

*COVID-19
Personal History
Initiative*



We are living through a momentous time.

Although we are all being asked to do the same things - social distance, stay in our homes, support essential workers, etc. - each of us feels the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic in unique ways.

The experiences of all New Yorkers, from Long Island to Plattsburgh and from Albany to Buffalo, make up the foundation of our state's history. To record and preserve the unprecedented, historical events unfolding around us currently, Manuscripts and Special Collections (MSC) encourages all New Yorkers to keep a journal documenting what their daily lives are like during the pandemic. The challenges you're facing; the obstacles you're having to overcome; and the creative ways you've found to connect with family, friends, and your community are all experiences to think on and write down.

MSC asks that you consider donating your journal at a future date to the New York State Library. We'll preserve the journals for future generations to study and learn from.

MSC also plans to record interviews with New Yorkers interested in sharing their story this way. Interviews will be conducted by phone until the crisis has passed and public meetings are once again safe. These oral histories will be preserved in the New York State Library's collection and will also prove to be a valuable resource for future study.

More information about all phases of this initiative will be available soon on our website: nysl.nysed.gov.

The history of our state is told through the experiences of its citizens and we need all New Yorkers to help document this uncharted territory. Please consider joining us and adding your story to this collection.