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- RANIA

So, you want my story when I went to get vaccinated?

I'm the type of person afraid of needles. That's the first thing. When I was young, they tried to give me a vaccine and I fainted – three times! Not even the flu shot. My husband and my daughter always tell me, "You need to take it!" My husband's a doctor, you know. But one time, I took it, and I got the flu. So, I said, "See!" So, for a long time I didn't even take the flu shot. My husband once went to a conference about how important the flu shot was, but then he came home to a wife that didn't believe in the flu shot. And then COVID-19 came. And for the first time in my life, I wished there was a vaccine we could take to prevent the coronavirus. In the beginning, everyone was afraid. A lot of people were saying a lot of scary things. All this drama. So, the first person who got vaccinated in my family was my husband. And I said, "You be brave; you go do it." But not me. I waited a month to see how my husband was. But then I decided it was time. I have so many friends. My husband kept saying, "You will encourage others and save lives." A lot of people were sick or had heart problems. So, they needed to take the shot. My husband was working with COVID-19 patients, so he couldn't go with me. I didn't take anyone; I didn't want to be embarrassed. "Oh, she fainted!" I didn't want anyone to be saying this. I felt so cold when I left the house. There was a big line, but I had an appointment, so I got in quickly. And I warned them I am afraid of needles. They were so nice. So nice. The only thing that made me not faint was taking a selfie, Can you believe it? So, I distracted myself by taking pictures. I was so scared, and my heart started beating fast. But I kept thinking about sending the selfie out to my friends. And being brave and being the one to encourage everyone. I got up to go to the waiting room afterward, and I felt so nauseous. But I knew it was just from the fear of the needle.

You know, sometimes we scare ourselves. It wasn't the vaccine that was making me like this; it was me. But I did it! I posted in Facebook and all my WhatsApp groups telling them it doesn't hurt. The next day I had a little fever, a little body ache. But very light. I'm ok. By taking the shot, I was encouraging all my friends to take it. I put it on Facebook and WhatsApp, and after I got it, around 200 people got the vaccine. Sometimes you need to encourage people. Not all went—there are still stubborn people. But most did.