The year 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic and its colossal global impact on the economy and quality of life. The year ended with a glimmer of hope when the FDA approved COVID-19 vaccinations for people aged 16 and up. The vaccine campaign was a success. The number of new cases rapidly declined despite the easing of lockdown restrictions in countries with high vaccination rates. However, limitations were still necessary among the unvaccinated populations—mainly children and teenagers)—both in and outside of schools. Epidemiological data show that the susceptibility and transmission of COVID-19 is lower the younger the age. Although children tend to develop asymptomatic diseases and present more favorable outcomes than adults, the recent emergence of new variants increases children’s risk of disease transmission and severity [1], [2], [3].

In May 2021, the FDA and CHMP approved the COVID-19 vaccine for

teenagers aged 12 and up. Some countries considered allowing the vaccine for children aged 12 to 16. They expect this step to help contain the pandemic, which is especially important considering the spread of new variants. Increasing the vaccination rate will help attain herd immunity and recover the global economy.

In order to implement this strategy, it is important to understand parents’ hesitation to vaccinate their children, since parents are usually the decision makers. In Israel, the vaccination campaign started in mid-December 2020. By June 3,,

59.35% of the population was fully vaccinated. The highest level of 7-day

moving average of new infections per day was 8,624. On January 17, 2021, this number began to decrease as the vaccinated population increased, dropping to 15 new cases per day in the beginning of June, 2021. By the following month, due to the delta variant, the weekly average of new cases rose to 450.

According to an Israeli nationwide observational study, vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection, COVID-19-related hospitalization, and COVID-19-related deaths exceeded 96% across all age groups. There is also a positive correlation between vaccination rate and age: over 95% for people aged 70 and above, 90% for ages 50-70 , and around 80% for ages 20-40.

The percentage of vaccinated people in Israel plateaued in the last two months, with only a 2.3% increase from 60.7% in April 1, 2021 to 63% in June 1, 2021 [4], [5], [6]. This phenomenon exists in other countries as well and is probably caused by vaccine hesitancy. Vaccine hesitancy is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination, despite the availability of vaccination services [7]. The causes of vaccine hesitancy vary by country and are vaccine-specific, indicating a need to strengthen the capacity of national programs to identify local causal factors and develop appropriate strategies [8], [9].