

Two in Three Parents of Children Ages 5-11 Plan to Vaccinate Their Child Against COVID-19

According to October 2021 survey data released by the [COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project](#) and the [National Association of School Nurses](#), two-thirds of parents with children ages 5-11 say they are likely to get them vaccinated against COVID-19 once a vaccine is authorized for that age group.

For parents of 5-18-year-olds, their likelihood to vaccinate their child, and their support for vaccine requirements, depends heavily on their personal vaccination status.

Among unvaccinated parents, the biggest factor in their decision not to get vaccinated themselves, is a worry that the vaccines were developed too quickly, followed by concerns about potential side effects – mirroring reasons hesitant parents say they do not immediately plan to vaccinate their children once eligible.

Concerns about COVID-19

- Three-quarters (77 percent) of parents are at least somewhat worried that their child could get COVID-19. Parents' views varied based on their own vaccination status. For example, 42 percent of vaccinated parents say they are "very worried" their child could get COVID-19, compared to 29 percent of unvaccinated parents.
- Concerns were also higher among parents of younger children. Specifically, 42 percent of parents of 5-11-year-olds were "very worried," while this number dropped to 31 percent of parents of 16-18-year-olds.
- Regionally, 49 percent of respondents in the South said they were very worried their child could contract the virus, while fewer respondents in the Northeast (32 percent), Midwest (30 percent) and West (30 percent) reported the same level of concern.
- When examining race, more Black (49 percent) and Hispanic (47 percent) parents expressed the greatest concern, saying they were very worried that their child might get COVID-19 compared to 33 percent of White parents.

Lingering worries about vaccine development and side effects

- Among unvaccinated parents of school-aged children, the biggest factor in their personal decision not to get vaccinated was a worry that the vaccines were developed too quickly (63 percent say it impacted their decision "a lot"), followed by concern about potential side effects (57 percent), and wanting to wait for more information (48 percent).
 - These reasons mirror those given for why they have not, or do not plan to, vaccinate their child.
 - These concerns were consistent across racial and ethnic lines, with a notable 69 percent of Hispanic respondents and 67 percent of White respondents noting worries related to potential vaccine side effects.
- When asked to choose from a list of reasons that could change their mind about vaccinating their child, a plurality of parents of unvaccinated children ages 12-18 say none of the factors given would change their mind (40 percent).
- Parents who said they might be persuaded, cited a requirement by their child's school (25 percent), full FDA approval (23 percent), or a person in the household being high-risk (23 percent) as reasons that could impact their decision.

Support for in-person school vaccine requirements

- Nearly all parents who have been vaccinated (78 percent) support requiring eligible children to get a COVID-19 vaccine to attend school in-person, while only 30 percent of unvaccinated parents voice similar support.
- Support was even stronger among parents of 12-18-year-olds who had already received the vaccine (86 percent).

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- A majority of parents in the West (69 percent), Northeast (63 percent), and South (60 percent) all support in-school vaccination requirements, but fewer than half in the Midwest do (48 percent).