she was down for the count. Like, she has kind of like all the little symptoms of like the fever. She was like throwing up one-day body aches, I was perfectly fine. But the vaccine that hit me like a truck, really both times, it was awful.

TU 10:33

In what ways do you think COVID-19 is affecting people's mental and or physical health?

ZT 10:39

I think mental health, especially I've had experience with it, I do now have to like go to counseling because of all of this. Umm, so I think it does really affect people's mental health and physical. I could see it like affecting physical help, also, because people I feel like since they're kind of isolated in their homes, or like trying to like, isolate, you're just not getting out and being active.

TU 11:05

Do some at-home workouts, like you said earlier?

ZT:

Some yes.

TU: For the vaccine, have you or anyone you know, had questions or concerns about the vaccine? I mean, you said that most of your friend group has now gotten it.

ZT 11:19

Yeah, just, the Johnson & Johnson when that happened on the news and how that pause. It was even, it's just a concern for women at what I found. But like the day, the day that after that came out, my dad got the Johnson and Johnson's and me, and my sister were like, this is not good. But then we found out that it's like more targeted towards women.

TU 11:46

You said you received the vaccine and had some side effects. What were the side effects that you don't mind sharing? And did anyone else you know, have any side effects?

ZT 11:56

Um, my side effects were I had like 100-degree fever. My body wasn't the worst it ever been in. Like my joints and my back aching, I had a terrible headache. That was that was for the both, both of my shots. And then everyone else kind of they just as what I've heard kind of had a sore arm and a low fever.

TU 12:22

What was your experience getting access to the vaccine and getting like an appointment made and availability?

ZT 12:30

Um, it was kind of easy-ish. Because 1) it was open for like childcare workers, I signed up saying that, like I was a nanny. So like, I'm kind of technically like a childcare worker type of thing. And then it probably took a month until I got an email saying like, oh, you're eligible, like make an appointment. But then making the appointment was super duper easy. Like they sent me that email that day I was able to get the vaccine.

TU 13:02

For information, what have been your primary sources of news during the pandemic?

ZT 13:08

CBS News and CDC?

TU 13:14

Do you have the news on like the TV? Or is it your phone

ZT 13:18

T.V.

TU 13:21

How have your news sources changed if they have changed during the course of the pandemic?
[inaudible][laughs]

ZT 13:31

[laughs] I never looked at the CDC before but as soon as like I feared that I had COVID because it was like just a cough, I would be on that website immediately checking if I had symptoms.

TU 13:45

What do you think are important issues that the media may or may not be covering currently?

ZT 13:52

Um, I kind of think the news covers the worst part of the, like COVID and they're like, it's important to like show the dust and everything and like, but I feel like with the vaccine type of thing, they're only showing like the negative effects people are having with the vaccine. And I don't know so many people have like started to get vaccinated and like aren't like getting symptoms and type of thing. So I feel like just trying to show like the positive side of COVID instead of like people kind of living in fear all the time.

TU 14:26

Yeah. For government, how have municipal leaders and government officials in your community responded to the outbreak?

ZT 14:37

I feel like Evers did a pretty good job with it and then like our chancellor for our university, he's been okay about it. There was an email he sent the other day not the other day like a couple months ago and it was just kind of putting off I don't know just how we like stated some things it was like iffy

TU 14:58

Do you have any thoughts on how local state or federal leaders are responding to the crisis differently? So how, like different governors are responding to it compared to one another? Or etc?

ZT 15:11

I do feel like sometimes I'm like, just watching the news when it was kind of all like, very serious. I feel like everyone should kind of went on the same page. And like, everyone maybe should have like, done all the same orders instead of like, new, I get New York was like a big outbreak place, but like, they were taking it very seriously. And then you like, see some other states like Florida type of thing and like, aren't worrying about it at all. So I feel like everyone maybe should have just been on the same page so it didn't cause an issue later on.

TU 15:44

Yeah. And then for the future, how is your experience transformed the way that you think about like your family, friends, and community? And in what ways?

ZT 15:55

Just like definitely, just making sure that like, you kind of say you always love them before you leave, because you just never know. Because some people can be affected with the COVID a lot worse than others, and you just never know. And then I also think like wearing masks, like, I feel

that will kind of just sometimes being a norm now like kind of everywhere. If someone's sick, like you'll just wear a mask type of thing.

TU 16:18

Yeah. And then knowing what you know, now, what do you think that individuals communities, or governments need to do to keep this from happening in the future or keep stuff in mind for the future?

ZT 16:30

I think as soon as we know, we were in a global pandemic type of thing, that we should have really taken that seriously. So a year later, we're still not like having an issue with it that we should have like, taken us very serious lockdown at the beginning. So then in hopes that later on, we could have been back to normal clicker.

TU 16:54

Okay, I think that's it for at least the recording