



Majority of parents concerned about side effects of COVID vaccine for kids, says poll

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October 29th, 2021

76% of parents have said they are concerned about the long-term side effects of the COVID vaccine for their children under the age of 12 according to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll. The poll revealed only 27% of parents would vaccinate their children right away, compared to 33% who would rather see a wait-and-see approach. 30% of parents say their child would not be getting the vaccine.

“Their trepidation is not unreasonable,” said Dr. Jeffrey Singer to The National Desk’s Jan Jeffcoat. “This age group is the one that’s safest from COVID, least likely to have serious complications. We know that in younger people in general, we’re seeing cases of myocarditis.”

Dr. Singer says that the FDA advisory panel had concerns over which children would benefit the most from a vaccine, and were concerned about a ‘one size fits all’ vaccine mandate.

“Now we have to wait for the CDC to make recommendations as to which children benefit from the vaccine or which don’t,” said Dr. Singer.

Parents online have shared concerns about effects five to 10 years down the road, and issues with the sample size of the study at only 2,300 children.

“That’s a small sample size, so if there are complications seen at a one in 5,000 or one in 10,000 rate, that’s not a big enough sample to pick that up,” said Dr. Singer.

But as for a five to 10-year study, Dr. Singer says that “every single case of a long term consequence of vaccination occurs about six to eight weeks after the vaccine.”

“CDC data suggest that at least 40% of healthy young children with no comorbidities have already tested positive for having COVID and there is natural immunity,” said Dr. Singer. “It’s not a good idea to get into a one size fits all mandate.”

Dr. Singer says parents need to discuss vaccination with their children’s pediatricians.

“While I think overall, in general, the benefits outweigh the risks, it’s complex and nuanced, and in different situations, different recommendations would apply,” said Dr. Singer.