The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on human health, quality of life, and economic stability and growth. The year 2020 marked an important turning point, with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of COVID-19 vaccination among individuals over 16 years of age. In countries with successful vaccine campaigns, the number of new infections declined rapidly, despite the easing of lockdown restrictions. The unvaccinated populations, consisting mainly of teenagers and children, are still vulnerable, and limitations on activities both inside and outside school settings are needed. Epidemiological data show that current susceptibility and transmission of COVID-19 are lower among younger children, and that children are more likely to develop asymptomatic disease, and to experience more favorable outcomes than adults. With the recent emergence of new variants, however, this may change, resulting in an increased risk of disease transmission and worse disease severity among children [1], [2], [3].

In May of 2021, the FDA and the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccine among persons aged 12 years and above. The broadening of the vaccine eligibility criteria is expected to contribute to the control of the pandemic and bring the goals of herd immunity and the recovery of the global economy to within closer reach. Importantly, to successfully vaccinate young adults, it is crucial to understand parents’ vaccine hesitancy, as they are usually the decision makers. , outright

Israel launched its vaccination campaign in December 2020, and within six months,

59% of the population was fully vaccinated. At its peak in January 2021, the 7-day moving average number of new infections per day was 8,624. As the proportion of the population receiving vaccinations increased, this estimate gradually declined in parallel, reaching 15 new cases per day by June 2021. A nationwide observational study reported that vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic COVID-19-related infections, hospitalizations, and deaths exceeded 96% across all age groups. While the Israeli COVID-19 vaccination program was successful overall, it is important to note some trends. Firstly, the vaccination rate was highest among older adults (above 95% for individuals over 70 years and around 80% for individuals aged 20-40). Secondly, the vaccine uptake rates in Israel quickly reached a plateau, with only small increases in the vaccinated proportion of the population after the initial enthusiasm (60.7% on April 1st 2021 to only 63% on June 1st 2021). [4], [5], [6] Residual vaccine hesitancy likely underlies this phenomenon. The causes of vaccine hesitancy vary by country and are vaccine-specific, highlighting a need to strengthen the capacity of national programs to identify local causal factors and develop appropriate strategies [8], [9].