Vaccines are the most important tool we have in slowing the spread of the virus, opening back up, and getting back to life. That said, it’s normal to have questions.

The vaccines used in Vermont are proven to be safe and effective. They use technologies that have been many years in the making and included ten of thousands of participants in their clinical trials. Most importantly, these vaccines were all found to be 100% effective in preventing hospitalizations and death from COVID-19. And we are seeing this impact in Vermont, with dramatically lower hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 since vaccinating many of our highest-risk residents. The best vaccine you can get is the one you can get right now.

While some people have side effects after getting vaccinated, this means your body is working to build protection against the virus. The most common side effects include pain where you got the shot, headache, tiredness, fever, and chills—and these are temporary and usually mild.

Even if you are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, you can still get a head start on the process now by creating your account in the Vermont Department of Health’s online system. That way, it’ll be smooth sailing when it’s your turn to make an appointment.

To learn more, set up your account, and make an appointment, visit: HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine.