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Progress in immunization of children against coronavirus disease 2019: The role of pediatric societies



To the Editor:

The time has come to vaccinate children younger than 12 years of age against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.¹ Issues regarding the reliability, safety, and efficacy of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines have complicated the process of immunizing children, in addition to the decision of parents to vaccinate their children.² Without international universal consensus, pediatric societies in various countries are establishing childhood COVID-19 vaccination positions.³⁻⁷

The American Academy of Pediatrics,³ the Israel Pediatric Association,⁴ the Canadian Paediatric Society,⁵ and the Spanish Association of Pediatrics⁶ have publicly recommended vaccination of children 5 years of age and older. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics⁷ has declared itself in favor of vaccinating children between 2 and 18 years of age.

This growing consensus should serve to reassure the general population and parents about the logical fears about pediatric vaccinations serve as a valuable tool for health professionals but also for social communicators, scientific disseminators, social organizations, educators, managers, and politicians in charge of vaccination campaigns. In turn, the support of the different national pediatric societies, as authoritative opinions, should serve to improve public confidence and guide the actions of COVID-19 childhood vaccination.

Miguel Gallegos, PhD
Universidad Católica del Maule
Talca, Chile

Universidad Nacional de Rosario
Santa Fe, Argentina

Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Melissa L. Morgan, PhD
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA

Tomás Caycho-Rodríguez, PhD
Universidad Privada del Norte
Lima, Peru

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Reply



To the Editor:

As President of the European Pediatric Association/Union of National Pediatric Societies and Associations (EPA-UNEPSA), I would like to thank Dr Gallegos et al for their interest in the EPA-UNEPSA commentary on the importance of coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination in children. EPA-UNEPSA agrees with Gallegos et al that the hesitation and differing opinions about the reliability, safety, and efficacy of coronavirus disease 2019 vaccines may have complicated the process of immunization of children. Of importance has