

# STRATEGIC BRIEF: PARENTS OF KIDS 6 MONTHS TO 11 YEARS OLD

## BACKGROUND

As of June 2022, the FDA authorized use of two COVID vaccines for children 6 months to 11 years old. New research has found that 52% of parents have not firmly made up their mind either way about getting their child under 5 vaccinated. Additionally, just 29% of children ages 5-11 in the U.S. were fully vaccinated at the beginning of June. Parents are clearly on the fence as they have concerns and require more information that assures them that COVID vaccinations are safe, effective, and worthwhile for their children.

## KEY OBJECTIVE

Leverage targeted messaging, content and trusted influencers to motivate parents of children ages 6 months to 11 years old to learn the facts about vaccinating their kids—the vaccine safety and effectiveness, and the major upsides compared to perceived risks.

<b>TARGET AUDIENCE</b>	<p>Parents of children ages 6 months to 11 years old and who are hesitant about getting their kids vaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not parents who are highly resistant to getting their kids vaccinated.</li><li>• Not kids themselves</li></ul>
<b>KEY AUDIENCE INSIGHTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vaccine hesitancy is higher for parents with younger children. Their main concerns are focused on safety of the vaccines and the unknown and potentially serious side effects for children.</li><li>• Parents are very hungry for more information. There's a lot to sort through when it comes to COVID vaccines, and equipping parents with an understanding of vaccines and key facts is critical to build trust.</li><li>• Black and White parents are more cautious about vaccines for their children. The biggest gap is with White parents where only 41% are intending to vaccinate their child immediately. Black parents are also somewhat skeptical, with just 44% intending to vaccinate their kids when vaccines are authorized. Hispanic parents are more confident.</li></ul>

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## MAIN MESSAGE



## CALL-TO-ACTION

- Get the latest facts at [GetVaccineAnswers.org](https://www.getvaccineanswers.org) to help make an informed decision.
- Talk to your pediatrician or healthcare provider

The decision to get your child/children vaccinated is up to you—and we're here to provide you the information you need to make an informed decision. It's up to you.

- **Immunizing kids helps keep the whole family healthy.** Kids can pass the virus to other family members, including older relatives or adults who may be more vulnerable or have compromised immune systems. Protecting kids also helps protect everyone else in their lives.
- **COVID vaccines are a step towards helping kids thrive again.** Being protected against COVID means that kids can do more safely - and start to return to some of the things that haven't felt as normal during the pandemic.
- **Now is the time to get answers to your questions.** It's okay to have questions or want to know more information about the safety of vaccines. Start by learning more at [GetVaccineAnswers.org](https://www.getvaccineanswers.org), or talking to your pediatrician or health care provider.
- **Vaccines help protect against the serious outcomes.** Getting sick with COVID can cause severe illness or complications in children, and by being unvaccinated, doctors can't reliably predict who will have a mild or severe illness.

## CONSIDERATIONS

- Be empathetic; acknowledge that it's valid to have questions and want more information.
- Avoid any whiff of condescension, elitism, or chiding.
- Parents need to feel that messages are directly relevant to their specific concerns and questions around vaccinating children, not vaccination generally.

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### KEY FACTS TO KNOW

- **Doses are smaller for kids under 12.** Clinical trials found that smaller doses generated a strong immune response in kids while ensuring safety.
- **Doses are based on age rather than weight.** This is because vaccines activate a child's immune system rather than traveling through the bloodstream. Weight is not a factor.
- **Vaccines are closely monitored for safety.** Clinical trials with kids ages 6 months to 11 years old involved extremely careful safety monitoring procedures and did not find any serious long-term side effects.