



## COVID-19 WALL OF MEMORIES

### ALL ABOUT COVID-19 CONTRIBUTING WRITER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Wall of Memories, a website that memorializes victims of COVID-19 and shares news and perspective on the disease and its impact on the U.S., welcomes contributing writers for its blog, [All About COVID-19](#).

Our ideal contributor is a curious and creative writer who can skillfully process information to get to the heart of a COVID-related subject. We are interested in aspects of COVID-19 that may be unexpected or unique. On both our blog and its predecessor, The COVID-19 Observer, we have published articles covering subjects such as the impact of COVID on the jazz scene; the potential risks COVID carries for thru-hikers of long trails; a snapshot of quarantine in New York City; impacts on VA hospitals and nursing homes; the challenge of COVID to the LGBTQ community; the higher risk of illness from COVID of people with Down syndrome; and more. We re-post blog pieces on our [Medium](#) publication.

### ABOUT COVID-19 WALL OF MEMORIES

COVID-19 Wall of Memories is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that maintains a website memorializing COVID-19 victims in the United States. Our goal is for people to understand the full scope of how COVID-19 has impacted the U.S. both through victims' stories and our news and information pages. The organization was founded and is run by Mohammed and Ruth Nasrullah. Ruth is a freelance journalist and is responsible for all aspects of the blog.

### PITCHING TO ALL ABOUT COVID-19

We do not require writers to be full-time journalists or have a minimum level of education or experience. However, we do want writers capable of finding and including relevant information and writing in a way that is compelling and effective. Most stories are 600 to 800 words.

Email your pitch to [masrullah@covid19wallofmemories.org](mailto:masrullah@covid19wallofmemories.org). That is also where you can send questions or comments.

All About COVID-19 covers the following basic categories, which are meant to be guidelines and not restrictive.

First-person: These are personal essays and observation pieces.

Medical news: Anything specific to medical care, treatments, medical research, and so forth.

Social impact: These articles examine how the disease and the epidemic have impacted our lives individually, as a community, and as a country.

Breaking news: For example, news of a spike in severe vaccine reactions or passage of COVID-related legislation.

Opinion: Opinion pieces can cover a range of relevant COVID-related subjects.

We do not publish poetry or fiction.

The scope of the website overall is national, but we welcome local or regional stories.

Your pitch should include the main subject of the article you would like to write, how it's relevant to the current state of affairs regarding COVID in the U.S., what sources you tentatively plan to tap (you don't necessarily need to identify specific people; you can simply state that you plan to interview a police officer, or an infectious disease doctor, or a "long COVID" sufferer, etc.), estimated word length and deadline, and a very brief bio. Where appropriate, please include any special expertise you have of the topic you're covering.

## **WRITING STYLE**

We prize context as a critical means of understanding news and trends. We expect some reporting to be incorporated into anything that is not strictly a personal essay, although we prefer that some additional information to your personal experience be incorporated as appropriate.

Specifically regarding stories about measurable changes, such as lower positivity rates or more public restrictions being taken away, we expect reference to credible data from a reliable source. We vet sources when we feel it's necessary.

We want vibrant writing that reflects the principle "show, don't tell." Avoid adverbs in favor of strong verbs; for example, instead of writing that you ran quickly, you might write that you darted, sprinted, rushed, flew, etc.

Estimated word length and deadline will be mutually agreed upon by the writer and the editor before the writer begins work.

## **COMPENSATION**

1. We pay writers 20 cents per word up to 800 words. For a longer piece, the writer and the editor will agree upon a flat fee prior to the writer beginning work on the article.
2. If a contributor doesn't have relevant writing samples, we may ask for a short draft on spec (e.g., without guarantee we will consider it for publication) or an outline.
3. "Word count" means the number of words upon final acceptance of the article.
4. Contributing writers are treated as independent contractors.
5. If the editor decides not to run an article, the organization will pay a cancellation fee of 40% of the fee based on the target word count or the agreed-upon flat fee; the writer retains all rights to the work.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1. We ask writers to share links to All About COVID-19 content on social media and/or via their personal newsletter.

2. Writers may reprint articles on their personal blog or website with a link to the original on our site and the attribution *Originally published in All About COVID-19*. We ask that you wait a few weeks after publication to do so.
3. One of our goals is to make writing for the blog a growth experience for students and/or early career journalists who join our team. We will work with writers to refine story pitches and suggest ways in which a story could be strengthened.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Nasrullah at [rnasrullah@coronavirusofmemories.org](mailto:rnasrullah@coronavirusofmemories.org).