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the people sitting next to us were unvaccinated. We saw around 20 games this way, thinking we were safe from contracting illness despite the paucity of safeguards that the stadium's management had implemented.

COVID's Delta variant came along in late July, with bigger case volumes and evidence of there being 'breakthrough' cases – of vaccinated people testing positive. As people of a certain advanced age, we also noted that some other countries were administering booster shots to their senior-aged populations to boost their immunities.

At Oracle Park not a single meaningful change was made to required safety protocols. The Questions and Answers on the Giants' website (<https://www.mlb.com/giants/fans/safety/health>) states:

Q: Are face masks required?

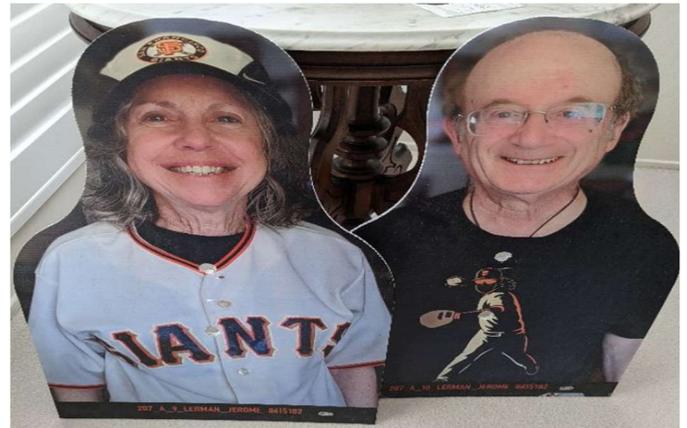
A: Face masks are required for all fans when accessing indoor spaces and are encouraged in outdoor areas.

However, that masking requirement isn't being enforced. Watching TV and seeing hardly any fans among the 30,000+ wearing masks (or wearing them as chin guards) has led us to change our approach to attending home games:

We're now selling our tickets on Stub Hub – where they seem to go for something close to face value – and watching our wonderful SF Giants broadcasts on TV. We're playing it safe until the coast is clear – and we've gotten our (newly recommended by the CDC) booster shots.

One of the Giants players has just come down with Covid, and we pray that he (Donovan Solano) will recover quickly. The team's having quite an amazing 2021 season – nearly 40 games over .500 – and holding on to a narrow division lead over the LA Dodgers, who are also playing excellently.

We have high hopes for a post-season for these Giants, and that we'll be able to attend those home games IN PERSON safely!



Aaron's Answers continued from page 1

An archipelago is a group of islands, typically formed by a ridge of underwater volcanoes, which erupt and spill lava into the ocean, which then hardens and turns into stone. On August 13th, Fukutoku-Okanoba erupted and expelled lava into the water above it, and formed a small island. Fukutoku-Okanoba is an underwater volcano which is part of the Iwo Islands, or the Volcano Islands near the Bonin Islands of Japan. The lava solidified and formed a small crescent-shaped island with a diameter of 1 kilometer. However, Japan's Meteorological Agency believes that the eruption is still going on! That means that in the coming months, the island can enlarge even bigger! The eruption also released a large amount of pumice, a sandy substance made of quartz and other minerals, commonly put into heavy duty soaps to get grease out of very greasy items.

This phenomenon occurs approximately every few months, however the times can vary based on how much lava is built up when the volcano explodes. Often the fledgeling islands don't grow fast enough and get eroded by the ocean waves before they reach their full size. Islands can develop vegetation after as little as 1 year after an eruption, but it can take hundreds of years for life to fully establish itself on the entire island. The fastest occurrence of established plant life was 4 years on the island of Ohi'a. The island is not yet open to tourists, but may be soon.