

# My Independence Day



I'm calling this My Independence Day. I'm not talking about our country and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I'm focused on myself. Today's the day I have completed getting both of my vaccine injections and fulfilled my waiting period to get my immunity under full force. I feel like I graduated or something. It's not changing my behavior a ton, but it does come with a sense of safety and satisfaction. I'm not one of those people who teared up when they got their second shot. I just went about my day, but today seems special.

Getting a vaccine was an interesting process. My husband qualified earlier than I did, and he got online and searched for "vaccines near me". We had to drive about 45 minutes north and west to the Health Department in Jasper, Tennessee to get his. The good news is it was not crowded. We were in and out in a few minutes. We waited the required time to make sure there was no allergic reaction, and we were back on the road headed home. We did basically the same thing for the second shot. This time we had to drive to Altamont, TN. That was a little further. It was an even faster in and out.

I went through the Hamilton County Vaccine website and it was a walk in the park. Actually, it was a drive through a beautiful

park on the shoreline of the Tennessee River. It only took me about 10 minutes to get there. I never had to get out of my car. Lovely. I had a nice little tour of a part of Chattanooga I had not seen before.

My husband got the Moderna vaccine. I got Pfizer. We both had reactions after the second shot but nothing dramatic. I made sure if the aftermath hit it would not hit us both at the same time. So, his "downtime" was on a Saturday night and mine was not until Monday night. That way we were able to take care of each other. This whole vaccine thing was pretty easy and now that the availability is so easy for folks of all ages, I highly recommend it.

In celebration of my husband's birthday, we are planning a little trip. No airplanes involved. Just a leisurely drive to Alabama. There are so many cities in the Southeast we have not discovered yet. This trip will include Birmingham and Huntsville. I heard yesterday that there is an amazing air and space museum in Huntsville. I'm starting to feel a twinge of excitement, and that's a positive step forward.

Cheers,