

Interviewee: Braelyn Swedlund

Interviewer: Rayne Berg

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Format: Video recording zoom

Location of interview: Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Transcriber: Rayne Berg

Additional Transcription Equipment used: Otter.ai

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Abstract:

Braelyn Swedlund was born and raised in Eau Claire and currently works at the Kiddie Patch daycare learning center, as a lead infant teacher. In this interview, Braelyn discusses how COVID – 19 has affected her life, including her work, family life, and the community around her. She shares what it was like when she recently had COVID – 19, and how it affected the daycare she has been working at during the pandemic, and what happens to the daycare if a child there were to get COVID.

RB: Okay, in Wisconsin, we have 441,000 cases and 3956 deaths, and in the US, we have 14.8 million cases and 282,000 deaths. Uh, can you tell me the date and time?

BS: its 1:15, December 7th.

RB: and then what is your name? and do you mind sharing some demographic information, information such as race, ethnicity, age and gender?

BS: My name is Braelyn Swedlund, and I am 21 years old, female, from Wisconsin

RB: perfect, and what are some primary things you do on a day-to-day basis?

BS: I would at a daycare and nanny

RB: and then what is it like where you live

BS: its cold usually, I don't know

RB: okay, when you first learned about COVID – 19 what were your thoughts about it? And how have your thoughts changed since then?

BS: I have learned about it when I was in an airport coming back from Florida. So, it was a little scary because they didn't know what was going on and I was bummed, like around a bunch of people in an international airport. So, I got home and then obviously learned more from the news. My views haven't really changed other than I think it's a little more serious than people thought it was at the start.

RB: what issues have most concerned you about the COVID – 19 pandemics?

BS: I think a lot of people are still going out and doing things with other people and causing an uprise in cases.

RB: has covid – 19 affected your job? If so in what ways?

BS: it affected my job because I got COVID in the beginning of October, from a different job. And then I had to quarantine for two weeks, and since I was around the kids at the daycare, the kids in my room also had to quarantine for two weeks, but other than that we haven't had any cases in the daycare.

RB: has COVID – 19 changed your employment status? In, if so in what ways

BS: it hasn't recently, I worked in a restaurant in the beginning of the year and we had to shut down and do to go's and other than that I have been employed the whole time.

RB: What, what concerns do you have about the effects of COVID – 19 on your employment and economic around you more broadly ?

BS: concerns I have for working in the daycare is if one kid gets sick, we have to kind of shut the whole daycare down because we don't know what other kids they've been around and if they have siblings in other rooms. So that's kind of scary, because there's a lot of kids and employees that would have to be out and their parents will have to find care for them or be home from work as well.

RB: has covid, has the covid 19 pandemic affected the employment of people you may know, if so in what ways?

BS: a lot of people I know have had to quarantine due to being around other people, I don't know too many people that had it and had to quarantine, but I know a lot of people have been having to work from home because they aren't allowed to go to their normal workplace.

RB: how is COVID 19 affected you and your family's day to day activities?

BS: they haven't really affected us much, my sister and I, when we had COVID at the same time in October, our whole house had to quarantine, so my sister and I were out of work and my brother and then my parents also had to be out of work.

RB: how are you managing day to day activities in your household?

BS: they're pretty normal, we are all still able to work and were all healthy and don't have any negative side effects.

RB: and then what have been the biggest challenges that you faced during this covid 19 outbreak?

BS: I think not being able to be around family like grandparents has been hard because they've had their own health issues and can't be around them. So then like the holidays and stuff is hard to be because we won't be able to see them.

RB: have you seen people around you change their opinion, day to day activities, or relationships in response to the pandemic?

BS: I think that most of the people that I've been around are a little more hesitant to go out and do things, just being cautious and who they're around.

RB: has covid 19 changed your relationships with family, friends and the community? If so, in what ways?

BS: I don't think they have changed, I'm still able to talk to people and like call my grandparents and stuff like that.

RB: what was your experience when you had COVID 19 ?

BS: I only was like stuffed up and lost my smell, I wasn't super sick. So that was good.

RB: in what ways do you think that COVID 19 is affected people's mental health or physical health?

BS: I think it is harder for people to go out to like the gym or exercise in public like that just being around other people. And I think with mental health there are a lot of people aren't able to go out and see people that they normally would. So, they're more isolated and don't have as many people that they can talk to.

RB: what have been your primary sources of news during the pandemic?

BS: a lot of it I would see like on my phone, on the news or on tv

RB: have your news sources changed here in the course of the pandemic?

BS: I wouldn't say so

RB: what do you think are important issues that the media may or may not be covering?

BS: I think they do pretty well at covering everything, I think some of it is bias and make it like political related more so than about peoples actual health.

RB: how has your experience transformed how you think about your family friends and community?

BS: not really, I think that it's been more like prevalent and I've been more aware of like making sure I talk to my family and make sure that they all know that they're cared for and can like

expect the worst and some facts where they're not going to be here forever and if they get sick that it might not be good.

RB: knowing what you know now what do you think that that individuals, communities or government needs to keep in mind for the future?

BS: I think they just need to keep in mind that like everyone is everyone safety is at risk. And I know a lot of people don't believe in like the shutdown and having to quarantine or wear masks or whatever, but I think it's important to keep everyone safe.

RB: okay, well that's all I have, so thank you. I am going to stop recording now.