

Life in Indiana during the Pandemic:

A STUDENT
PROJECT FOR

“Telling Your Story: Documenting COVID-19 in Indiana”

A SPECIAL COLLECTIONS INITIATIVE BY THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What’s going on in your world? We haven’t seen each other for weeks since we are all sheltering in place. But that doesn’t mean we aren’t having adventures right in our own homes.

How has the coronavirus changed your life? Do some things seem strange or funny? Have you or your family members been worried about getting sick? Are you happy to be home from school and work, and/or sad to be missing your relatives, friends, and neighbors?

This is an historic period – like the Civil War, Great Depression, or Civil Rights Era – and the Indiana Historical Society recognized this right away (because “We Do History!”). We immediately went online asking Hoosiers to capture their thoughts and images of this time and send them to the IHS library, where they can be stored and used for future research.

Can you imagine that someday your kids and grandkids can read about YOUR experiences during the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic? Let’s get started!

There are many ways to capture memories – journals, photographs, artwork, and videos are some examples. You can also use a combination of these ideas.

To capture your memories so that your grandchildren can see them in the future, we’ll start with a brief questionnaire about you.

The end of the questionnaire will ask you to describe your overall feelings about the pandemic. This is like a conclusion for your project. Once you have taken or drawn pictures and/or jotted down your daily thoughts and pandemic activities, be sure to tell people in the future what this all meant to you. How has the pandemic changed your thinking or touched your life?

Remember, there are no wrong answers! The future wants to know what it was REALLY like to live through the pandemic. All you need to do is share your strange, funny, sad, silly, resourceful, thoughtful, worrisome and delightful stories from the time you lived through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Thanks in advance for helping to capture this important episode in our shared history!!

— Bethany Hrachovec, Teresa Baer and Maire Gurevitz, Indiana Historical Society

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HISTORY.**
INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Questionnaire for COVID-19 History Collecting Project

What is your name? Your favorite nickname?

What school do you attend and where is it located (for example, on the west side of town)?

What grade are you in?

What group are you a part of that is doing this project, for example, scout troop, 4-H club, class, etc.?

What city or town do you live in?

How many people are living in your house during the pandemic?

What are the relative ages of the people living in your house during the pandemic (such as parents, grandparents, older and younger siblings and/or cousins, etc.)

What has this pandemic meant to you? How has it changed your way of seeing the world, your family, school, or other things?
Please type up a paragraph or two to answer this question (unless you use it as the focus of your project).

Project Ideas for Life in Indiana during the Pandemic

1. Photo/Art Journal

Take pictures and/or draw/paint them based on a particular theme related to the pandemic, such as:

- a. How are people helping each other at this difficult time?
- b. How is school different for you while staying at home this semester?
- c. What are you doing since you cannot go to school, scout meetings, etc.? Any fun or unusual activities, such as family games? New hobbies? Reading more?
- d. How are you visiting with family and friends due to social distancing? (video chats, phone conversations, letters and cards?)
- e. What are the strangest, funniest, most bizarre things you are doing, seeing or hearing about during the pandemic?

Take digital photos of you and your family and/or of your artwork. Write a paragraph or two about what you were trying to capture based on one or more of the themes above or another theme you focused on. Remember to date your photos/artwork!

2. Daily Journal

Type up notes or write poetry on the thoughts and activities of you and your family members during the pandemic. This could also be centered around a theme, such as those above in #1, or they may be just capturing stories from each day at home.

Remember, this is not a diary for your eyes alone. You are writing about how life is different during the pandemic than it was during the time before – for a future audience. Remember to date your journal entries!

3. Mixed Photo/Art and Daily Journal

- a. Choose a theme or themes, such as those in #1, or one of your own.
- b. Take pictures or draw/paint them of moments that illustrate your theme as often as you can. It may not be every day, or it may be more than once a day.
- c. Write a paragraph or a poem about each photo/drawing/painting or group of photos/drawings/paintings.
- d. Date the entries in your mixed journal!

4. Video/Vlog Series

Take video clips on the thoughts and activities of you and your family members during the pandemic. Remember to date them!

- a. This series could be centered around a theme, such as those above in #1, or one of your own.
- b. The series may capture stories from each day or from several days at home.
- c. Your series could consist of interviews you record with each family member about their ideas and feelings about the pandemic. For this one, write out a set of questions to ask to make sure you get good responses, such as: What do you like most/least about staying at home every day? Add other questions to make a list you can ask each person who participates in your series.

A Note to Parents about Submitting Projects for “Life in Indiana during the Pandemic”

Dear Parents/Guardians:

While it is your child’s responsibility to create and complete a project for “Life in Indiana during the Pandemic,” if they choose to do so, it will be YOUR responsibility to submit it for your child. The form to submit the project can be found on the Indiana Historical Society website here: <https://indianahistory.org/telling-your-story-documenting-covid-19-in-indiana/covid-19-file-upload-form/>.

For your information, the submission form will contain the questions and instructions below. Thanks in advance for helping your child contribute to Indiana’s history of the COVID-19 pandemic!

For questions, please contact your teacher/troop leader/group leader or Maire Gurevitz at the Indiana Historical Society by e-mail at: MGurevitz@indianahistory.org.

IHS Collecting COVID-19

*Email Address

*Name

*What date was this object created?

*Where was this object created? (City, County, State)

*What else should we know about this object to create some context? i.e. Do you want to identify any individuals in the photograph? Why did your family decide to create this journal?

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Yes No

*I am over the age of eighteen. I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents thereof.

Yes No

*Submit your items here. File uploads are limited to 100 MB. If you wish to upload items larger than 100 MB, please email: collectingcovid-19@indianahistory.org for instructions. File types allowed include .doc, .pdf, .mov, .mp3, .mp4, .jpeg.

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I am over the age of eighteen. I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents thereof.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name