

Project Title: Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience

### Interview Summary

Connor Donnelly is a senior at California State University San Bernardino due to graduate in Spring 2021. He was affected at school, work, and personally by the Covid-19 pandemic. We spend time talking about how life changed, how the school shut out helped with classwork, but made work at a public high school more difficult. We also talk about what happened when he contracted novel coronavirus.

**Interviewees:**

Connor Donnelly

**Interviewer:**

Marlene Cardenas

**Interview Date:**

October 13, 2020

**Location:**

Zoom Virtual Interview

Grand Terrace, CA

Perris, CA

**Interview Summary completed by:**

Marlene, Cardenas, 2020

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**Topic:**

Covid-19 pandemic, how it affected university life, working during Covid-19, attending public school, working at a public education institution during covid-19, and what happened during quarantine.

**Keywords:**

- Covid-19, University, Work, School, Symptoms, Videogame, education, Positive for Covid-19

**Comments:**

Audio recording is 00:42:56.

## Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Mp4	00:04:49	Start of Interview/Pre-shutdown Covid Thoughts
Mp4	00:10:45	Adapting workplace because of Covid
Mp4	00:23:15	Living with coronavirus

## Related Materials:

### Full interview transcript can be found below.

Marlene Cardenas: Can you tell me what you thought about “Covid” before everything shut down? Were you waiting for the campus to close or were you optimistic that it wasn’t going to be as serious as it turned out to be?

Connor Donnelly: Uh, honestly, it would probably be the latter. So, I would-- didn’t think that everything was going to be closed down honestly because I was getting ready for my midterms or not even midterms, it was like finals were coming up at that time right before, yeah --

MC: --Spring Break.

CD: ‘Cause it was finals, yeah. And uh, I know I was studying to get ready for that and I was like, “Ah, this is gonna be rough,” and then it was just like, “Well, campus is closed.” So, he turned it into take-home finals. And I was like, “Oh, sweet! Even better!” So, it made it a little bit easier, but yeah, I didn’t think it was going to be, as you said, as serious as it ended up becoming.

MC: I was so ready for them to close down.

CD: [*Laughs.*] Yeah?

MC: How are you staying connected to the campus community? And now, if want to through quarter or semester?

CD: Um, how did I stay in contact with the campus community?

MC: Yes.

CD: Just by the emails that they send me. [*Laughs.*] That I just mark as “read” and then don’t worry about later. I-I honestly never really, you know, kept in touch or talked to anyone, really, on campus other than just the couple people that I met like you, Cameron, and Mark. Other than

that, it was just-- I meet a couple of people here and there, talk to them, and once the quarter ended, I never saw them again. So, I didn't really-- I'd just kind of move on and went to my next classes.

MC: How is it now?

CD" How is it *now*? It's even worse, I guess 'cause I never even see anybody! [*Laughs.*] And I don't even see them during class. And not that many people really speak up during class either. At least the classes that I'm in. There are some [classes] where the teachers are really cool. Uh, so like Professor Barber --he's really awesome. And uh, there's quite a bit of people that have their cameras on and they uh, participate and everything, and he puts us into groups and we talk. So, it's a lot of-- he makes it seem more like we're in a classroom, unlike other professors that I had. But other than that, it's been, yeah.

MC: It's a little awkward, huh?

CD: Ver, very disconnected.

MC: What role has technology played during the pandemic and have you had to acquire any new skills to effectively use unfamiliar technologies? What does your new workspace look like?

CD: [*Laughs.*] New workplace is right here, what you're looking at. I seriously have, like, a foldable table that my laptop sits on. I have my computer desk that's just you know, as you prob- - or as I have told you before. I can even show you now. New technology... not much 'cause I've built my own computer. It's made for gaming, of course. Um, I have a little drawing tablet that I used to sign the consent form with it. When I'm working, when I help, uh, students-- 'cause I work at San Bernardino Unified School District-- when I'm helping students out and stuff, I share my screen as I did with you and I go on OneNote, the application and I sit there and like usually a lot of the classes I help in are math, so I just write out the problems and I can pretty much just write, right there on the tablet and it pops up on my screen, so the kids can see it. So, it's pretty nice.

MC: That's really cool.

CD: Yeah, it's pretty cool. This little thing. [*Holds up tablet.*]

MC: Oh. That's cool.

CD: Just plugs in, USB.

MC: Did you use Zoom before this?

CD: Um, honestly, I did not, but I did skype with friends. So, [*intelligible*] known that. I did Face Time with people, but that's usually one-on-one. Zoom-- where there's multiple people, like, up to twenties, thirties of people-- it's a little different, but I, I have normally, you know, used to being using technology and stuff, so it didn't -- I had no problem transitioning into it.

MC: Good. That's good.

CD: Kida like being a gamer, class is over and I just turn my chair like this and start playing games. [Laughs]. I don't have to drive home now to play videogames. Now, I just turn. [Laughs.] It's so bad.

MC: That's great. That's an upside then, a positive!

CD: Oh, it's great, yeah! 'Cause I'm used to it. So, like, it's-- it doesn't -- it didn't have much of an effect on me. It's just normally I come home, play videogames with friends anyways.

MC: Yeah, so how's it been like learning, teaching, or working virtually? We kind of went over it before, but...

CD: Yeah. Well, um, learning... So, starting off with learning, I've never really been a fan of online learning 'cause I just feel like I'm more focused in a classroom and I do ask questions quite a bit. So, I like to be able to, like, raise my hand, ask questions, and if I need to, you know, contact-- I don't know, I just, to me, the person to person I get, I'm just more comfortable with that. I guess I learn a little better, whereas online, and as I said, I have this whole set-up right here. I get distracted kind of easily if... that's why I turn it all off when, uh, class is going and everything or when work's going. Um, and then with working online, that has made a *huge* impact negatively because it is so hard for me to be able to help the students. 'Cause before, it's like, I'd be walking around the classroom and assisting them with whatever they might need help with and now, um, so, that would happen like the teacher would be up, you know, kind of going over notes like that and I would walk around and ask if there's any help and I can sit there, sit next to them, whisper to them, make sure they're understanding what's going on. But, now, I can't do that because, um, if I try to talk to them, it's going to, you know, come through everyone's computer speakers which is not, you know, good 'cause I'm just trying to help one kid, not the whole class. The rest of the class are probably just going over the normal stuff, so it makes it for, if I try to help, I'll almost interrupt the teacher, because even then I can type in the chat, uh, but we're using, most of them are using Google Meets, so everyone -- can't send private messages. The ones who do have Zoom, they allow me to send private messages just, you know, to certain, specific students who might be asking for help and I can just be like, "Hey, what is it you need help in? I can maybe help you with that." But yeah, in Google Meets I can't so, even when I try to message them, like, "Hey, like, what is it that you're having problems with?" the teacher will see it pop up and then, because they see a new message pop up, they look over to it and it kind of distracts them when I'm trying to help someone. And so, I usually, you know, it's-- it's a lot. It's much more difficult.

MC: Do the students, um, reply to you?

CD: Um, they tend to, if, um-- Usually in the, in the Zoom ones when I like, private message them they'll reply. In Google, they'll reply sometimes, but like, if I go for sending them an email, or just being like, "Hey, u, how's everything going in the class? Is there anything you need help with that I can assist you with?" I never get replies from them. I don't think I've gotten, I've got emails from other students who aren't mine, asking for my assistance, and I'll help them, but I, I-- the students that I'm supposed to be seeing, the special ed students, they don't help or they don't ask for help.

MC: Yeah

CD: --I'm sitting there, like, "What is it that you need help with? Is there anything I can do? I'm here to help you out as much as I can." And yeah, I just get ghosted. [Laughs.]

MC: Right? *Laughs.* Oh my god. It happens to me every day, too because it's the same experience as you, like exactly the same. Except, never, like the chat, never get replies, emails: never get replies. If I do get a chat to me, it's like a student from outside of my little group.

CD: Yeah.

MC: and then the teacher I work with, she asks, "Oh, how's it going?" and things like, "Have they asked you for help?" and you're like, "No." It's like we can't do anything to follow up with the kid or anything, right?

CD: Exactly.

MC: I mean, it's disheartening because these kids, 'cause you know, if you're in class they're going to be asking questions and you're going to be helping them, but you can barely--

CD: They'll raise their hand, or you'll walk by assisting them if they need it. Do you mind if I drink some water?

MC: Go for it. [*Jokingly*] No. Don't do that. Just kidding. Um, --

CD: Alright, I'll let my mouth dry out.

MC: I was going to add to that. Do you guys use breakout rooms?

CD: Um.

MC: That's mostly on Meets, right?

CD: Yeah. They're usually in Meets and Google Meets just added in breakouts. I think I just noticed it this week. So, it's a new thing that you can add in the past day or two. But we have been-- today we did use it in one of the classrooms, it was a biology class, it was pretty cool. The teacher actually set it up, so I could add a couple of the regular ed students and then I had a few of my special ed students in there as well, so I just kind of helped them all together. We were just working on, kind of-- they use this thing called Jamboard and so, it's like a screen for everyone-- it's like a Google Docs almost where everyone can go on there and add stuff to it. And we pretty much, we, um, they give us a PowerPoint, like slides and then the Jamboard to do. All we had to do was answer a dew questions that were given in the PowerPoint Slides and so, it was pretty simple and I just guide them through it, get them to answer and get through it, you know, just complete the assignment. It was pretty cool actually doing the Breakout Room. I dug it, 'cause I was actually able to help, which was fun!

MC: Right?

CD: I like being able to help them. If I'm just sitting there, like, "Uhh..."

MC: You feel like you're actually doing your job.

CD: Yeah.

MC: How has the closure of residence halls, campus services, or buildings affected you?

CD: um... not much. Other than... [*laughs*].

MC: How so?

CD: It's uh, dumb, but uh, other than, me not being able to get Taco Bell so easily. [*Laughs*.] Not having to drive.

MC: Going to the bar? To the pub?

CD: Getting that stuff, going to the pub, because we used to hang out up there, doing homework together, but uh, yeah, I honestly, until I started hanging out with, uh, our little group, I um, never really stayed at school other than just for class and once class was over, I'd walk straight to my car and left. So, there's no reason for me to be anywhere else there. Um, so yeah, once we started-- once, we got that one class together, um, History 307? Uh, that was pretty cool 'cause then we started hanging out and, like, I kind of did have a few friends on campus and we'd always meet up, go to the pub, and of course, get a few drinks and sit there and work on homework and talk and just have a good time. Um, and then, we'd also go to the-- we had that class together, so we'd walk to the library 'cause that's where class was and leave from there to go to the pub for a bit and watch the games that were going on or I would bring my Nintendo Switch be playing videogames as we were hanging out. But yeah, I never really used any of the other buildings, expect for-- which one's that one? That's like the Student Center? No...

MC: The San... Manuel Student... Union Building?

CD: Something like that, yeah.

MC: I don't know.

CD: The one we'd always-- the one that has the pub in it.

MC: Yeah.

CD: And downstairs has all the food areas.

MC: Yeah. [*It's called the Santos Manuel Student Union*].

CD: So, usually after my first class, I'd go down there, grab dinner and then go and run to my next class, but yeah. That's pretty much-- that's the only building I used other than the ones my classes were specifically in.

MC: How do you maintain your friendships after Covid now that you don't see them at school?

CD: Well, uh, we text every once in a while. Um, we haven't hung out yet. I did go see Mark one time, to get a book from him 'cause he had taken a class that I was going into and he'd already had the book for it. I still have his book and that was for last quarter. So, I had it for, like, all summer and up 'til now and it was last quarter, so Spring quarter. I'll return that book back to him. [*Laughs*]. I keep meaning to, but every-- the couple times we did hang out, I forgot to take it, so. Uh, but it's very useful, having his book, because you know how he is, underlining,

highlighting and stuff, so, yeah. We've text, here and there, had some Zoom meetings as we are right now. Where we just hang out and talk. Um, I play video games with, uh, some of my friends., but I've actually-- this semester I made a friend who PC games, so we added each other on Discord and played some games together. So, that's cool. Not only do we have -- we have two classes together, we have, uh, Professor Barber's together where me and him are actually in a group, and then we have Professor Samuelson's together. In that one, we were in a group, but because Samuelson tried out the whole group thing, like uh, doing group discussion and whatnot, and it failed, pretty bad, [laughs] so he stopped now everyone just does a post on their own, but uh, yeah. It was pretty cool. And the people I'm in the group with, for Professor Barber's class, we've met up a few times on-- in the Zoom to actually, like, do assignments together 'cause we're able to work on assignments in groups, 'cause they're group assignments of course, but like, usually we'll get to the Zoom meeting and we'll be talking for a good half hour, forty-five minutes, just talking "How's everything going?" having a good time. But it's like, "Alright, let's get to work, let's see what we got to do," and spend a couple hours working on it. But it's fun. It allows us to kind of, have that almost type-of, you know, person to person type communication that we would kind of, maybe, probably would have, but yeah. Just uh, just keep being or maintaining the relationships with the people that I've meet at school, is more difficult, but it's not too bad. I just text them every once in a while, anyways. As you know.

MC: I do.

CD: Even if they don't reply back. [Laughs].

MC: I reply.

CD: [Agrees sarcastically].

MC: It's the other two... How do you handle the stress we've all been experiencing?

CD: Um, just trying... [shrugs] just go at it a little at a time. So, like I've had some weeks where I have multiple papers due and all these other stuff, too. Having, uh-- so, actually, let me tell you this, something that was stressful for this semester was, the very first week of the semester, before we even started, I had already gone through all the syllabi and checked them out and I had a couple classes that seemed-- that were kind of freaking me out, so I was already [fakes hyperventilation] already stressing out about, "Oh my god." And then a couple days later, um, my parents got sick and went got tested and they were positive. And then I went to got tested a day after and I was positive. It sucked! 'Cause first week of school, I'm already stressed-- 'Cause I've been reading up on all that stuff and I'm like, "Ahh, these assignments, they're so many that I have to do!" Yes, they're not due for another month, two months, three months or whatever, but "Ahh, there's so many!" And on top of that I was sick and *it was coronavirus*, so that sucked. Um, but lucky me, I had very *minor* symptoms: a runny nose for like five days, a little bit of a sore throat for a couple of hours on one day, and like one of the other days I had a headache for like half a day, but other than that, I was just tired. So, it was like, "Ugh, i have--" like for Professor Barber, we have to do presentations, group presentations, and I was in group one. Our presentation was the third week of school. So, for the first two weeks, I was like not too crazy sick, but I was *tired*. Like, I was wanting to go to bed at seven, eight o'clock. I was just exhausted. I was just-- I had to push through 'cause I need to get that presentation done. But, it was a huge part of our grade. So, that's-- yeah, there was a lot of stress that happened there, but um, other than that, it's just like I just push myself to try to get as much done as I can in a couple of days, so I can give myself maybe like the weekend to relax and not have to worry about schoolwork or anything else. I try to get stuff done during the week, so the weekend, I can

chill, hangout with family, play videogames if I want to with my friends-- normally during the week I'm not playing videogames, so if I do, I play for like an hour or so and then go to bed, but usually, I watch TV or something until bedtime. But, yeah. Um, yeah.

MC: How many classes do you have? -- or are you taking this fall?

CD: I'm taking four. So, I have two history: History 3--3500, sorry, the semester system, whatever all they did was add a zero at the end of each one...

MC: And make it longer.

CD: [Laughs]. So, I got History 350 and 3210 and I have Political Science 3000 and I have Social Science 594, so that's my senior seminar class which is a research paper. So, that one and my History 321 are pretty demanding. There's constant work to be done. And also, the one I'm working on a ten to fifteen-page research paper, which honestly, isn't that bad. Um, but the other two aren't too bad, they have like, one had a weekly discussion and the other one has a weekly journal or journal entry. So, they're pretty similar. One's like 250-300 words, not that bad. The other one is like 150 to 200 words, so it's like a half-hour to write all that stuff. But, they both have papers and presentations we have to do as well, so. It's just sometimes, there's certain weeks were I just feel like I'm getting overwhelmed, but I just do the best I can which is all I can do and knock out a little bit here and there and make my way through it, as I can, so yeah.

MC: So, going back a little bit, if you could expand on when you tested positive with COVID. Like, how did you feel? Finding that out? Were you anxious?

CD: Honestly, I had-- I was kind of like, [shrugs] "Eh, whatever. I'm pretty young. I'm pretty sure it's not going to affect me that bad." And then, I got it and I was like, "Hopefully, it's not too bad." And then after, like, the day I got my nose swabbed and stuff, that's when I started getting runny nose symptoms, later that night. So, it's like, "It's a conspiracy! They're out there trying to infect me!" No, not at all. [Laughs.] But, it's just weird that I went and got my nose swabbed and then later that night, I started getting a runny nose and then it just lasted for the rest of that week. I got tested on Tuesday and by like Saturday my nose started clearing up. It wasn't as running as much, but it was still kind of congested. Which is weird because, you know, it's running, but I can't breathe 'cause it's just inflamed or whatever. But I wasn't too worried about it. I was more worried about my parents just 'cause they're older. They did pretty fine, too. My mom had it the worst. She had, like, a really bad headache for a day or two. That was it. She also had like, a few other basic symptoms and stuff, but yeah, the worst part was that she didn't like was the headache. My dad had a headache, so not too much. We're all good now!

MC: That's good! How long did it last though?

CD: Uh, um... like the symptoms and stuff?

MC: Yeah. When did you feel better?

CD: For me, I started feeling better -- I started feeling less tired and actually having energy all the time 'cause like when I did have [covid], it was like, I'd wake up tired and throughout the whole day, tired. Didn't really want to do much, just tired. So, I was just like doing a lot of sitting down, laying down, not doing much. I didn't play videogames that much 'cause I just wasn't feeling it. I'd just turn the TV on, lay back in the chair, and just took little catnaps throughout the

day, too. But it was-- honestly, I think my symptoms lasted probably like, five or six days, before, like, it started getting a lot-- before it just started getting better, so yeah. Once it started, I just had the runny nose, mainly, for about five days. On like the sixth day, it started going away and the seventh day, it was pretty much gone and I just had a little bit of a stuffy nose. Then after a couple of days, that went away. I wasn't feeling so much tired anymore. Uh, one thing that kinds did last a little bit was my loss of, uh, smell and taste. I, like, was eating-- whenever I would eat, it would just be like I wasn't eating anything almost. I was just chewing on something, but I couldn't taste it or smell it, so I started adding spice. *[Laughs.]* I started making it spicy. I love spicy stuff, but I started making it too spicy 'cause it was getting to the point where I would eat it and like-- like, I'd be eating a burger wit the yellow peppers. Take a bite of that, I'm like, "Okay, I can't taste anything But, my mouth is now starting to sting. So, it's like, "Okay, cool." I know it's spicy because my mouth is stinging, but there was no flavor or anything really and if I smell anything it was just like, *[sniffs hard]* "Nope, I don't smell anything." I still might have a little bit of problems with smelling, but I did look up on the CDC, they said that problems with smelling and taste, like the loss of it, could last up to a couple of months after you have it. But, I think I'm doing pretty fine 'cause I can smell *some*. I can smell a lot better that I did. 'Cause at first it was just like, my mom would like would cook breakfast or something and I'd be like-- put my face in the pan and *[sniffs hard]* and smell nothing. It's just right there. I'd be like, "Man, I know this smells good!" 'cause it'll be chorizo and eggs for breakfast and that's got a good smell, but, I can't smell it. It's like, dang. But, now I can smell. Pretty well. Again. So, I don't think I'm too bad.

MC: That's good. I'm glad your family is okay, too.

CD: Thank you. But we did end up retesting, I think, it was like-- we retested last week and we all got--we're all negative again, so that's good.

MC: That's good.

MC: Alright, so, well, we already covered this, so if you want to -- if you think you answered it well enough, or you want to add something, go right ahead, but the question is: How has the quarantine, isolation, and social distancing affected your life and relationships with family and friends?

CD: Um, so, yeah, if you want, I can just reiterate, I don't mind. Honestly, it hasn't affected me much at all. Other than getting the sickness, none. I'm not an introvert, as other people-- that's what they are, like, people who just stay and can totally be away from everyone else. That's not me. I like being around other people-- I love it, but I don't have to be face to face with them. Like, if it's just me and my friends playing videogames, that's perfectly fine. Or me talking on the phone with my sister, or my brother, or my parents-- I live with them, so I see them everyday. Um, but most of my friends that I talk too. I either text them or sometimes I call them, we'll talk on the phone, but most of the time, we get on X-box or PC and we play games together. So, I normally, would come home to get on X-box or my PC to play games with my friends. Now, it's just like, I'm already home, so I don't have go anywhere. It honestly hasn't affected me.

MC: It's more convenient.

CD: Yeah. It is! *[Laughs.]* It made it more convenient.

MC: You didn't try any trends or fads? Like, what were they doing? You don't have a Tik-Tok? --

CD: No.

MC: You haven't been doing Tik-Tok dances? What else did they do?

CD: Before the quarantine when everything happened and our school closed down, they were some kids that were trying to get me to do Tik-Tok dances with them 'cause they're like, "You're cool, Mr. D! You should do a Tik-Tok dance with us!" And I'm like, "Ehh...no." I'm not that cool.

MC: You didn't try to learn a new instrument? During quarantine. You know how for spring break, we got three good, solid weeks off, you didn't try to pick up a new instrument? Paint?

CD: Um, no. I-- I--

MC: Baked?

CD: I just do what I normally do, play games and watch TV. Sometimes, when I'm watching TV, I'll draw, but I didn't really get too crazy into that, even though I'd like to get better, but I don't know. I just-- It's one of those people who just-- I want to be good at drawing, but I really don't want to put the time. So, I do draw, I enjoy it, but I don't really, do it as often as I should. But whenever I do, I have fun. So, yeah, I just play videogames. I have picked up new games to try out and stuff. I don't think that makes a difference.

MC: But you didn't venture out?

CD: No. No. No.

MC: Tell me about how you are feeling given the uncertainty of these times

CD: I do hope it gets better, but as of right now... I kind of I like the way it is... with the whole quarantine, because not only does it make it, like you said, more convenient to hang out with my friends, but it also makes it-- because everything is at home, online, it's even though, like I said before, I'm not a fan of online classes just 'cause I feel like I'm not learning as much or as much as I would normally learn, um, but it is making it a little more easier for me to do schoolwork and stuff like, I'm not spending the time driving to work or something like that, or all the time at work and then go straight to school, go to class and stuff and I do my homework at night, uh, I wake up early start doing homework, when work starts, I go to work, in between, like on my lunch break, I'll pull out my assignments or something and start doing that. It could have also been something like that when I was at work, but when I'm at work, I'm usually doing other things. Like, I don't have down time. I'll be-- sometimes at lunch, I'll tell a kid to meet up at the classroom that I'm normally in and if they needed help, they wanted to use up their lunch, they could come see me and I could-- while we're having lunch-- I could show them how to do problems and stuff or sometimes, I'd meet up with them after school, of course, with one of the certificated teachers there. So, yeah. It feels like-- it's made it easier for me to complete my own schooling, assignments and such.

MC: I agree. It's helped out a lot.

CD: Yeah. I'm pretty fine with how it is right now, 'cause if we did go back to being on campus for work and stuff, and then-- like we're already going to be online next semester for Cal State that would be pretty difficult due to the time that I get off work. I get off of work at 2:15 and then my classes start at 2:30 and I live about 15 to 20 minutes depending on traffic it can be longer from where I work. So, if that-- if campus for school or work would open back up, I would pretty much be having to rush home so that I could get online and sign into class and even then I would probably be showing up late. And that would just make it more difficult for me.

MC: And you have to worry about if your work, school district is going to reopen too, right? I'm in the same boat as you.

CD: I'm not sure because our school district for work is in the Purple Tier, from what I learned this morning, 'cause we had a meeting this this morning, and that is the worst tier you should be in. And they're like, "We're not --" Supposedly, our school is getting all set-up and everything. They're going through the classes sanitizing everything, spacing everything out with plexiglass around desks and everything, they're maximizing, I think, up to 16 people per classroom. Which... I'm not sure how that's gonna work? When before, it was like 35-40 students and then you have the teacher and instructional tutors, if there are any, like in each classroom. So, it's just, like, where are all the extra classrooms going to come from? Like, I know--

MC: Extra staff, too.

CD: Yeah, exactly. I know that, not all rooms are used at once, some teachers have their lesson planning periods, where they can something like that, but still, it's-- there's a lot of kids and it seemed like they're a lot of classrooms that were already cramped and now they're trying to make it spaced out, so it's like all those extra students, where are they going to go? Like, open up the gymnasium and just have them--?

MC: They should!

CD: That could be a pretty big class.

MC: Turn PE into science-- biology.

CD: They're out in the locker room and stuff.

MC: Yeah, in the common area.

CD: Oh yeah. Or the theatre.

MC: Exactly.

MC: Alright. What do you recall about the political climate-- Black Lives Matter, Trump-- during this time and what new layer did it add to your experiences with COVID or the quarantine?

CD: Umm. Well, to be completely honest, I don't really pay too much attention to politics. I just kind of [*intelligible*] myself. Me and my friends-- we talk about it here and there. Mainly, when it comes up, I normally just let the people talk and I don't really say much. Um, because we all have our perspectives on it. And usually politics tends to lead to lots and lots of arguments. So, instead of being in an argument, I'd rather just talk about something else completely different.

MC: Yeah.

CD: Normally what I do, if they're going to start talking about something and they'll bring something up...

MC: You're the peacemaker.

CD: Sure. *[Laughs]*. If they bring something up-- like, I've had a conversation about politics with Cameron once and he was all like, "Dude, honestly..." It was one of the best conversations I've ever had because I didn't get into an argument with anyone. He was very understanding. We were kind of back and forth, 'cause I was like, "This is what I believe and you tell me that... I can understand that. Yeah, Totally. But, mmhm, you know what, *sure.*" *[Laughs]*.

MC: Agree to Disagree.

CD: I'll listen to people. I understand what they're trying to say and stuff. Sometimes if they're making a good argument, I'm like, ha, you know what, I didn't see it that way. It gets me thinking more. But, yeah, usually, anything political comes in, I'm-- I'll sit there, listen, think about it, and then I'll find something else to talk about. *[Laughs]*. It's just one of those things that I'm not too...

MC: Is there anything you would like to share about your COVID 19 experience

CD: I already shared about a ton.

MC: It was all great though.

CD: Um, other than that, everything I pretty much shared, there isn't much to add on.

MC: Alright. Well, thank you, Mr. Connor Donnelly. I appreciate your time.

CD: Yeah, no problem.

## Interview Transcript

### Interviewees:

Connor Donnelly

**Interviewer:**  
Marlene Cardenas

**Interview Date:**  
October 13, 2020

**Location:**  
Zoom Virtual Interview  
Grand Terrace, CA  
Perris, CA

**Length:**  
00:42:56

**Media format:**  
Digital, audio recording

**List of Acronyms:**  
CD = Connor Donnelly  
MC= Marlene Cardenas

**Interview Transcript completed by:**  
Marlene Cardenas, 2020

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**Start of Interview:**  
00:04:49

**End of Interview:**  
00:59:16