

## SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

# How Parents and Teens are Handling Health and Vaccination during the Pandemic



Unity sponsored a **multi-wave national survey with parents and teens on Adolescent Health and Immunization** during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The survey was fielded in three waves: August 2020, February and June 2021.

## SNAPSHOT:

- The vast majority of **parents believe in the importance of routine and COVID-19 vaccines**
- More than **4 in 10 parents** reported a **missed teen's doctor visit**
- **Fear of COVID-19** and **lack of urgency** remained leading reasons for not scheduling teen well visits
- **Vaccine safety concerns rose** over time, with **social media** significantly influencing parent and teen beliefs
- Parents say they are **most influenced by their doctor** or healthcare provider on vaccine decisions for their teens

## KEY FINDINGS:

Adolescent healthcare and well-being have been significantly impacted beyond the direct risks of COVID-19, including feelings of isolation and stress, and missed healthcare visits.

However, since the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and the return to regular activities, more teens and parents are feeling hopeful and less stressed.

Most parents intended to get their teen vaccinated against COVID-19 or had already done so by June 2021.

Parents consistently affirmed the value of routine and COVID-19 vaccines for their teens (about 8/10).

Parents and teens increasingly expressed concern about vaccine safety and effectiveness (>60%), and more than half acknowledged social media's influence on their perceptions.

Concerns about COVID-19 vaccine side effects rose from 40% to 60% across the survey waves.

## Prioritize the well-being of teens with these actions:

- ✓ **Encourage parents and teens to schedule well-visits and routine and COVID-19 vaccinations.** Most parents are willing to have their teen receive COVID-19 and routine vaccines together.
- ✓ **Listen to and acknowledge the concerns of parents** - ensure they feel heard.
- ✓ **Use clear, confident and accessible language when recommending vaccines to parents and teens.** Parents trust and rely first on their doctor or other healthcare provider when making decisions about vaccines for their teen, despite an expanding array of sources.

A third-party market research company conducted a 20-minute, online, survey among parents/guardians of 13-18 year old teens and 13-18 year old teens. The survey topics included: (1) experiences with COVID-19; (2) attitudes and behaviors related to preventive care and routine vaccination; and (3) attitudes and intentions related to COVID-19 vaccine. These are highlights from the three survey waves, including 300 teens and 582/531/500 parents/guardians per wave, respectively. Data on File with Unity. This survey is supported by Unity members, including vaccine manufacturers.



# UNITY

United for adolescent vaccination