

Supplementary material

S1) COVID-19-related questions added to the Social Impact Scale

S2) Interview guide

S3) Table with quotes for experienced stigma

S4) Table with quotes for applied coping strategies

S1) Additional COVID-19-related questions (additional to the Social Impact Scale)

1. Ich hatte die Befürchtung, dass andere aufgrund meiner längeren Abwesenheit meine Erkrankung erahnen konnten.
1. I was worried that others might suspect my illness due to my long absence.
2. Ich habe mich schuldig gefühlt, dass ich (eventuell) andere angesteckt habe, auch wenn dies unwissentlich geschah.
2. I feel guilty because I accidentally might have infected others.
3. Als ich auf meine krankheitsbedingte Abwesenheit angesprochen wurde, habe ich offen gesagt, dass ich an COVID19 erkrankt war.
3. When I was asked about my absence, I admitted that I had COVID-19.
4. Als ich nach meiner Erkrankung zurück in die Arbeit kam oder mich mit Freunden getroffen habe, hatte ich Sorge, wie meine Kollegen/Freunde wohl auf mich reagieren würden.
4. When I met colleagues or friends after being ill, I was worried how they would react towards me.
5. Wenn jemand mit mir über meine Erkrankung spricht, ist mir das unangenehm.
5. It makes me feel uncomfortable if someone alludes to my illness
6. Ich wünschte, es hätten weniger Leute von meiner Erkrankung erfahren.
6. I wish less people had known about my illness.
7. Ich habe das Gefühl, durch Institutionen (z.B. Gesundheitsamt, Arztpraxis, Rettungsdienst etc.) ungerecht oder nachteilig behandelt worden zu sein.
7. I feel that I have been treated unfairly or adversely by institutions (health authority, family doctor, paramedics)

S2) Interview guide

Alter / Geschlecht/ höchster Bildungsabschluss/ Schwere der COVID-19-Erkrankung
Age/ Gender/ highest level of education/ severity of COVID-19

1. Was ging Ihnen durch den Kopf, als Sie erfuhren, dass der Test positiv ausgefallen war?
1. What was going through your mind when you received the positive COVID-19 test result?
2. Wie hat sich ihr Leben verändert, seitdem Sie an COVID19 erkrankt waren?
2. Did your life change since you had COVID-19? If yes, how did change?
3. Haben Sie jetzt noch gesundheitliche Beschwerden, auch wenn die Erkrankung als ausgeheilt gilt?
3. Do you still have any symptoms, even if the infection is cured?
4. Wie haben Sie die Zeit in Quarantäne erlebt?
4. How did you experience the time in quarantine?
 - a. Wie sah ein typischer Alltag in der Isolation aus?
a. How did your everyday routine in quarantine look like?
 - b. Was war besonders schwierig in dieser Zeit?
b. What was particularly difficult during that time?
5. Mit wem konnten Sie offen über Ihre Erkrankung sprechen?
5. Who could you talk to about your condition?
6. Gab es Situationen, in denen Sie gezögert haben, offen über Ihre Erkrankung zu sprechen?
6. Have you experienced a situation where you hesitated to talk freely about your infection?
7. Wie fielen die Reaktionen der Mitmenschen auf die Erkrankung aus?
7. How did people react to your infection?
8. Haben Sie das Gefühl, dass andere Sie anders behandeln, als vor Ihrer Erkrankung?
8. Do you have the feeling, that others treat you differently since you had COVID-19?
 - a. Inwiefern?
a. How so?

- b. Beispiel?
 - b. Example?
 - c. Wie sind sie damit umgegangen?
 - c. How did you cope with/ handle the situation?
9. Gab es Reaktionen von Mitmenschen als diese von Ihrer Erkrankung gehört haben, die Sie überrascht haben? (positiv und negativ), und wenn ja, inwiefern?
9. Did you experience reactions of others when they heard about you having COVID-19 which surprised you, either in a good or in a bad way?
10. Das Gesundheitsamt muss alle Kontaktpersonen informieren bzw. Sie mussten die Kontaktpersonen angeben – wie war das für Sie?
10. The health authority was obliged to inform every person you had been in contact with when you were diagnosed with COVID-19 – how did you feel about that?
11. Wie war das in der Arbeit, wie reagierten Kollegen auf Sie, als Sie zurückkamen?
11. At work, how did colleagues react when you came back?
12. Es besteht immer das Risiko, unbewusst andere Personen anzustecken. Wie ging es Ihnen damit und wie sind Sie damit umgegangen?
12. There is always a risk to infect others, unknowingly. How did you feel about this and how did you cope with it?
13. Im Nachhinein ist man immer schlauer. Denken Sie manchmal, dass Sie hätten verhindern können, dass Sie sich angesteckt haben?
13. In hindsight, do you think you could have prevented catching COVID-19?
14. Angenommen ein guter Freund von Ihnen würde jetzt an COVID19 erkranken – wie würden Sie sich verhalten? (Vignette)
14. Assuming a close friend of yours would catch COVID-19, how would you react? (vignette)
15. Hatten Sie aufgrund der Erkrankung finanzielle Sorgen?
15. Did you have financial problems because of having had COVID-19?

S3) Experienced stigma by societal level

| Theme | Type of stigma | Code (n*) | Quotes |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Individual level | | | |
| Vulnerability | - | Fear, worries and despair (n = 11) | <p>'I was thinking «why me?»... and «I hope this ends well...»' (female, 50-59 y/o)</p> <p>'I was thinking about death, about becoming even sicker and needing assisted ventilation... This was in the back of my head all the time. I really hope I don't catch it [SARS-CoV-2] again....' (female, 70-79 y/o)</p> <p>'It got worse and worse, I couldn't talk, I couldn't breathe.... I was on my own and...[stops speaking and starts to cry]' (female, 70-79 y/o)</p> <p>'When I woke up again, I knew I would survive.... but still, I was having these panic attacks' (male, 60-69 y/o)</p> <p>'I was afraid I could die. I saw it happen to other patients. It was frightening. The whole situation was frightening.' (male, 40-49 y/o)</p> <p>'You have this feeling that there is nothing to look forward to....' (male, 30-39 y/o)</p> |
| | <i>Internalised stigma / Perceived stigma</i> | Shame, guilt or remorse (n = 14) | <p>'Of course you feel bad knowing you infected others' (female, 20-29 y/o)</p> <p>'I talked to the people who went into quarantine because of me to make sure they are okay' (male, 60-69 y/o)</p> <p>'I took the wrong decision to go there [place where he was infected]. I had this gut feeling that there is something wrong, that I shouldn't go there. But my friends told me to come with them.... I should have listened to my gut feeling.' (male, 50-59 y/o)</p> <p>'I really don't want to talk about it' (male, 50-59 y/o, sounding distressed), as response to the question, if he accidentally infected others.</p> |
| | | Loneliness and abandonment (n = 14) | <p>'We all felt left alone. We didn't have any kind of support, neither by a doctor nor the public health authority. No one contacted us for days in a row and we started feeling afraid if all of that [referring to the COVID-19 symptoms] were still normal. Somehow, we felt left alone.' (female, 50-59 y/o)</p> <p>'People didn't want to have contact with me. This was especially hard for me, since I had been abroad before for two months, this really got to me.' (female, 20-29 y/o)</p> <p>'You feel that your social network isn't there, the ones you need most aren't with you.' (female 50-59 y/o)</p> <p>'Being on my own was the hardest part.' (male, 60-69 y/o)</p> <p>'You feel lonely. There was no one to talk to.' (female, 70-79 y/o)</p> <p>'You learn very quickly who stands by your side in these difficult times and who lets you down...'' (male, 50-59 y/o)</p> |
| Financial insecurity | - | Direct costs (n = 2) | <p>'That [not having COVID-19] would have saved me a great deal. Luckily, my health insurance covered most of the expenditures, but since my deductible is rather high, this disease caused a great financial loss for me.' (male, 50-59 y/o)</p> <p>'If I hadn't had any savings, it would have been problematic....' (male, 40-49 y/o)</p> |

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| | | Loss of income / indirect costs (n = 1) | 'I have to earn my money with physical labour. When I can't work, I don't earn money...' (male, 50-59 y/o) |
| Interpersonal level | | | |
| Loss of autonomy | | Loss of independence (n = 5) | 'As we were all in quarantine, we relied on others to supply us with food' (female, 50-59 y/o) 'We were all isolated, other people had to take care of us.' (female, 20-29 y/o) |
| | | Violation of privacy (n = 4) | 'When I was gone and they knew about it [COVID-19], they turned my whole workplace upside down' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'I live in a small village and within two hours, everyone knew about it [COVID-19]' (female, 20-29 y/o) |
| Vilification | <i>Perceived stigma / (Enacted stigma)</i> | Blame (n = 9) | 'Some people said it is my own fault that I got infected.' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'They didn't talk bad in front of me.... but behind my back, I could sense that they thought it's my own fault' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'They [family members] were very angry with us that we didn't tell them about our infection. But we didn't know ourselves at that time and didn't have any symptoms! How should we know that we were ill?' (female, 50-59 y/o) 'She [a niece] was at our place before [we knew we had COVID-19] and it took a long time until she was able to get a test. She is still holding a grudge until today....' (female, 50-59 y/o) |
| | | Disregard (n = 4) | 'People didn't understand what I was going through. They said «it's like a flu», but for me, it didn't feel just like a flu. No one said «this sounds really bad»' (female, 50-59 y/o) 'They [acquaintances] did not really care about what had happened to me.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'My sister said, as long as you don't need invasive ventilation, it's not that bad. But for me, just needing oxygen was already more than enough....' (female, 50-59 y/o) |
| Avoidance of personal contact | <i>Enacted stigma</i> | (Irrational) fear of infection (n = 27) | 'In the beginning it felt like people were really scared of me.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'Meeting people in person [in contrast to talking in the phone] was different. People become.... very careful' (male, 30-39 y/o). 'My aunt living next door kept her distance for weeks after my quarantine had ended, as if I were still contagious.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'I noticed some people take a step back when I told them [about the COVID-19-infection]' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'Everyone you tell that you had COVID flinches and takes a step back' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'Many people withdrew from me for a long time.... I think they were still afraid of getting infected' (female, 70-79 y/o) |
| | | Other reasons (n = 2) | 'She distanced herself from me. I don't know why, she doesn't even believe in COVID.' (female, 50-59 y/o) |
| Community level | | | |
| Social rejection | <i>Enacted stigma</i> | (Irrational) fear of infection (n = 6) | 'When I did my groceries and kept a 2 to 3 meters distance, people still told me to go further away.... they even changed the side of the street when they saw me.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'When I went back to the office, some colleagues told me straight to the face they didn't like having me there. We are working in shifts and they would change shifts so they didn't have to work with me.' (male, 30-39 y/o) |

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| | | | 'When I went to the hairdresser, I told them I really needed a haircut since I had had COVID 3 months ago. First, they refused to cut my hair, they were afraid of getting infected.' (male, 40-49 y/o) |
| Stereotyping | <i>Perceived stigma</i> | Perceived recklessness or carelessness (n = 4) | 'Now you [meaning the interviewer] are probably going to say «how on earth could you go skiing, and how could you go there [place where she got infected]?!?»», but back then it wasn't that obvious....' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'People asked, why did go there, when it was a hotspot.' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'If a friend of mine had COVID, I would support him and say it's not his fault that he got it. We didn't choose for this either. I'd say it's okay. I wouldn't treat him any different and just act normal' (female, 50-59 y/o) |
| | | Rumours (n = 2) | 'In town, everyone acted like they knew better why I was infected' (female, 20-29 y/o) |
| Institutional level | | | |
| Indirect discrimination | <i>Structural and enacted stigma</i> | Lack of accountability (n = 10) | 'They [health authorities] gave us a number where we could call, but no one ever answered the phone.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'When I should be discharged from the hospital, and I was still contagious, they [the hospital staff] told me there was no transport to get me home, of course I wasn't allowed to use the public transport and a family member should pick me up. But they were all in quarantine. I tried to contact the public health authority all day long to get a permission for my mother to pick me up, that was very distressing for me. Then they [the hospital staff] came all of the sudden and said I had to go now.' (female, 20-29 y/o). 'After we knew we had been in a hotspot, we tried to get a test. When finally someone answered the phone, they told us we couldn't get a test since the place wasn't officially declared a hotspot yet.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'Even when I felt bad, it was impossible to find a doctor to talk to... so in the end I called 112 [national emergency number]' (female, 50-59 y/o) 'The worst thing was to get to the hospital in the first place.... So I dialled that number, but ended up in an endless waiting loop. In the other clinic it was exactly the same. I called my general practitioner; he wrote me a sick note for a week. But I didn't need that, I told him I need help... but all he did was writing a second sick note for another week.... Either you are rejected right away or you end up in an endless waiting loop on the phone.' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'When I came back home [from a hotspot] my friend who was with me tested positive. The health authority didn't contact me for days. Then I called them, and they said they were not responsible, another authority is responsible for my case. So I called them, but they said, the first authority was responsible....' (male 50-59 y/o) |
| | | Inconsistency (n = 4) | 'First, they [public health authority] sent us to a testing centre because we had been to an endemic area. But later they were upset that we went there, since we were supposed to stay at home in quarantine....' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'First they told me I have to stay in quarantine for another 2 weeks after I was discharged from the hospital. On the last day of my quarantine, my son got a letter that he needs to stay in quarantine for another 2 weeks, in case he got infected on my last day in quarantine. But my wife and daughter didn't have to stay in quarantine any longer, but we were all members of the same household. That didn't make any sense.' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'They [the health authority] told me on the phone my quarantine ended on Thursday. Then I got the letter from them saying I needed to stay in quarantine for another 2 weeks' (male, 50-59 y/o) |

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| Direct discrimination | | Unprofessional treatment (n = 4) | <p>'Since I was the second patient in that other hospital, they had a lot of «respect» of me and avoided coming close to me... that was even worse for me than the [rejecting] behaviour of other people.' (female, 20-29 y/o)</p> <p>'After I was discharged from the hospital, I wanted to go to the general practitioner for a prescription but they told me I wasn't allowed there, even though I wasn't in quarantine anymore. Then 12 weeks later, I needed a letter of transferral, but even then, my sister had to get it for me...' (male, 60-69 y/o)</p> <p>'When he [a friend] stayed at home because one of our group tested positive, his boss counted that as vacation, because the health authority hadn't called yet.' (male 50-59 y/o)</p> <p>'I was feeling so bad, but in that other hospital they [staff] told me to leave immediately, they threw me out... so I was crying in front of the hospital until my daughter came to get me. A few days later, I collapsed, and I was brought in here and needed oxygen' (female, 70-79 y/o)</p> |
| Societal level | | | |
| Societal norms and values | <i>Perceived and internalized values and stigma</i> | COVID-19 as non-desirable condition (n = 5) | <p>'When I got the positive test, I was utterly shocked' (female, 20-29 y/o)</p> <p>'I was surprised. I never thought we would get it.' (female, 50-59 y/o)</p> <p>'I was just feeling ill and coughing. Maybe it wasn't COVID after all. They [the doctors] said the CT-scan confirmed it, but my test was negative.' (male, 50-59 y/o, denying he had COVID-19)</p> |
| | | Perceived menace to others (n = 10) | <p>'I didn't want to bother people. Maybe they would have thought I am still contagious.' (female, 70-79 y/o)**</p> <p>'None of my family members got ill, I didn't infect anyone.' (male, 30-39 y/o)**</p> <p>'We all paid a lot of attention. We didn't infect others.' (male 50-59 y/o)**</p> <p>Q: 'Do you happen to know if you accidentally infected somebody?' A: 'I don't want to talk about that.' (male, 50-59 y/o)</p> |

* n = the number how many times this code was applied throughout the interviews

** The assurance of not having infected others reflects the perceived stigma as menace to others and the public health on one hand and efforts to contain the disease as coping with this perception on the other hand.

S4) Applied coping strategies by societal level

| Theme | Code (n*) | Quotes |
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| Individual level | | |
| Resilience | Confidence (n = 5) | 'I knew I was getting medication; I was sure that would help, otherwise they wouldn't give them to me. I wasn't worried I would die.' (male, 60-69 y/o) 'I felt in good hands.' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'None of us felt that sick that we needed to go to the hospital.' (female, 50-59 y/o) |
| | Self-efficacy (n = 2) | 'In the beginning it was very hard for me. But as soon as I managed to structure my day, time just flew by.' (male, 30-39 y/o) |
| Coming to terms | Pragmatism (n = 2) | 'I had it [COVID-19], that's all there is. Now I am cured and immune.' (female, 70-79 y/o) |
| | Delayed disclosure (n = 3) | 'Back then, I told them [friends and family] I had it [COVID-19]. But I didn't tell them any details. Now I would, but back then, I just didn't want to.' 'In the beginning, I didn't want to share with anyone. Afterwards, we talked about it.' (female, 70-79 y/o) 'I would not go around and tell everyone deliberately that I had it [COVID-19]. But now it is over, if anyone asked, I would answer honestly that I had it.' (male, 30-39 y/o) |
| | Rationalisation (n = 2) | 'We checked the incidence before we went, and it looked fine, so we didn't see any danger in going there [to a hotspot]' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'When I was there, it wasn't known to be a hotspot' (male, 50-59 y/o) |
| | Denial or fallacy (n = 1) | 'Maybe I didn't have it [COVID-19]. I even know couples, where one had it and the other didn't' (male, 50-59 y/o) |
| Financial security | Financial security (n = 8) | 'I didn't face any financial problems, my salary just continued.' (male, 40-49 y/o) 'I was on sick leave and got my loan as usual.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'I am retired, so I didn't have any financial problems.' (female, 70-79 y/o) |
| Interpersonal level | | |
| Reaction to rejective behaviour | Understanding (n = 10) | 'I could totally understand their [friends] behaviour. No one knew exactly how long people can transmit COVID' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'I could understand that, I didn't blame anyone.' (female 70-79 y/o) |
| | Reasoning (n = 2) | 'I tried to explain, I argued with them [family members]... but with some people, you just can't reason at all.' (female, 50-59 y/o) 'When they [friends] took a step back, I told them there was no reason, they could hug me, I am no longer contagious.' (male 50-59 y/o) |
| | Distancing (n = 2) | 'When heard about what others said, I just distanced myself from that.' (male, 50-59 y/o) |

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| Personal contact | Genuine interest and mindfulness (n = 7) | 'In a way, we were lucky, that the whole family was in quarantine, so we had each other' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'It is very important, that there are people who care about you and want to know how you are doing. My mum called every day to check on me, that felt good.' (male, 30-39 y/o) 'I would call and make sure he [friend from vignette] is okay. I would tell him, everything is going to be fine, since he is young.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'Some people just want to know more about it from people who had it [COVID-19] and are very interested in what I experienced.' (male, 30-39 y/o) |
| | Unaltered interpersonal relationship (n = 4) | 'With my friends, it is same way as it has been before. No distance, not too many questions.' (male, 30-39 y/o) 'I infected my boyfriend, but he remained relaxed.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'When I came home from the hospital, everyone was just so happy to see me, that was very touching.' (male, 50-59 y/o) |
| | Comprehension (n = 4) | 'I talked to a friend in a similar situation, and she could totally relate.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'People told me it's a miracle I got through all of this without serious psychological damage. When we talked about it, it became clear, that others were frightened of being alone in such a situation as well' (female, 70-79 y/o) 'If a friend of mine had COVID, I would support him and say it's not his fault that he got it. We didn't choose for this either.' (female, 50-59 y/o) |
| Community level | | |
| Reaction to rejective behaviour | Resignation (n = 3) | 'I can live with it [people avoiding him]. I take it with humour.' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'I didn't really bother. Couldn't change it anyway. (...) You have to take it the way it is.' (male, 40-49 y/o) |
| | Understanding (n = 3) | 'That was a new situation, people probably didn't know better.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'I tried to understand their reaction [people at work] and asked myself, how I would have reacted. And honestly, I would keep my distance too. That is probably human.' (male, 30-39 y/o) |
| | Reasoning (n = 2) | 'I told them [people in a grocery store] I am no longer contagious and that they don't need to keep a 10-meter distance. I fact, I am less dangerous than other people.' (female, 20-29 y/o) |
| Social network and inclusion | Sympathy (n = 7) | 'So many people called during my absence to make sure I am okay, and they were so happy to hear from me when I called them back.' (male, 60-69 y/o) 'I received so much sympathy, from friends and relatives, but also from the whole community, where I am active in different associations. They all felt for me and asked «Hey, how are doing?». I got a lot of positive signals. They just wanted me to recover soon.' (male, 60-69 y/o) |
| | Solidarity and support (n = 7) | 'From time to time, a neighbour would leave something for me at my door.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'Many people from our village offered help and asked if they could get us anything. I was surprised by their willingness to help.' (female, 50-59 y/o) 'Some neighbours made food and left it at the door for us. They really cared about us' (male, 50-59 y/o) |
| Institutional level | | |
| Reaction to discrimination | Leniency (n = 8) | 'I guess they [the health authorities] were just overwhelmed' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'I hope by now, it is more organised' (female, 50-59 y/o) 'Those people refusing the regulations don't carry the responsibility. Everyone with that kind of responsibility supports a lockdown.' (male, 50-59 y/o) |

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| | Incomprehension (n = 8) | 'I was feeling sick and I couldn't get through [by telephone] to any doctor or health authority for days to get a test. That really bothered me.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'I really felt mocked by the health authorities.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'For me, it was extremely hard. (...) That is why I didn't tell the health authority I also had contact with my parents. I didn't want to do this to them' (male, 30-39 y/o) |
| Received support | Appreciation of health-care workers (n = 4) | 'He [family doctor] called every day to make sure I was okay. That felt good.' (female, 70-79 y/o) 'I remember a doctor who was looking for possible treatment options all day long and called another university hospital. In the end, the treatment saved me' (male, 50-59 y/o) 'The hospital staff was very caring and always very kind' (male, 60-69 y/o) |
| | Support group (n = 2) | 'Is there a self-help group for COVID survivors?' (male, 50-59 y/o) |
| Societal level | | |
| Harm reduction | Law-abiding (n=5) | 'I kept my distance, I stuck to the rules, I didn't infect anyone.' (female, 70-79 y/o)** 'When we came back [from a hotspot] we stayed at home. So when we finally knew we had it [COVID-19], at least I didn't feel guilty, because I knew I didn't infect anyone else.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'I was scared to infect anyone. We barely had contact, I wore a mask when I went to the bathroom, I did my laundry separately, just like the health authority told me to. In the end, none of my family members got ill, I didn't infect anyone.' (male, 30-39 y/o)** 'We all paid a lot of attention. We didn't infect others.' (male 50-59 y/o)** |
| | Social withdrawal (n = 3) | 'I didn't want to bother people. Maybe they would have thought I am still contagious.' (female, 70-79 y/o) 'When my quarantine ended, I didn't ask people to meet. I was afraid they would react.... in a strange way.' (female, 20-29 y/o) 'I am only on contact with my closes relatives.' (male, 50-59 y/o) |
| | Hygiene advocacy (n = 3) | 'I tell everyone, they should wear their face masks.' (female, 70-79 y/o) 'No matter where we go, with all our friends, we have this discussion [about the need for regulations and hygiene practices], it is the only way. When people say «It is only a flu.», I tell them, it is not. It is a whole different affair.' (male 60-69 y/o) |

* n = the number how many times this code was applied throughout the interviews

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| Perception of legal stipulations (measures of containment, mandatory face mask, curfew) | Support (n = 5) | 'I tell everyone, they should wear their face masks, if they got it [COVID-19], it's to late.' (female, 73 y/o) 'I wish people would pull themselves together. (...) If you are unlucky, you are gone.' (male, 69 y/o) |
| | Acceptance (in spite of struggle) (n = 6) | 'I longed to go out for a walk...but I stayed inside' (female, 25 y/o) 'We were all cramped together. After some time, it is normal you go on each other's nerve.... Then you need to withdraw to have your own space' (female 23 y/o) |
| | Confusion (n = 6) | 'I think the whole topic is very confusing, I am missing a clear line. The regulations are different in different places, that confuses people.' (female, 51 y/o) 'Sometimes, the regulations seem a bit random.' (male, 38 y/o) 'Of course we need certain restrictions, but sometimes it feels like those in charge didn't really think that through.' (female, 25 y/o) |
| | Doubt and refuse (n = 3) | 'For me, it was extremely hard. (...) That is why I didn't tell the health authority I also had contact with my parents. I didn't want to do this to them' (male, 38 y/o) 'I am not sure, if wearing these masks is really the solution for this problem.' (male, 53 y/o) 'I am not supporting these masks.... It is hard to breathe.' (male 55 y/o) |
| | Hope (n = 2) | 'Maybe we can all go back to normal soon.' (male, 38 y/o) |