

## Songs for the Quarantine #47: Bad Medicine, Bon Jovi

Good morning, Roll Over Easy, and welcome to the forty-sixth Songs for the Quarantine. I'm @suldrew. Every week while we are under shelter-in-place, we'll bring you a song that's perfect for taking your mind off social distancing, that you can listen to while you walk in the park, or work from home, or ... or wait in line at Moscone, just like when you're going to a trade show, except this time nobody's offering you a t-shirt for a lifetime of spam.

It's time to get that vax. And we're not talking about the Digital Equipment kind. If you're over 50, you qualify now. If you're over sixteen, you will in one week! California is rapidly extending eligibility for vaccines, and every day Matt Haney is tweeting about another location where they're available. (Between the adorable kitten photos.)

So in honor of Pfizer, Moderna, AND Johnson & Johnson, let's show off those rock and roll haircuts one more time and rock out to some Eighties hair metal. I'm talking, of course, about [Bad Medicine](#) by Jon Bon Jovi. This classic headbanger reached Number One on Billboard's Hot 100 in 1988, and was a crowd favorite at my senior prom at Ann Arbor Huron High the following May. (Go River Rats!) It might be most famous for its "alternative" music video, in which comic Sam Kinison handed out video cameras to 250 fans and asked them to shoot Bon Jovi from the audience, shouting: "[Is this gonna be the same video slop that we always get from these glam rock pretty boys?](#)" It wasn't.

Bad Medicine may not have the most complex of lyrics - as Wikipedia helpfully points out, "the song repeats the phrase "Bad Medicine" a total of 19 times" - but you can't resist those keyboard hooks and key changes. One in every verse! And what it lacks in clever lyrics, it makes up for with instantly catchy phrasing and meter. As @beckastar pointed out to me once, you'll never think of lamb vindaloo the same way again. "That's what you get for falling in love."

Now we're not sure this one will ever show up on the [Moscone playlist](#). We don't want the folks in line to think there's anything untoward about that Pfizer doubleshot. Some Beatles, some Stevie Wonder, some Steve Winwood - that's the right vibe for when you're actually punching your CDC card. But once you're back out on the street and you've recovered from the side effects - or maybe when you remember them a little too well - don't forget what Jon said: "When you find your medicine, you take what you can get / 'Cause if there's something better, baby / Well, they haven't found it yet." Ya know what? It's pretty damn good.