It's fall, and the change in seasons is looming for many museum-goers. Seven months into this pandemic, with no immediate end in sight, has many museum-goers feeling we are on a never-ending rollercoaster of challenges and stressors.

“We reel from crisis to catastrophe day-to-day. ”

“Right now, feeding my soul and heart are secondary. How can I stay alive? How can I make decisions to keep me and my family safe?”

They are looking ahead towards colder weather … with dread.

“I keep telling myself that not being able to go out this winter won’t be too bad … but this feels a little like whistling in the dark. The reality is that we don’t know what’s going to happen, so we have to hope for the best and plan for the worse, I guess.”

“I am concerned that in the coming months, virtual events will once again become the only options as the weather gets colder and restrictions increase significantly. I need to find new ways of filling my creative need. I don’t feel I have any feasible options of re-creating the type of experience we had in March, April, and May.”

Though some are planning ahead with ways to cope:

“Winter is tough on me but I’ve prepared myself that I’ll just have to grin & bear it this time! Going to ramp up the hygge!”

“My biggest worry for me (and others) is a fear of complacency and compliance fatigue.”

As an educator, I can tell you with certainty that this ‘new normal’ of school is not working for anyone. My biggest worry is that we are going to have an entire generation of children with BIG learning gaps. This is going to be an ongoing problem in education for years.”

“Small businesses that I like to support have been forced to close permanently. Will museums (and the symphony, ballet, theater, even the public library we know and love) be the same in the future?”

“There are few things that will matter more in the next 5-10 years than decision-making about our country and the choices we make. This is a uniquely challenging time for the last six months.”

But overall, the emotional state of most museum-goers is low, with concerns mounting around:

**Virus fatigue**

**Education**

**Community**

**Country**

The challenges our museum-going panelists are facing are far from unique. Instead, they represent how museum-goers, and many in the public, are finding this ongoing pandemic to be increasingly difficult. And as the pandemic continues, and winter sets in, the challenges will likely only increase.