

Since the 1930s, ordinary people have written to Mass Observation about their experiences of key events including the Munich Crisis, Blitz, rationing, Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, Falkland's War, September 11th 2001, and Brexit. This is how you can help us create a record of the pandemic:

Keep a journal of your experience of the Covid-19 pandemic

Please get in touch, if you would like to submit a regular diary but not join the Mass Observation Project Panel. We ask you to take [a look at this document](#) which explains some points that you may want to consider before sending your diaries or reflections to the Archive. Please send your diary to us when you have finished writing, rather than in regular instalments. Please also consider keeping a diary on [12th May](#).

Writing by community groups, schools or other groups.

We would really welcome contributions from schoolchildren and wider community groups. This could be a journal, drawings or writing in any style to record your experience. You could also take part in our [12th May Diary Project](#).

You can send in your contribution individually or as a group. [Please see our guidance notes](#) which explain some points you may wish to consider before sending in your contribution to the Archive.

12th May Diary Project '10th Anniversary'

The Mass Observation Archive is conducting its annual diary writing day on the 12th May 2020. This is the 10th anniversary of the modern project. We anticipate that this 12th May will be unlike those captured over the last 10 years and welcome contributions from people of all ages across the UK. Whether or not the UK is in lockdown, please consider keeping a diary. [For more details visit our 12th May page](#).

Format of documents

We welcome physical and electronic responses to all the opportunities listed above. A list of formats that we can accept can be seen in our [guidance notes](#). We ask that you retain any physical records until after the lockdown period.

Don't forget to include the following statement:

I donate my COVID-19 reflections to the Mass Observation Archive. I consent to it being made publicly available as part of the Archive and assign my copyright in this work to the Mass Observation Archive Trustees so that it can be reproduced in full or in part on websites, in publications and in broadcasts as approved by the Mass Observation Trustees. I agree to the Mass Observation Archive assuming the role of Data Controller and the Archive will be responsible for the collection and processing of personal data and ensuring that such data complies with the DPA.

[More information about this statement can be found here.](#)

We will review our policy in May 2021.

Guidance notes for submitting your work to the Mass Observation Archive

The Mass Observation Archive wants your help to record the COVID-19 pandemic. You can see the range of opportunities for getting involved here. Our guidance notes below are designed to support you to document this extraordinary time and transfer your work to the Mass Observation Archive.

These notes are written for those contributing to the Archive outside of the Mass Observation Project. If you are a Mass Observation writer, please refer to our FAQ.

How to record your experience

You are welcome to submit responses as writings or drawings. Please get in touch with us before submitting sound or movie files.

These writings or drawings can be in any style and there is no prescribed length. No emphasis is placed on spelling or grammar. Please don't feel limited by notions of quality or be concerned with 'doing it right.' Mass Observation is for everyone.

Formats

We are able to accept the following formats:

- Rich Text Format (.rtf)
- PDF/UA, PDF/A or PDF (.pdf)
- OpenDocument Text (.odt)
- plain text (.txt)
- widely-used formats: MS Word (.doc/.docx), MS Excel (.xls/.xlsx)
- JPEG (.jpeg, .jpg)
- GIF (.gif)
- TIFF other versions (.tif, .tiff)

Please don't send us sound or video without contacting us first.

We also welcome reflections in hard copy but ask that you don't send them to the Observation Archive before the lockdown period is over.

When to send your diary.

Please send your diary to us when you have finished writing, rather than in regular instalments.

Your identity

The Mass Observation Archive is publicly accessible. It is based at The Keep and is used by researchers of all kinds. Please be mindful of this while writing and protect your identity. You can write anonymously, but please make sure that The Archive staff have your details so that they can contact you if needed. Please use initials instead of real names.

Your copyright

We ask that you assign the copyright of this work with The Archive so that we can enable your writing to be used for teaching, research, in the media and community engagement. We are happy to discuss this with you if you would prefer to retain your copyright. Please get in touch.

Donating material

We prefer that you donate your writing/drawing, rather than it being a loan. Please get in touch if you would prefer to offer your work to us as a loan.

Statement

If you are happy with the advice offered in this guidance we welcome your reflections and ask you to please include the following statement in your work:

I donate my COVID-19 reflections to the Mass Observation Archive. I consent to it being made publicly available as part of the Archive and assign my copyright in this work to the Mass Observation Archive Trustees so that it can be reproduced in full or in part on websites, in publications and in broadcasts as approved by the Mass Observation Trustees. I agree to the Mass Observation Archive assuming the role of Data Controller and the Archive will be responsible for the collection and processing of personal data and ensuring that such data complies with the DPA.

Where to send your documents

When you have finished writing, you can email your documents to moa@sussex.ac.uk or post them to

The Mass Observation Archive

University of Sussex

The Keep

Woollards Way

Brighton

BN1 9BP

Please post your documents after lockdown period.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.