

# Storytelling Project

**Name/Initials: La'Rissa**

**Date: 12/22/2020**

- 1) **How has your life changed since March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**La'Rissa: I was a senior last year and worked so hard for those things we look forward to, but adjusting to all of that was a challenge. I am also an essential worker so I did take a break for a while but then I went back to work. I also started college online and it has been stressful mostly because of communication. The fear of getting sick will be there but I try to remain positive and my family and I have been healthy through it all.**

- 2) **What were the main or most trusted sources you received information about COVID-19 from? How did you act upon the information you received? Have you developed any new sources of information?**

**La'Rissa: My parents and the news. I have always paid attention but when you here of it being close to home, it makes you nervous. We had a couple of scares and some of my family members were tested but always negative. I act by following what I am told to do to protect myself and my home. No new sources.**

- 3) **What was the hardest/biggest challenge for you or your family during/amidst COVID-19?**

**La'Rissa: Being careful about every little thing you do is hard. Knowing I can endanger my family is hard so it makes me follow the guidelines so I do not put anyone in danger. My grandmother stayed with us in the beginning and I didn't want her to get sick. My mother and grandmother both have immunity issues. We have done good. The food and cleaning supplies were a challenge because we are a family of 8; 9 with my grandmother and food was hard to get att times with the limits. My parents had a hard time financially and with the limitations on things. We spent so much more money; sales are gone and that cause stress too.**

- 4) In what ways did you address the challenges of COVID-19? What challenges do you expect will remain post-COVID-19?

La'Rissa: As a young adult, I just listened and did what I could. There are a lot of my friends who had a hard time coping and the ones who didn't have a happy home had a hard time. Post COVID-19 I expect there will be a lot of healing physically and mentally. I do think some good happened but the sickness and death is harder.

- 5) What are your greatest fears moving forward?

La'Rissa: That this thing will not go away. I am over it but there is nothing we can do. I just don't want to get it. The world is changing and this year will definitely leave scars.

- 6) Did you have any conversations with healthcare or other service providers about COVID-19? What did this conversation look like? Who said what

La'Rissa: I haven't had many. Most with my mom. I am in school for nursing, I heard a lot of people left the field and changed majors but I won't.

- 7) What COVID-19 resources are you aware of, or have you benefited from?

La'Rissa: The CARES Act provided some funds for college students and that was a help. I am not too sure of any others.

- 8) Do you think that all communities have been treated equally during COVID? Were there populations who were favored over others?

La'rissa: I do not feel everyone was treated equally, but this isn't the first time for that. Minorities and those who need more seem to always struggle to get help. I feel like you have to dig to get help where others do not.

- 9) Who do you think was left out of NJ's emergency COVID response? Why were they left out?

**La'Rissa: I am not sure what I was available and I feel like there should have been more help. They put money in the hands of some who didn't need it as much as others.**

**10) What do you think NJ could have done better?**

La'Rissa: I felt bad for the ones losing jobs and places to live, I have friends who worked and got kicked out because their landlord had something illegal going on and they did not know their rights. Gloucester County has no help for their teens and people who are homeless. I don't understand this. It's everywhere. NJ needs to give more.