Pre-Travel Testing Thoughts & Tips, Nov. 9, 2020

**HD Video**

<https://vimeo.com/476966669>

**Jeff Lilly SOTs**

0:00 Right. I, the first thing was to go to the state's website, but it has pretty clear instructions about what you need to do. And so I set up the Safe Travels account for each of us with the login and all of that. So, once we had that in place, then we were able to go. We traveled to Texas while we were there. We were in Texas for about three weeks. And so while we were there, then we were able to go to, we had traveled just before the trusted partners had all been approved. But once they were approved, we were able to go on to CVS. We were able to make an appointment for our COVID-19 test. There were some, a little bit of growing pains, I guess I would call it as we were working with CVS. You have to download an app and the instructions weren't particularly clear, but we were able to then take our test. We received a PDF of that test through our CVS account. And then we were able to upload that onto the Safe Travels.

1:14 No quarantine involved. I have to say that we traveled with one of the airlines that was very careful to send us multiple emails about what the requirements were for traveling to Hawaii, came up on our app. Once we were on the airplane, the flight attendants, I don't know how many times 20 times said, “Hey, do you have your QR code? You'd need to have your QR code.” And then they were helping people who did not have their QR code in place so that they could expedite their way through the line. Once we arrived in Honolulu, we were pretty early off the plane. There was, so we were kind of first in line to go through. Once we arrived at the clearance tables, it took less than a minute.

**Jean Lilly SOTs**

2:04 They scan the QR code and we were done well.

2:07 I want to tell you, he was much more nervous about it than I was. But, you know, just being informed and knowing what to… I mean, we didn't know completely what to expect. There were some communication issues that we did notice, but because we knew what we needed to do. And we were prepared before we left and signed up on the state's website, for me, it was less anxious. We just went through the paces and, and Jeff reads all the instructions on everything and as good at following things. So, it was most stressful when we were waiting for the PDF from the COVID test, because we were traveling already on our way back. And weren't sure if we were going to get that PDF because the first, the first test results were not in a PDF. So, but we landed in LA and got it and so forth. So other than that, not really too much other than our daughter didn't want us to be there until we had our tests before we could go see them.

3:16 She was pregnant with our first grandchild.

3:21 That's the reason for our trip. Otherwise we probably wouldn't travel. We wouldn't have traveled at all.

**Jeff Lilly SOTs**

3:27 Oh, I really do. I think it's important that we do protect our community here. We do have a lot of very vulnerable. A lot of our population is quite vulnerable. We have quite a few elderly folks and people who are who are vulnerable. So, I think it's important that we do the testing and maybe even expand testing over time. Being on the mainland for the first time in quite a long time, it's not very controlled in a lot of places. And so if we can protect our people on this end, as best as we can, I think it's a really smart thing. And I think the Safe Travels Program is one step of many that we will take in the future to assure both our economic security, but also that our own population is able to travel back and forth as needed. I think that's something that's forgotten is that the Safe Travels Program is not just to get tourists here, but also to help our local people be able to travel where they need to travel for family emergencies, funerals and those kinds of things.

4:40 Yeah. I was really pleased where we traveled in Texas. We were really, really pleased with the level of compliance, the number… hardly ever saw anyone without a mask, every store, every restaurant made it very clear that you needed to have your mask. And they had mask on hand to, to give people who didn't, he didn't have them.

**Jean Lilly**

5:01 But when we traveled outside of the Dallas metro area, there were fewer masks being used. And we did notice that. Yeah, and the other, but the other thing I would like to say about the Hawaii Safe Travels Program, it would be very difficult for somebody who did not have a smartphone to come through. Because that's what we relied mostly on was our smartphones. And if you didn't have one, we don't know what the process would have been because that's all the instructions are real smartphones.

**Jeff Lilly**

5:33 We traveled in order to be there for the birth of our first grandchild. Little Franklin was born just several days after we arrived and born healthy and happy to his mom and dad. Six pounds, eight ounces, and 19 and a half inches. And what a delight for us to have the opportunity to be there when he was born and then be able to spend his first two weeks of life. Essentially sitting for eight hours at a time, staring at a baby, it turns out that's way more entertaining than television.

**Jean Lilly**

6:11 We decided we were going to go regardless. And we were prepared to do the 14 day quarantine here.

**Jeff Lilly**

6:19 Yeah, yeah. It was important enough that we were going to travel regardless, but we both have work that would allow us to quarantine more easily. So, it was the choice we made. But boy, when the Safe Travels thing came up, we were really delighted. And I think most of my apprehension was whether it would go into effect, stay in effect, and be organized enough for it to help us as we came back. I would say one piece of advice I would give to people is get very familiar with your technology before you leave. Learn how to save files to your phone Practice it because if you think about the amount of time that you have. 72 hours, you have to get your COVID test, CVS says two to three days to receive your results. So in our particular case, we left Dallas early in the morning, we landed in LA before we got our PDF of our test results. We then uploaded those to the Safe Travels Program. And before actually, before we left LA our COVID-19 negative result had already been verified because they do that robotically anyway. And I think it's helpful for people to just spend some time with your technology and get familiar with it. I think that will really lower your anxiety as you're going through the process.

**Video and B-roll**

7:49-8:53 Photos of baby Franklin with family