The year 2020 will be remembered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the worldwide impact that is has had on humans, quality of life and economics. The year ended with a glimmer of hope, when the FDA approved the use of COVID-19 vaccination for people aged 16 years and over. The vaccine campaign was successful. In countries with a high rate of vaccination, the number of new infections declined rapidly, despite the easing of lockdown restrictions. However, there was still concern due to the unvaccinated population (mainly teenagers and children). Limitation to activities, both in school and outside of school were still needed. Epidemiological data showed that the susceptibility and transmission of COVID 19 by children decreased as the age of the child decreased. Children were more likely to develop asymptomatic disease, and present with more favorable outcomes than adults. However, the recent emergence of new variants of COVID-19 showed an increased risk of disease transmission and disease severity in children [1,2,3].

In May 2021, the FDA and CHMP approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccine to teenagers aged 12 years and over. Some countries have considered extending vaccination to children aged 12 to 16 years. It is expected that this step will contribute to the control of the pandemic, which is extremely important due to the spread of the new COVID-19 variants. Increasing the vaccination rate will help in reaching herd immunity, and the recovery of the global economy. In order to employ such a strategy, it is important to understand parents’ vaccine hesitancy regarding their children, as parents are usually the decision makers.

In Israel, the vaccination campaign started in mid-December 2020 and by June 2021,

59.35 percent of the population were fully vaccinated. The highest level of new infections per day (7-day moving average) was 8,624 in January 2021. The number of new infections per day gradually declined as the percentage of the vaccinated population increased. By the beginning of June 2021, the number of new cases per day was 15. However, due to the delta variant, the number of average weekly new cases increased to 450 by the beginning of July. According to an Israeli nationwide observational study, vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic COVID-19, COVID-19-related hospitalization, and COVID-19-related death, exceeded 96% across all age groups. There was a positive correlation between the vaccination rate and age: for 70 years and above the rate exceeded 95%; for 50-70 years it is around 90% and for 20-40 years around 80%. The percentage of people receiving the first COVID-19 vaccination in Israel plateaued by June 2021. The vaccination rate only

increased by 2.3% from 60.7% in April to 63% in June 2021 [4,5,6]. This phenomenon has been observed in other countries, and is likely to be 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 casual factors and develop appropriate strategies [8,9].