



Hello!

I'm **Dr. Ben Flannery**, a pediatrician with Northfield Hospital + Clinics.

I see many young patients from the community. Every day I share COVID prevention tips with their families. **This brochure will answer six questions most often asked by caregivers.**

When you're making decisions about children's health, it's important to have accurate information!



Find more helpful resources on the back of this brochure.

“ The government is pushing the vaccine for public health reasons. **Everyone is feeling the effects of the pandemic, whether or not you ever get COVID.**

When large numbers of people get sick, they can't work. When people can't work, supply chains drop. You can't order items you want from Amazon; you can't go to a restaurant because employees are out sick. From a government public health perspective, the way to get past this widespread interruption is to get everybody vaccinated so we quit getting sick from COVID.

There is nothing in the vaccine to track people. That is a conspiracy theory that is completely made up, and it is false. It's not even logical: these vaccines have a very small amount of medication in a vial. It's ultra-frozen. No technology could survive that freezing. It is not possible!"



It feels like the government is pushing the vaccine. Is it because there is something in the vaccine which makes it possible for them to track us?



COVID vaccinations for your kids?

Questions & ANSWERS

COVID vaccination locations here →



Rice County COVID situation update ← here



Dr. Ben Flannery
Pediatrician with
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What **studies** have been done for the COVID vaccine for children? **Are those enough?** How do we know they are **safe?**

“ A COVID vaccine study for kids ages 6 months to 4 years old, done with assistance from CDC and NIH (National Institutes of Health), **included several thousand kids.** It studied them over several months to evaluate reactions and the vaccine’s effectiveness.

This is enough to know the vaccine is safe, and how well it works. **They found the vaccine is incredibly safe.** Younger kids will likely need a booster sooner than older kids because younger kids’ immune systems didn’t respond as adequately as we would have liked. They still benefit from being vaccinated, to get partial protection from severe COVID.”

“ This is the largest group of unvaccinated people. **Young kids are easily getting COVID and easily spreading it to others at risk.** Many vaccinated parents who got COVID got it because of close contact with their unvaccinated child. Even though the vaccine helped prevent severe COVID, many of these parents will admit how horrible it was when they had COVID.

Why are they pushing the vaccine on kids so much?

Also, although COVID has really targeted adults and elderly and has been less severe for kids, it’s always a roll of the dice. Some kids do get really sick from COVID, and we never want that to happen. **We have a safe, simple, effective and free vaccine, so why wouldn’t you protect your kid from the chance that they could get super sick?”**

“ This question has become common as more people have gotten COVID. We know having COVID gives you good immunity for about 90 days. So for about 3 months, you can rely on those antibodies to keep you from getting COVID again. **But we haven’t seen any reliable data that shows people keep their immunity after 3 months, especially against Omicron.**

My child tested positive for COVID, doesn’t that help build better immunity than a vaccine?

The vaccine gives you immunity for 4 to 6 months, which is longer, although not as long as we’d like. **Getting vaccinated also prevents complications from severe COVID later, even past the 6 months when vaccine immunity begins to wane.**

The pandemic is likely to continue, and can build at any moment if a new variant emerges. **Even though you had COVID and have immunity for 3 months, who knows what it will be like in 6 months?**

I heard that getting a COVID booster **weakens your immune system** and your immunity to COVID, is that true for kids?

“ **That is not true at all.** COVID vaccine only boosts your immune system. It’s like a practice session if your body was exposed to the virus—so your immune system knows what COVID is like before it has to fight it. **Vaccine actually strengthens your immune system.** It does that for kids too—not as much as it strengthens the immune system for older kids and adults, which is why younger kids may need a third dose (booster) sooner.”

“ Kids are less likely to get super sick with COVID. But still, **more than 900 kids have died from COVID since the pandemic started, and thousands have been hospitalized.**

First, kids should be vaccinated because of the risk of them getting very sick. It’s a low risk, but we have a safe and effective vaccine, so why take the risk at all? Some families whose kid got sick regret not getting the vaccine, because it was simple and effective and safe.

I heard children usually don’t have bad symptoms when they get COVID. Why do they need the vaccine then?

Another reason to get kids vaccinated is that this is how we get rid of illnesses in the world. Childhood vaccinations have allowed us to get rid of measles, mumps, chicken pox, smallpox.

The third reason: your kid in your own house is much more likely to make YOU sick even if you’ve been vaccinated. When your child is sick with COVID, they share many more viral germs with you because you’re physically close to them so much of the time. They are spreading virus much more at home, so there are many more breakthrough infections among parents.

Vaccinating your kids **also protects grandparents and others at higher risk of severe illness.** Grandma may be really healthy right now, but she may not be six months from now. We want to protect grandparents, too.”

The final question is on the back →