

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I am not on social media or do not wish to take a photograph of myself, do I need to post a photograph to a social media site to participate in the COVID-19 Journal Project?

No, taking and posting a photograph is strictly voluntary for those who wish to do so. You may still participate in the journal project without taking a photograph.

2. I signed up to journal for 30, 60, or 90 days, can I do more or less than this?

Yes, you can, the time periods are only suggestions. You should keep your journal for as long as you feel it is appropriate.

3. I do not want to keep a day-by-day journal, but have written individual essays or periodic journal entries, can I submit these for the journal project?

Yes, even if your submission relates to just a single incident, event, or aspect of life during the pandemic we are happy to accept it for the journal project.

4. I am posting my journal to my blog or social media account; can I also submit my journal to the Historical Society's journal project?

Yes, while we may want to communicate with you about the submission format, we are happy to accept journals that are posted elsewhere so long as the Historical Society is able to provide researcher access to the journal using our standard archives public services procedures and practices.

5. Do I need to submit my journal in a particular format, either paper or electronic?

We are happy to accept your journal in whatever format works for you, including paper, electronic, video, audio, photographic, or illustration.

6. I originally signed-up for the project, but am now unable to continue, what do I do?

If you have written a partial journal you may submit it if you wish, but if not, we appreciate your interest in the journal project and you are not obligated to submit anything to the project.

7. May I submit my journal in Spanish or another language other than English?

Yes, we want to have the perspectives of all persons in Wisconsin and would be happy to accept your journal in a language other than English.

8. I received an email from the Wisconsin Historical Society that I was enrolled in the COVID-19 journal project, but I did not enroll and do not want to participate, what do I do?

There was an earlier email that was sent to some persons by mistake. You are not registered for the project and do not need to participate. We are sorry for the confusion.

9. When I am done with my journal where do I send it?

Please see the separate section on how to submit your completed journal.

10. I am a teacher and my students are journaling as part of a class project. How can my students submit their journals to the Historical Society's journal project if they wish to do so?

Please see the separate section containing information for teachers.

11. My question is not on the list, how do I get an answer?

Contact Jonathan Nelson at jonathanr.nelson@wisconsinhistory.org and he will respond to your specific question.

12. I have donated my COVID-19 journal to the Wisconsin Historical Society, but I also want to share it with my friends and family and may even want to use it in a book someday--can I do that?

Yes, you certainly may. We need to have a signed gift document to effectively manage the collections in our care and provide researcher access to the donated materials, so if someone wants to quote, copy, or otherwise use them we are able to give that permission, but we would never stand in the way of someone who donates to the archives using what they create or donate for their own purposes up to and including use in a published book