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Greetings to friends and family! As we enter month 22 of this pandemic, know that we are living in historic times! Our actions, thoughts, and activities during this time will be fodder for future generations to analyze and criticize. We are already looking back at March 2020 and criticizing how we did or didn't mandate protocols based on information we did or did not have! Interesting times we are living in, for sure!

Luckily for us, only Tom had to continue working outside the house. His job at FedEx entailed contact with co-workers and customers during deliveries. As for me, I attended many zoom meetings and classes. Groceries were delivered and Amazon became my best friend. We missed seeing our friends and family.

Vaccines opened a new world and we felt safer. Masks continue to be our best friends. It was fun to coordinate masks with our outfits. Then we got serious and started wearing N95s and those were not so fun. We got our booster shots and felt another level of safety. Maybe we could travel now.

We ventured out of our homes to visit friends in Seattle and New York. Flying was an experience that wasn't like the past. Seattle restaurants demanded our vax card and ID to be seated. In New York, we attended a Broadway play. It felt uncomfortable to sit next to someone. We visited family in Tucson. We went sightseeing and followed new protocols. There was social distancing almost all over. People were around but respectful of personal space.

As the year is ending, we are making plans for holiday gatherings with family. We're cautiously proceeding and are concerned about sharing food at these gatherings. Will we ever return to buffets of the past?

With Delta and now the Omicron strains, it's not looking like this pandemic will ever end. And so, we will learn to live with it lurking over our shoulders.

We wish good health to all. Be safe out there wherever you are. Be grateful for each day. Enjoy your friends and family. And most important: BE KIND.

Peace out,

Tom and Sandy

