

## Interview Protocol

Participant's subject number: \_\_\_\_\_

consent form signed       consent to be audio-recorded signed

tell participant that recording app is turned on

### Introductory & background questions:

How long have you been in recovery?

How long did you use substances for?

How old were you when you started using?

Which substances did you use?

[Prompt: tobacco yes/no, vaping yes/no, marijuana yes/no, alcohol yes/no, heroin yes/no, opioids yes/no, cocaine yes/no, meth yes/no; hallucinogens (acid, LSD); other substances yes/no, if yes, which].

[Prompt: If use tobacco – what form (cigarettes, chew); how many & how often]

[Do any of participant's substances involve inhaling? Yes/no]

Which substance or substances was your preferred substance?

### Feelings about the term “addict” and “alcoholic”:

How do you identify yourself in meetings/in terms of your recovery? [Prompt: Do you self-identify as an addict or alcoholic?]

Follow up: Do you self-identify that way just with other people in recovery? What about with people who are not in recovery (friends, family, etc.)?

There is a push among scientists that study addiction to use ‘first person language’, such as ‘an individual with a substance abuse disorder’ or ‘an individual with an alcohol abuse disorder’. The idea is that using the term ‘addict’ or ‘alcoholic’ is stigmatizing. What is your take on that?

### Recovery-related questions:

Which 12-step meetings, if any, do you attend?  Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Other

[Prompt: if “other”, which? Meetings at a rehab they attended?]

[Prompt: if participant attends meetings: how often? Daily? Every other day? Weekly? Monthly? Seldom?]

How would you describe the status of your recovery right now? [pause, then prompt] Do you feel solidly in recovery? Shaky?

Have you relapsed recently? [pause, then prompt] When was the last time you used a substance or substances? [pause, then prompt] Which substance(s)?

If participant relapsed: How, if at all, did the fact of COVID-19 affect you in obtaining/purchasing drugs or alcohol? [pause, then prompt] Did it make you hesitate in going out to get drugs/alcohol? Did it make you hesitate to get high again?

If participant relapsed: Any substitutions of a preferred substance to something else? If so, what? Reason for the substitution?

How would you describe the status of your recovery before the COVID-19 pandemic began?

How would you say COVID-19 and everything that came with it (sheltering in place) affected you in your recovery?

Where were you staying during lockdown?

How would you say COVID impacted meetings (in-person, Zoom)?

Any Internet obstacles to attending Zoom meetings?

Have you been attending virtual meetings? Still? [pause, then prompt] How has that been for you, as opposed to attending in-person meetings?

Have you been able to connect with other recovering people during the past year? [pause, then prompt] Have you gotten together with people virtually, in-person, or both? [pause, then prompt] How has that been?

Do you feel like you are able to connect with people enough (for your recovery, for your emotional well-being? [pause, then prompt] Can you elaborate on that?

Criminal-justice related questions:

Have you had any involvement with/been under the supervision of the criminal justice system, such as getting arrested, convicted, or locked up in prison or jail?  yes  no

[arrested yes/no, convicted yes/no, incarcerated yes/no (prison, jail or both?), probation yes/no, parole yes/no, other yes/no (if other, which?)]

Any current justice system involvement yes/no?

How would you say the pandemic has affected [probation/jail/prison/parole]?

Was your involvement with the criminal justice system related to using substances?  
[pause, then prompt] Can you give me more details about that?

COVID-19-as-trauma-event related questions

How often would you say you have experienced any of the following emotions in the past six months? Scale: never/0, occasionally/1, sometimes/2, often/3

	0/never	1/occasionally	2/sometimes	3/often
Anxious				
Sad				
Depressed				
Rage				
Feeling like you want to hurt someone				
Lonely				
Other negative emotions I didn't ask about?				
Which emotion(s)?				

Which of these would you say is worse during the COVID-19 period than before?  
[Prompt: anxious, tense, sad, depressed, rage, feeling like you want to hurt someone, lonely, other negative emotions]

Feelings about COVID-19

How much have you worried about catching COVID-19 (during pandemic, now)?

If participant relapsed: Would you say that the fact that COVID-19 can be contracted through human-to-human contact made you nervous or afraid in terms of seeking out substances to relapse with? [pause, then prompt] Can you elaborate on that?

Have you contracted COVID-19? [pause, then prompt] How was the experience? Did you get sick? If yes, how sick? Or did you just test positive but had no symptoms?

If they contracted COVID-19: How did you handle it? [pause, then prompt] Did you self-isolate? Did you need to seek medical treatment?

If they sought medical treatment for COVID: How was that experience? [pause, then prompt] Was the treatment prompt? Was it effective? How quickly did you recover? Were you hospitalized? If yes, for how long? Any lingering effects of COVID-19 now? If so, which?

Have any of your friends or family, or other people you know, contracted COVID-19? [pause, then prompt] How was the experience for them? Did they recover? (hospitalized? death?) [pause, then prompt] How was the experience of their being sick for you? [pause, then prompt] Was it difficult for you that someone you knew (and cared about) got COVID-19?

Would you say that your friend/family member getting COVID-19 affected your recovery? [pause, then prompt] Can you elaborate about that?

If they relapsed during the COVID-19 period: Did your friend/family member getting COVID-19 have any connection to you relapsing? [pause, then prompt] Can you elaborate about that? [pause, then prompt] Would you say that your friend/family member getting COVID-19 pushed you to want to get back into recovery? [pause, then prompt] Did your friend/family member getting COVID-19 give you pause about seeking out substances to get high with? Or it had no impact?

Did you receive a stimulus check from the government during the pandemic?

If yes, did that impact your recovery (relapse temptation)?

Feelings about COVID-19 prevention:

How do you feel about wearing masks? [Did they wear a mask during the interview? yes/no]

What are your feelings about getting vaccinated?

Have you been vaccinated? [pause, then prompt] Both shots? Booster(s)?

If participant has not been vaccinated: What would you say are your reasons for not getting vaccinated? [Prompt: Fear? Indifference? Don't like being told what to do? Other reason?]

Interview concludes:

That's about it. Do you have any final thoughts, things I should know about recovery, the pandemic, relapse, anything?

[SAVE RECORDING]

Thank you very much for participating in this interview and study.

give debriefing form       give \$20 incentive payment