But worries continue to lurk for many.

"Although I am more optimistic about the future now that the vaccinations are underway, there is still cause for concern."

Concerns have shifted slightly, as our (mostly vaccinated/getting vaccinated) museum-goer panelists are no longer as worried about themselves or their immediate adult family members becoming sick.

But general worries continue, especially around:

- Vaccine resistance
- Virus variants
- Over-confidence and/or pandemic fatigue

A new concern also emerged: children.

"We are willing to still wear the mask even if the other adults in the house are not, because there are thousands of children who cannot be vaccinated."

But for the adults participating in the Pandemic Panel, vaccinations are giving them more optimism and a greater sense of freedom.

Overall, however, the mood was more positive than at any other time in the previous year … thanks to increasing rates of vaccination.

This suggests that museum visitation should increase over the coming months … but for many museum-goers, that return continues to be conditional upon local infection rates and adherence to safety guidelines.

"I plan to return slowly, depending on whether the number of cases continues to less and that people continue to follow safety protocols like masking (even after vaccination) until our public health officials say it is no longer necessary."