

March 18, 2021

Second Dose

Your blogger got his second dose of Pfizer yesterday (March 17). The side effects were almost non-existent. In 14 days, he should be good to go ... for something.

As we enter the 13th month of COVID-19, our short-term prospects are promising. Over 70 million Americans have received at least one dose of vaccine. Opportunities are being opened for more and younger people to be vaccinated. We can look forward in the next several months to large numbers of Americans with the immunity that the vaccine brings.

This leads to a number of questions?

Will we be able to travel ... and where?

Will we be able to fly (more easily) across oceans, and cross (more easily) international borders?

Will we be able to go to events with large numbers of people ... and when?

Will public schools in Fall 2021 look like schools in 2019 ... or more like 2020?

Will universities in Fall 2021 look like universities in 2019 ... or more like 2020?

Will we be able to eat out at restaurants where wait-staff do not have to wear gloves and masks?

Will downtown office spaces in 2022 look like 2019, or 2020?

Will people continue working from home occasionally, or almost always?

Addressing any one of them would take a separate blog post.

In April 2020, Lawrence O'Donnell of MSNBC noted that we had lost our ability to plan for the future. Weddings, graduations, family events, and sports events, were postponed or canceled. In-person gave way to Zoom. Hugs gave way to elbow taps, and then to ... six feet apart. Twelve months later, these have not changed.

YB and partner look forward to a careful airplane trip to the West Coast this summer to see his daughter and son-in-law. Golf has proven to be a reasonably safe outdoor activity, and swimming a reasonably safe indoor activity. That is about the extent of their planning.

His University has asked faculty to prepare to teach on campus in Fall 2021, unless COVID-related issues prevent them from teaching on campus in

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Fall 2021. Auditoriums for several hundred students will seat 50 or so. Classrooms for 40 will have become classrooms for ten. That is about the extent of their planning.

In Europe, and in many US areas, COVID-19 is yet again rising. New and potentially dangerous strains of the virus are occurring. Irrespective of what people in Texas or Florida think, getting too many people together too close, and too fast, will be dangerous.

Those looking to sing, dance, hold hands with family members, and shake hands with old friends, should probably wait until 2022.

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