The year 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic and its significant worldwide impact on quality of life and economies. The year ended with a glimmer of hope when the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of COVID-19 vaccination for people aged 16 and above. The vaccination campaign was a success, with the number of new infections declining rapidly in countries with high vaccination rates despite the easing of lockdown restrictions. However, there were limitations with complete control of the spread of the virus, as those under the age of 16 were not vaccinated. Epidemiological data show that the susceptibility and transmission of COVID-19 by children decreases with decreasing age. Children tend to develop asymptomatic disease with lower severity than adults. However, recently, emergence of new variants has increased children’s risk of disease severity and transmission [1], [2], [3].

On May 2021, the FDA and the European Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP)  approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccine in teenagers aged 12 years and above. Consequently, some countries consider extending the vaccination program to children aged 12 to 16. They expect that this will further contribute to the control of the pandemic, which is especially important after the spread of the new pandemic variants. Increasing the vaccination rate will help reaching herd immunity and the recovery of the global economy. However, this may be dependent on parental vaccine hesitancy regarding their children. Therefore, it is important to understand parental hesitancy, as parents are usually the decision makers.

In Israel, the vaccination campaign started in mid-December 2020, and by June 3, 2021, 59.35 percent of the population were fully vaccinated. The highest level of 7-day moving average (of daily new infections) was 8,624 on January 17, 2021. This number saw a gradual but drastic decline to only 15 new cases per day at the beginning of June, 2021, as the percentage of the vaccinated population increased. However, with the emergence of the delta variant, the 7-day moving average increased to 450 cases at the beginning of July 2021. Based on an Israeli nationwide observational study, vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic COVID-19 infection, hospitalization and death exceeded 96 percent across all age groups. There was a positive correlation between vaccination rate and age. The vaccination rate exceeded 95 percent, and reached around 90 and 80 percent, for those aged 70 and above, 50-70 and 20-40, respectively. However, the percentage of vaccinated people in Israel has reached a plateau over the last two months. It increased only by 2.3 percent from April 1, 2021 (60.7percent) to in June 1, 2021 (63 percent) [4], [5], [6]. This phenomenon exists in other countries as well and is probably due to vaccine hesitancy, 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 casual factors and develop appropriate strategies [8], [9].