

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Derek Lavoie

Date 2022 June 8

Medium born digital audio file

Description Interview with Derek Lavoie. Interviewed by Jose Vonzuala on 8

June 2022 at New Britain High School. He was interviewed as part of the

Connecticut Historical Society's Community History Project discussing his

experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Derek Lavoie is a special education

teacher at New Britain High School. He first heard about covid in winter of 2020,

and he recalls the exact date that his school was shut down for two weeks,

which turned into the rest of the school year. His family did catch covid in 2022,

but did not experience any major symptoms. Derek did not enjoy virtual

teaching. He noted that many children and students missed out on educational

and childhood experiences due to covid. Derek did not fully agree with vaccine

mandates. He discussed his experience with choosing to have his children

vaccinated. Derek also did not love mask mandates because the masks made it

difficult for him to breathe, but he understood the importance of wearing one to

protect other people. Derek noted friction amongst friends and family due to

different beliefs about the severity of covid. His family moved during the

pandemic, which he believes brought them closer together. Derek felt that the

country reacted poorly to the pandemic. His advice to someone experiencing a

future pandemic is to trust people and work together.

Dimensions Duration: 10 Minutes, 5 Seconds