Five Things to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccines

The vaccines are our best form of protection.
As new variants spread across the world, vaccination—including booster shots—is more important than ever. It is the best way you can protect yourself and your loved ones from serious illness and death. It is our best chance at ending this terrible pandemic.

Children ages 5 years and older should get vaccinated.
COVID-19 can make children very sick, and it can cause serious complications, including hospitalization and death. Protect your child by scheduling an appointment for the Pfizer vaccine.

Everyone 12 years and older should get a booster shot.
Getting a booster shot increases your protection against COVID-19. Those 12 years and older who received the second dose of their Pfizer vaccine at least five months ago should get their booster. Those 18 years and older who received the second dose of the Moderna vaccine at least six months ago, or the Johnson and Johnson vaccine at least two months ago, should get their booster.

The vaccines are safe and effective.
Billions of people worldwide have now been vaccinated—people of all races and ethnicities. You may experience mild side effects immediately following vaccination. This is normal and expected. They should go away quickly, within a day or two.

Even if you’ve had COVID-19, you should still get vaccinated.
The vaccines will reduce your chance of becoming reinfected in the future. If you do get COVID-19 again, vaccination helps prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death.