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# 30% of Docs Say They Don't Want Own Kids 5-11 to Get COVID Vaccine

Marcia Frellick

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A Medscape poll on clinicians' confidence surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine for kids ages 5-11 showed significant hesitancy.

Among physician respondents who have children in that age group, 30% said they would not want their children to be vaccinated; 9% were unsure. For nurses/advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), more (45%) said they did not want their kids to get the COVID-19 vaccine; 13% were unsure. Among pharmacists, 31% said they would not get them vaccinated and 9% were unsure.

Clinicians were more likely to want vaccinations for their kids 5-11 than were 510 consumers polled by WebMD at the same time. Overall, 49% of the consumers who had kids that age did not want them to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

On November 2, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, [endorsed](#) the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendation that children 5-11 be vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. That decision expanded vaccine recommendations to about 28 million children in the United States.

The CDC [states](#) that, in clinical trials, the Pfizer vaccine had more than 90% efficacy in preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection in children 5 to 15 years old, and that the immune response in children ages 5-15 equaled the immune response in people 16 to 25 years old.

The Medscape poll, fielded from November 3 to November 11, included 325 physicians, 793 nurses/APRNs, and 151 pharmacists.

## How Safe Is the Vaccine?

Clinicians were asked how confident they were that the vaccine is safe for that age group, and 66% of physicians, 52% of nurses/APRNs, and 66% of pharmacists said they were somewhat or very confident.

Among consumers overall in the WebMD poll, 56% said they were confident or somewhat confident that the vaccine is safe in that age group.

Among adolescents and young adults, rare cases of [myocarditis](#) and [pericarditis](#) in adolescents and young adults have been reported. [According to the CDC](#), "[I]n one study, the risk of myocarditis after the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech in the week following vaccination was around 54 cases per million doses administered to males ages 12-17 years."

Known and potential benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the risks, including the possible risk for myocarditis or pericarditis, the CDC [states](#).

Across clinician types, women edged out their male counterparts on confidence in the vaccine's safety: 71% vs 65% among physicians, 55% vs 45% among nurses/APRNs, and 68% vs 60% among pharmacists.

Among both physicians and nurses, younger physicians (under 45) tended to have greater confidence in the vaccine's safety: 72% vs 64% (physicians), 54% vs 51% (nurses/APRNs), and 71% vs 59% (pharmacists).

The difference in confidence was clear between vaccinated and unvaccinated physicians. All of the unvaccinated physicians who responded to the poll said they had no confidence in the vaccine for kids. Among unvaccinated nurses/APRNs, 2% were somewhat confident in the vaccine for kids under 12.

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