The year 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic and its worldwide effects on the economy and quality of life. The year ended with a glimmer of hope when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of COVID-19 vaccines for everyone aged 16 years and older. The vaccine campaign was a success and the number of new infections declined rapidly despite the easing of lockdown restrictions in countries with high vaccination rates. However, restrictions still need to be placed on the activities of those who are unvaccinated—mainly teenagers and children. Epidemiological data show that the susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19 is lower for younger children. Children are more likely to be asymptomatic and have more favorable outcomes than adults. However, the emergence of new variants has increased children’s risk of disease transmission and the severity of the disease [1], [2], [3].

In May 2021, the FDA and CHMP approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccine for teenagers aged 12 and up. As a result, some countries are now considering making the vaccine available to children aged 12 to 16. They expect that this step will help control the pandemic, which is extremely important as the new variants of the virus spread. Increasing the vaccination rate will help reach herd immunity and facilitate the recovery of the global economy. To implement such a strategy it is important to understand parents’ vaccine hesitancy, since parents usually decide whether their children receive the vaccine.

In Israel the vaccination campaign started in mid-December 2020 and by June 3rd, 2021 59.35% of the population was fully vaccinated. The peak of the 7-day moving average of new infections per day was 8,624 on January 17th, 2021. This number gradually declined as the percentage of the population that was vaccinated increased and was down to just 15 new cases per day at the beginning of June 2021. Due to the delta variant the weekly average of new cases increased to 450 at the beginning of July. Based on a nationwide observational study in Israel, vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection, hospitalization, and death exceeded 96% across all age groups. There is also a positive correlation between the vaccination rate and age: for those aged 70 years and above the rate exceed 95%, for 50- to 70-year-olds it is around 90% and for those aged 20-40 it is around 80%. The percentage of the Israeli population who are vaccinated reached a plateau over the last two months. The rate of first vaccination increased by 2.3% from 60.7% on April 1st, 2021 to 63% on June 1st, 2021 [4], [5], [6]. This phenomenon has been observed in other countries as well and is probably caused by vaccine hesitancy, which 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 vaccine type, indicating a need to strengthen the capacity of national programs to identify local casual factors and develop appropriate strategies [8], [9].