

**Mayo Clinic Minute: Why routine vaccinations for kids are especially important this year**

<b>Video</b>	<b>Audio</b>
	The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in children missing months of wellness visits in which routine vaccines are given.
	Dr. Robert Jacobson, a Mayo Clinic pediatrician, says that's alarming.
	"That means we're developing pockets of reduced immunity for these vaccine-preventable diseases. That means that those outbreaks are more likely to spread because of that decreased herd immunity."
	One vaccine Dr. Jacobson says will be especially important for kids to get during the COVID-19 pandemic is the flu vaccine.
<b>Robert Jacobson, M.D. Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine Mayo Clinic</b>	"We have this range of early symptoms with COVID-19 and flu that look very similar, though the diseases may end up behaving very differently."
	"We've got to do everything we can to prevent that confusion. And, right now, we can, with the flu, prevent it by getting the flu vaccine. And not just our children, but every one of us — every one of us in the household."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.