

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

Speaker 1 ([00:02](#)): Let's begin with your name and who you are.

Ronald Charles ([00:06](#)): My name is Ronald Charles.

Speaker 1 ([00:09](#)): Where do you live at Mr. Charles?

Ronald Charles ([00:11](#)): I live in east Baltimore Darley Park community.

Speaker 1 ([00:15](#)): Thank you. How has COVID vaccination affected your community positive or negative?

Ronald Charles ([00:23](#)): Negatively.

Speaker 1 ([00:25](#)): Why would you say negative?

Ronald Charles ([00:27](#)): Well, it actually stopped people from communicating, gathering outside, doing community things and getting problems solved in our neighborhood.

Speaker 1 ([00:42](#)): That's true. How has vaccinations changed the way people interact?

Ronald Charles ([00:48](#)): Well, a lot of vaccinations people agree and disagree. The vaccinations work, and some didn't work. I'm one of the believers that everyone should get vaccinated, but to each his own.

Speaker 1 ([01:03](#)): That's true also. What are the social components of the pandemic that no one really talks about?

Ronald Charles ([01:14](#)): The financials affect that it has on a lot of people. A lot of people assume that the government that gave us stimulus money and this and that and the others. Work good for the people that disadvantages and poor, but there are people out here including myself that don't get assistance from the government that do even worse. Like a person that get food stamps and me, we go to the supermarket, their carts runneth over where though mine is not even half full because I have to pay for it out of pocket with my own money.

Speaker 1 ([01:55](#)): What positive have you seen come out of the pandemic in relations to the way people act towards each other?

Ronald Charles ([02:07](#)): Well, socially, a lot of people just decide to stay away from a lot of people. So in a way it's good and it's bad. It's good that people stay away from each other. So they won't see how could I put it, get it infected with the virus, but it also, some people that's very sociable want to gather and do things together. So the pandemic sort of helps some people in some ways it hurt people in other as far as socializing.

Speaker 1 ([02:48](#)): Have you noticed any difference in yourself during this time?

Ronald Charles ([02:52](#)): Yes.

Speaker 1 ([02:52](#)): Pandemic?

Ronald Charles ([02:54](#)): Yes, I have. I noticed I done got a little bit lazier. I become a couch potato because staying socially distancing away from everybody, I done got into a relaxed mode. Being though I'm retired. So yes, it did have made me a little bit more lazier.

Speaker 1 ([03:13](#)): Okay. During the time of isolation, have you experienced or know anyone that experienced sickness, trauma, death, mental health problems?

Ronald Charles ([03:27](#)): I know a lot of people that have caught COVID and I actually had a brother-in-law that died from COVID. From what I understand during this pandemic, pretty much anybody that pretty much died they say they died from COVID, whether it's true or false. COVID seems that's the easy way out.

Speaker 1 ([03:52](#)): Thank you so much for taking this time out to do this. Is there anything else that you would like to just add concerning this COVID or do you see a way out what that's okay. What's the way out of this? Or do you think it's a way out?

Ronald Charles ([04:06](#)): Well, if everybody do they part to protect they self, whether they vaccinated or not, if you're not vaccinated, stay covered up. If you are vaccinated, you should still cover up in most places. I'm not saying you should have your mask on everywhere because me, myself, I don't like wearing it everywhere, but you should always be aware of your surrounding. If you feel as though your intuition say you should wear one, put it on.

Speaker 1 ([04:34](#)): Yeah, it's true. And you think 2022, 2023, we'll see a difference with COVID?

Ronald Charles ([04:41](#)): I think we probably won't see a really, really big difference for another year and a half, two years. I think it's going to roller coast for a little while.

Speaker 1 ([04:54](#)): Okay. I know your mother's a senior. How has she been handling this?

Ronald Charles ([05:00](#)): Well, she don't like a whole lot of company anyway, so, but she do feel a little lonely that her children can't come visit her as much as they normally would come visit her if it wasn't for the pandemic though, but we stay in communication over the telephone and go see as often as we can. Take her shopping and doctor's appointments and stuff like that, you all have to stay covered up around it at all times.

Speaker 1 ([05:31](#)): Absolutely. I mean, we talking about a lady that has over 60 grandkids.

Ronald Charles ([05:35](#)): Yeah. 60 grandkids.

Speaker 1 ([05:37](#)): Yeah.

This transcript was exported on Mar 21, 2022

Ronald Charles ([05:39](#)): And one working son that seemed like no two working sons.

Speaker 1 ([05:43](#)): Oh, okay. Well certainly thank you so much for taking this time out to do this. We appreciate it. Thank you.