



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities

COVID-19 Vaccine Roundtable Transcript

Drew: Hello. My name is Drew Milne. I'm the Content Coordinator at the Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

Kevin: Hello. My name is Kevin Matsunaga and I am a Peer Navigator and Project Aide here at the Sonoran UCEDD at the University of Arizona.

Paul: My name is Paul McLaughlin, and I help out with a lot of things here at the UCEDD.

Drew: Good afternoon, everybody. It's really great to see both of you here, and that we could all make it. So, I guess I'll start by asking both of you: Just in general, what was your experience with getting the vaccine like?

Kevin: It was like getting any other vaccination I've had in the past, especially the flu shots. The only thing that was different was; my first one I got in a car, while my second and booster I got them at where I pretty much usually get most of my other vaccinations.

Paul: It went fairly well. I got mine at Walgreens.

Drew: Okay. And it was a pretty easy experience for you?

Paul: Yes

Kevin: Yeah, for most parts.

Drew: Good, good. So, moving on, I'll ask: why did you choose to get the vaccine?

Paul: So I could be with all my other friends at work.

Drew: Yeah? So everyone else at work was getting it. Yeah.

Paul: Yes.

Kevin: I got the vaccine because I just, like — who knows how many people out there in the world? — I wanted to have the resistance or immunity, or whatever you want to call it, to COVID.

Drew: Yeah, so you wanted to be safe.

Kevin: Yes.

Drew: Yeah, good. So, did either of you get your booster shots, which is the third dose?

Paul & Kevin: Yes.

Drew: Okay. Good, good. Now, did either of you have any side-effects from the vaccine and if so, what were they?

Kevin: Yes, I did get side-effects from the vaccine. My first one: maybe just a little bit of a grogginess. My second and third: I think it was more like a grogginess, sleepiness, and I think a loss of appetite. I think I know some people who may have gotten a little bit of a fever from it, but they managed to recover from all of them within a day or two.

Drew: Good, good. Yeah, those are fairly common I think. How about you, Paul?

Paul: There was a little prick from the needle.

Drew: Yeah? Yeah, I'm glad the side-effects weren't too serious for either of you. So, moving on: Have you or a family member been affected by Covid?

Kevin: No.

Paul: My brother.

Drew: Okay. And how did that go?

Paul: He could not smell or taste anything.

Drew: I've heard that can happen. So, this question is to either of you: What would you say to people who might be hesitant to receive the vaccine?

Paul: Go to your doctor and ask a lot of questions about it.

Kevin: You should, and probably must, get the vaccine. Especially as soon as possible, because once you're immunized you can help, maybe not by 100% but by 90% of the old normal you would all probably want back by now.

Drew: Yeah.

Kevin: The time when no one was wearing masks.

Drew: Right, right. It was a good suggestion to talk to your doctor about any questions that you have because they're very well-trained and knowledgeable in this kind of thing. So, we just have one more question left: Since getting the vaccine, have you felt more comfortable at work or in other public places?

Paul: Probably at work — to be around coworkers.

Drew: Yeah, me too.

Kevin: It's kind of confusing, but to put it simple I'm going to say yes and no. Yes because now that I have the vaccine if I do get COVID I may not get as sick I probably would've if I wasn't immunized. The reason why I say no is because even though me and who knows how many people are fully immunized and has the booster, I still have a little bit of concern that I've had since the pandemic started.

Drew: That's understandable. Which is why I think it's so important for as many people to get the vaccine as possible: so that there's more assurance that other people might be protected as well.