

Mayo Clinic Minute: What to expect with COVID-19 vaccinations for youngest kids

Video	Audio
	Dr. Richard Kennedy, co-director of Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group, says even though younger children have tended to fare better with COVID-19, the reality is that some are still getting very sick and even dying of the disease.
Richard Kennedy, Ph.D. Vaccine Research Group Mayo Clinic	"Having this vaccine will help prevent and reduce the level of severe disease and death in children. Even though the rate might be small now, let's get it reduced to zero if we can, or at least reduced as much as possible."
	Besides protecting children, he says it may also reduce the amount of transmission and exposure in places like day cares and schools.
	"Best way to end the pandemic is to stop having the virus transmit. When it transmits, there's a chance for new variants to arise. And that's what we're dealing with right now is multiple new variants. Only way to get ahead of that is to stop cases. And vaccines are one of our best preventive tools for doing that."
	Parents can be assured that when a vaccine does get approved for the most vulnerable of populations, it will be safe.
	"The FDA and other regulatory agencies do a very deep dive into the safety data. And that's why you typically see a rollout of a vaccine in several stages."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.