

## Communities for Immunity: Stories about COVID The Peale, Baltimore | 2022

**Whitney Frazier (00:00):** All right, I'm here with Kaden and Adi. And we're going to talk about their experiences with COVID. All right, Kaden, can you tell us a little bit about you, introduce yourself?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (00:15):** My name is Kaden Pile-Riley, and I'm 12 years old. I turned 12 in January, and I also go to Friends School, which is a cool school, I guess. I'm an artist. I love making art, and I also love making music, singing and drumming is probably my favorite thing to do. I plan to do it all more.

**Whitney Frazier (00:49):** Alright, Addie?

**Adelaide Fisher (00:51):** Hello, I am Adelaide Fisher, or Adi. I'm 11 years old. I go to Friends School, Baltimore. I really like to play soccer, and make art, and yeah.

**Whitney Frazier (01:10):** All right, so just a general question, when I say the word COVID what comes to mind?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (01:19):** Destruction, depression, isolation, and everything between, I guess. Very sad time for a lot of us, including me.

**Adelaide Fisher (01:35):** Pandemic, vaccine, when I had COVID, over Christmas.

**Whitney Frazier (01:49):** Yeah, you want to talk about that first?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (01:50):** That's terrible.

**Adelaide Fisher (01:52):** Yeah, luckily it wasn't that bad, and luckily it wasn't during school time. But it did kind of suck being-

**Kaden Pile-Riley (02:02):** Christmas?

**Adelaide Fisher (02:02):** ... up in my room for the whole Christmas. On zooms with my family opening gifts.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (02:12):** To be honest, I would rather have COVID during school, because well, I wouldn't have to go to school. But you would have to have the best break ever having COVID. I think I would be devastated, Christmas though. That's just-

**Adelaide Fisher (02:29):** But-

**Kaden Pile-Riley (02:30):** ... it sucks.

**Adelaide Fisher (02:30):** Yeah, I also just miss hanging out with certain friends.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (02:35):** Agreed.

**Adelaide Fisher (02:37):** That are not allowed to hang out, or somewhere else, or we're separated, because yeah.

**Whitney Frazier (02:44):** What was going through your mind when you found out you had COVID?

**Adelaide Fisher (02:52):** I was sick, I had a stuffy nose, I had a sore throat, I was like headaches, stuff like that. But I wasn't even focusing as much on the symptoms, it was just this thing in my head, like, "Oh my God, I have this virus that has been like circling around the world." Then, as I think about it now, it's like, that's something that happened. I hope it doesn't happen again, but I got it and yeah.

**Whitney Frazier (03:27):** Yeah. Kaden, you didn't get it yet?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (03:33):** Thank God, yeah. I've been cautious, and I'm going stay cautious even when COVID is not a big thing anymore. I'm going to have a mask on me if I need to. That six foot rule definitely going to stick, and everything else. I mean, I hope this is probably going to happen in quite a bit of years again, so, I'm just going to have to stay prepared for of that. Yep.

**Laurel Stewart (04:05):** Why do you think you want to stay prepared for that? If people are saying it's safe now, COVID is just like the cold, you've done everything you can, you're vaccinated. Why do you think you are going to still carry masks, stay away from people, and take the precautions that you are now, while the pandemic is still bad?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (04:27):** Because, this has been a very strong time for me. There's been so much changes, I would just love to stay on the safe side, wouldn't jump to conclusion too quickly, and be quick to say, "This is over, everything's good." Because, that leaves a lot of room for more things to start up again.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (04:47):** I think the thing is quite a bit of people are in denial of that. And the reason why I think it's still going on, is because now, but some people think it's over. So, they stopped thinking about precaution, and just went back to good old days before COVID, and it's not like that at all. I think, even if you're the person who hates wearing a mask, and wants to stop wearing it, I mean, you should wear it. But if you must not, I still think you should apply the rules. You know, don't be too close to people, don't spread germs, don't spit on people, even by accident. Just be mindful.

**Laurel Stewart (05:38):** Speaking of the good old days, how have you guys noticed a shift in yourself from before the pandemic to now? How are you different?

**Adelaide Fisher (05:52):** Well, now, I think about COVID, a lot of people think about COVID. But back when there wasn't a pandemic, and back when I had no idea what was going on. If someone said the word pandemic to me, I would be like, "New English word, huh?" I wouldn't have even known what anything like this could be. But now, I'm like, "Oh, I know what that is. I know what's going to happen." But back before, I would've had no idea what any of that meant.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (06:36):** Yeah, I think that a lot has changed since after COVID, I was in such a happier time before, I was so joyful. I was able to spend a lot more time with my family, which is actually weird

because since we're in the house together, a lot, even so, they're very busy. My cat was still alive, then, he died in 2021, which was very emotional for me.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (07:07):** Some of my family members that I cared about, they were still alive before COVID. But in me, I would say what has changed is, it's funny, fourth grade was when COVID started happening, the end of fourth grade, it was when it started happening. I think I was actually much more innocent before COVID. I think COVID was a time where, it was a sad time because it was where people were able to turn on each other or, not be friends because one person doesn't think that it's a big deal, and one person is like heavily into it.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (07:49):** Then later on when the vaccine came out, they don't want to get the vaccine someone else does. They cannot be friends anymore. I think, a lot of things are deeper, things that people didn't pay attention to before. People, probably though everyone, I hope, washed their hands after doing things, people probably weren't as concerned about that.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (08:15):** People probably weren't concerned about being as far apart from people and et cetera, et cetera. But again, for me, I think it just was such a happier place. I didn't have any cares. I was able to hang out with my family, with my friends, to go to the playground, listen to music. I still am able to go listen to music, but still. I enjoyed life much more before COVID.

**Laurel Stewart (08:47):** Yeah, how do you navigate other people's personal views and boundaries around COVID things? Since sometimes there aren't any set rules about what to do?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (09:02):** It definitely can be a mixture of stress. I definitely want to respect people's boundaries. Sometimes I can get annoying when, I won't say, but when there's a kid at school who may tell, and not respectfully tell me, my mask is not over my nose correctly. Instead of the saying, "May you pull your mask up?" He said, you know, "I think you should get a new mask, because I that's how obviously not fitting you." And I think that can be a little frustrating. But, I respect everyone's boundaries.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (09:42):** If you are super cautious about it, and you want me to be far away from you, and keep it up at all times, I'll respect that. But, if you're super relaxed, it also depends how relaxed you are.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (10:02):** If I feel cautious about something I'm able to explain that. There has been experience, I think, where someone's like, "Oh, you could take your mask off, you should take your mask off." And I was just like, "I could, but I just don't really want to, or I would like it to keep it around, just to be cautious." Especially when it's older people, like my nana, and I just want to be safe, and I want her to be safe too.

**Whitney Frazier (10:36):** Yeah, what you had to negotiate, or figure out in terms of friends or family, on a different page maybe, or?

**Adelaide Fisher (10:48):** Well, I think people should wear their masks. But I also think that, if we're are in a place, like we're outside or we're hanging out, we're vaccinated and it feels safe for everyone. Everyone is okay with not wearing a mask, I think it's fine. As long as you're not in each other's faces, but I don't know. I just...

**Whitney Frazier (11:22):** Go ahead.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (11:23):** Actually, there's something to add on about that. I think it actually can depend on the quantity, or the amount of people in that space. If you're inside, and there's a lot of people I think you should wear your mask, or at least put an effort to try to wear your mask. It is a difference, if there's a lot of people, because I feel like COVID, if people are not cautious, it could be easily transmitted in parties, or big events.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (11:54):** So, if it's smaller groups, or if it is a big group, I think you should wear the mask. But if you're hanging out with your friends or someone's house, and they're not worried about it and you're vaccinated, I think it's totally okay. As long as you're meeting everyone's boundaries.

**Whitney Frazier (12:14):** All right, I'm going to pause on that. I'm curious, is there anything good that came out of COVID?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (12:21):** Yeah.

**Whitney Frazier (12:22):** Yeah. Let's talk a little bit about some positive things, or things you learned or, go ahead when you're ready, one of you.

**Adelaide Fisher (12:31):** Well, I think this new experience, even if it's not all completely good, especially people our age, like young people, it's going to affect our life moving forward. It could in good ways, it could make us more cautious if there's ever another like new type of flu or something, it could make us more cautious about that. But it also help us like that.

**Adelaide Fisher (13:05):** At the beginning of the pandemic, I was with my grandparents in South Carolina. Because we went down there and we were there for like a month and a half or something, which was a long time to not be, without my dad. But I also enjoyed seeing them, I wouldn't have seen them normally. It was a crazy time, I had no idea what was going on almost, but I was like, "Is it better? Is there something more happening that is making COVID better?" I just was like, yeah.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (13:43):** A thing that I actually enjoyed in the time of COVID, is I got to explore new relationships and friendships, different people. I got to do more of one of the things I enjoy, which is drumming, because I was home more, and I got to get much better at that. I also got to take more things seriously, like schoolwork. But that wasn't a thing that I loved or enjoyed, about it. But I actually went on more trips, like you said, I went on more trips in between 2020 and 2021. Doing more art, it's just a lot of good things out of 2020 specifically.

**Whitney Frazier (14:38):** Anything else about your experience with getting vaccinated, or things that stand out? A story from all of this? Yeah.

**Adelaide Fisher (14:50):** Today in social studies we had question of the day, and there was a story about a teenager who left his parents because they wouldn't let him get vaccinated. He wanted to get vaccinated, but they wouldn't let him.

**Kaden Pile-Riley (15:06):** Oh yeah.

**Adelaide Fisher (15:06):** So he left, and got vaccinated. Didn't he start a thing where other people could get vaccinated?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (15:13):** Yeah, and I'm pretty sure he either visited his aunts and barely goes to his parents anymore. It was something like that. But yeah, it was a pretty interesting story. I feel like vaccination has divided some people, and it actually can really change people's views. You don't get the vaccine, I have a problem with you, and if you get the vaccine, then I have a problem with you. But there was a lot of other good things about COVID though.

**Whitney Frazier (15:47):** Were you scared about getting the vaccine?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (15:50):** Most definitely not. I've got in quite a bit of vaccines. I mean, I was afraid at first, because I don't really love getting shots. I'm not scared of getting shots, but it's never my favorite. But they put this cold stuff on my arm, so I didn't really feel it, which was cool. Then, I got two stickers which were cool. So, that made everything okay.

**Laurel Stewart (16:17):** I didn't get any stickers.

**Whitney Frazier (16:17):** I know, I didn't get cold stuff on my arms.

**Laurel Stewart (16:23):** I guess the last question, is what are you guys hopeful for, for this year?

**Kaden Pile-Riley (16:30):** I think that 2022 going to be a year of change. I feel like there's a lot of open opportunity. I'm going to a new school next year, or next school year. So, I think I'm excited for that, I'm excited for new experiences, trying new things, making fun experience with my friends, and seeing how far I can go musically and artistically. I think that this year, hopefully COVID will, by the end of this year, COVID will, it will be better in the case of, it's not as big as a problem as it has been for the past few years. But I definitely, I have a lot of hope, and I think that I have a good feeling about this year.

**Adelaide Fisher (17:30):** I'm just excited because I have a lot of trips, and people I'm going to see, and people coming to see me, and just a lot of things that seem fun in the year of 2022.