The year 2020 will be remembered by the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and its worldwide effects on quality of life and the economy. The year ended with a glimmer of hope when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) FDA approved the use of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations among people aged 16 years and up. The vaccine campaign was a success in countries with high rates of vaccination, and the number of new infections declined rapidly despite the easing of lockdown restrictions. ~~in countries with high rates of vaccination.~~ However, restrictions on the unvaccinated population (mainly teenagers and children) are still needed to control infection rates. Epidemiological data show that incidence of infection and transmission of COVID 19 in the pediatric population decrease along with the child’s age, and are lowest in very young children. Children are more likely to develop asymptomatic disease, and have fewer complications than adults. However, the emergence of new variants poses the risk of increased morbidity and transmissibility in children [1], [2], [3].

In May of 2021, the FDA and CHMP approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccine in teenagers ages 12 years and up, and at the time of this publication, countries are in the process of approving the vaccine for this population. ~~Some countries consider extending the vaccine population to children ages 12 to 16 years old.~~ Governments expect that this step will contribute to the control of the pandemic, potentially decreasing ~~which is extremely important~~ the spread of new COVID-19 variants. Increasing vaccination rates will likely aid in bringing the world closer to herd immunity. In order to increase vaccination rates in children, it is important to understand parents’ vaccine hesitancy.

In Israel, the vaccination campaign started in mid-December of 2020, and by the beginning of June 2021, 59.35 percent of the population was fully vaccinated. The highest level of 7-day moving average of new infections per day was 8,624 on January 17th 2021, this number gradually declines as the percentage of vaccines population increased and reached 15 new cases per day at the beginning of June 2021. Due to the emergence of the delta variant in June 2021, the weekly average of new cases increased to 450 at the beginning of July. Based on Israel’s nationwide observational study, vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection, COVID-19-related hospitalization, and COVID-19-related death exceeded 96% across all age groups. In Israel, there is a positive correlation between vaccination rates and age: for 70 years and above the rate exceed 95%, for 50-70 years it is around 90% and for 20-40 years around 80%. The vaccination rate in Israel reached a plateau, increasing only by 2.3% from April to June 2021 [4], [5], [6].This phenomenon was seen in other countries as well and is probably caused in part 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 unique to each vaccine, indicating a need to strengthen the capacity of national programs to identify local casual factors and develop appropriate strategies to increase vaccination [8], [9].