

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 is a **contagious** disease that is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus:

- ❖ Symptoms range from fevers, cough, shortness of breath to shock and multiorgan failure, or Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children which can cause inflammation of several organs.
- ❖ Over two million children have been infected and COVID-19
- ❖ COVID-19 ranks as one of the top 10 causes of death in children ages 5-11.
- ❖ Risk for hospitalization in severe illness

Several vaccines have been developed to reduce severity illness:

- ❖ Pfizer, Moderna, J&J vaccines
- ❖ In November 2021, the FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11
- ❖ As of January 2022:

National Average: 28.1%
(received at least one dose)

METHODS

Subjects: children ages 5 to 11 years without documentation of COVID vaccination in the records of our practice.

Implementing **2 changes** to
Improve vaccination rates

Providing each pediatric patient, during their office visit, with a handout summarizing information from CDC regarding facts, benefits, and myths of vaccination

Reviewing the charts of these unvaccinated patients and having physicians call their parents to encourage vaccination in children.

Following implementation of these changes, a prospective study will be performed to determine the change in COVID vaccination rates at our practice after a three month interval.

DISCUSSION

- ❖ The results of this study are pending as our project is currently ongoing. The current national average vaccination rate in children 5-11 years of age is about 28%. Based on review of our office records, the vaccination rate in this population subgroup is about 5%. Through this study we hope to improve communication regarding vaccine related concerns and address obstacles, such as lack of parental education, that may be preventing children in our population from obtaining the vaccine.
- ❖ We anticipate improvement in the rate of children who get vaccinated against COVID with our intervention of providing handouts educating parents on the facts, benefits, and myths of the COVID vaccine.

FUTURE DIRECTION

- ❖ If these methods show improvement in vaccination rates, as part of a future study, we can create a brochure targeted towards kids ages 12-18. Based on our results, we can tailor the brochure to specifically address vaccination related concerns and obstacles that prevent children in this specific population from getting vaccinated.
- ❖ A secondary study could be performed to evaluate if parents of these children who were previously unvaccinated get vaccinated themselves.

REFERENCES

- <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pediatric-data>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>
- <https://covid19.who.int/>
- <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/update-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-5-11-year-olds-in-the-u-s/>