

## Title: Navigating New Normals: Embracing Vaccination for Access in Brooklyn

Living in Brooklyn, New York, during the pandemic has been a journey of adaptation and adjustment. While I didn't contract COVID-19, I found myself navigating the evolving landscape of vaccination requirements to access various venues and services in the city.

Initially hesitant about getting vaccinated, I ultimately decided to do so when faced with the reality that it was becoming a requirement for entry into restaurants and other establishments. It wasn't about fear of the virus itself but rather a practical decision to ensure continued access to the things I enjoyed and needed in my daily life.

Getting vaccinated wasn't a particularly dramatic or emotional experience for me. It was simply a matter of convenience and practicality, a step I took to comply with the evolving regulations and requirements imposed by the city.

Contributing to the "A Journal of a Plague Year" archive offers me a chance to reflect on this aspect of the pandemic experience—the shifting norms and expectations surrounding vaccination and access. While my journey may not have been marked by illness or hardship, it still provides valuable insight into the ways in which the pandemic has reshaped our lives and communities.

Moreover, the transition to virtual schooling was challenging. It made me feel disconnected and, to be honest, a bit lazy. The lack of structure and face-to-face interaction took a toll on my motivation. However, amidst these struggles, I found solace in the empty streets of Brooklyn. With the city's usual hustle and bustle subdued, I seized the opportunity to run outside more often. It became a form of escape, a way to break free from the monotony of virtual classes and reinvigorate my spirit amidst the quietude of the pandemic-stricken city.

In Brooklyn, as in many other places, vaccination has become a key factor in navigating the new normal. While it may not have been a deeply personal or transformative experience for me, it is undeniably a significant aspect of the pandemic narrative—a reminder of the ways in which we adapt and adjust to the challenges that come our way.