

Senator Claxon, Representative Meyer, and esteemed committee members,

My name is Nathaniel Nalley III from Brewer Maine and I am currently employed as a AGR member for the 101st Security Force in the Air National Guard. I have been in the National Guard since 2017. Thank you for the opportunity and time to read and hear my story and concern regarding the COVID-19 and the vaccines.

I was one of the first rounds to be given the Moderna vaccine on the Bangor Air Guard base in January of 2021. We were advised that we were taking on our own merits and that it was not FDA approved. We were also advised that this shot was going to become mandatory in the military at a later date but for taking the shot at that time we were given an incentive for getting it prior to the mandatory date. The first round of dosage was administered in a secure and safe environment, and we were not allowed to leave until a set time so that way we could be monitored. Upon reaching the set waiting time we were evaluated and upon meeting the criteria we were released to complete the rest of our day. We were advised the first shot tends to be worse than the second with some soreness in the arm and to be aware in the upcoming days. I had no complications with the first shot minus the stiffness/soreness in the area equivalent to that of being hit hard with a large softball.

My second dosage of the two- part Moderna shot was administered in February under the same guidelines, precautions, and surveillance as the first dosage. After meeting the required time of surveillance upon receiving the second shot i was cleared by the medical staff to return to my duty day and resume normal activities with the acknowledgement of some comfortability with the dosage like the first time. So, I went back to work on base with one of my supervisors.

Almost three hours had passed since receiving the second dose, I started feeling "off" sitting at a desk in my supervisor's office. My vision started getting fuzzy and it felt like the world was moving slow and the next thing I remember I was gaining consciousness on the floor. My chest was feeling like it was pinned under a large boulder and every attempt to breath for air felt like a crushing blow with no success of air. My body felt frozen, unable to move yet I could hear voices around me. When my vision fully came back, I was in the back of an ambulance and was told I had passed out and was not breathing for quite a bit and at some point, started convulsing. The medic took some reading and stated that my heart rate was below normal but was making it back to normal.

Arriving at the ER I was rushed into a room where I was seen, and my vitals were taken while I waited for an ER doctor. It took some time due to the overflow. After an hour of being there the nursing staff allowed my wife to come in just as the nurse came in to draw blood. I am not sure how long after the blood was drawn, but it was soon afterwards a nurse came in stating i was ready to be discharged and that i was just afraid of needles. I asked what the blood draw stated, and she told me she was not the one who got the results back. I showed her my arm tattoos and filled her in on my military history of shots on shots as well as my years of active involvement with the Red Cross and getting my blood drawn. She stated again that I must just fear needles, handed me my paperwork, and left the room. Looking at my paperwork and vitals there were many areas that were not at normal levels upon being told to leave. Upon leaving we learned the director of the CDC was there touring the hospital at the same time we were there. Thank you again for taking the time to hear my personal story to why we need more time before we mandate the vaccines in the state of Maine
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