

## **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Pandemic - Vaccination Day**

**January 13, 2021.** Today my wife and I got vaccinated and for the first time since the pandemic began, we both experienced a small sense of euphoria. For the past 10 months the nation has been dealing with the effects of the coronavirus on a daily, minute-by-minute basis with the constant reminder to observe prevention protocols of wearing masks and social distancing. Receiving the vaccination feels like the first sign that we may be actually turning the corner in this fight against this deadly plague.

Our appointment time was 9:00 a.m. at the St. Lucie Fairgrounds and we didn't know what to expect. The fairgrounds consists of hundreds of acres surrounding an open-air covered arena. When we arrived there were signs telling us how to proceed and soon we were queued in a long line of cars that could be seen winding around the property. The line continued to move slowly as we passed through multiple checkpoints where our information was verified and our appointment time was validated.

The vaccinations were being administered inside the arena and our car was guided into a designated slot. The inoculation only took a few minutes and we never left our vehicle. We were then directed to a recovery area where all recipients were required to wait to make sure there were no bad side effects.

While sitting in the recovery area my wife and I both commented on how well the whole process was organized and the universal positive spirit exhibited by both the health professionals and the patients (us).. Despite being queued in a long, stop-and-go line, we never heard one horn blow and we never saw anyone try to hop the line. The attendants at every checkpoint were pleasant and informative. The medical people were especially welcoming. It was as though everyone was enjoying the moment and at the same time relishing a sense of relief. It felt good to feel good and to see we were headed in the right direction.