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- LESHAN

My name is Leshan. I live in Boise, Idaho, and I am a recent migrant to the United States from Kenya. I got my first COVID-19 vaccine in March 2021 when it was available to people below 65 years of age. I also recently received my Pfizer booster to ensure I am fully protected and to also protect those around me from COVID-19. When the pandemic started, I was in college, far from home and stranded, which made it difficult to come to terms with everything. This motivated me to get the vaccine as soon as it was accessible, so that I could see my parents. I was glad that my parents were able to come to the United States for my graduation this past May thanks to the vaccine. Getting vaccinated enabled us to celebrate my graduation together and spend time with each other after so long.

I know many people have not been able to see their loved ones because of COVID-19, and I know for many that access to the vaccine and even the boosters has been difficult. I am grateful and feel truly lucky to have been able to receive my vaccine and booster and grateful my parents have been able to get their vaccine too. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated for their loved ones and their community so that we can be together again. Especially now with the Omicron variant, I urge everyone to get the vaccine and booster. The best way to beat COVID-19 is to make sure we're all protected from it.