



The Relational and Emotional Consequences of the COVID-19 Vaccine Debate for Children and Youth*

Appendix to CoVivre's infosheet "Protecting the Well-Being of Children and Youth: Easing Vaccine Tension Around Schools"


Peer Relations



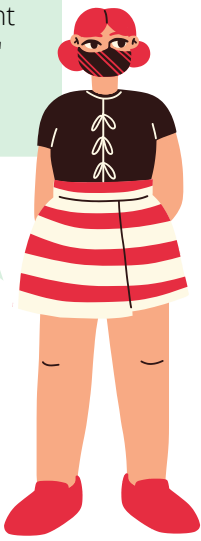
"I can't stand to hear people argue about the vaccine and the vaccine passport. It's really stressing me out. Why is it so complicated to get along?"
- Amelia, age 17




"My boyfriend says I'm a 'chicken' because I'm vaccinated. A 'loser' who does what everyone else does!"
- Adam, age 15



"Dance saved my life a few years ago. I don't want the vaccine, but the idea of being locked up at home for another year is unimaginable. I guess a vaccine against my will to attend dance is better than dealing with the difficulties at home. It just makes me angry."
- Helen, age 15



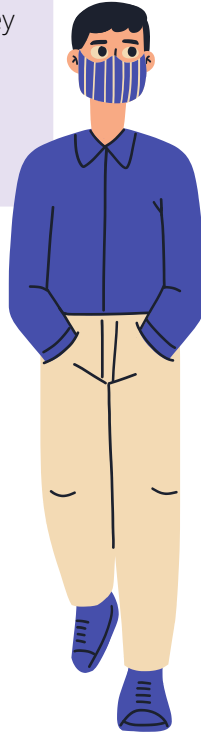
"When people talk about the non-vaccinated, there is always a bit of subtle blame, judgment, and insulting comments. Yet, I thought the vaccine was not mandatory!"
- Safia, age 16



"Even though I am vaccinated, I have doubts and questions about the vaccine. My friends often talk about it, but I'd rather not say anything because I'm afraid they'll make fun of me."
- Sebastien, age 16

Peer Relations

"My friends don't understand why I am not vaccinated. At first we were all scared, but now I'm the only one in my group who isn't vaccinated. My friends don't talk to me about it, but I can see that they think I'm weird, they avoid me, and I feel alone. I avoid talking about COVID-19 and vaccines with them."
– Maxime, age 15



"My friends are involved in after-school activities, but I'm not vaccinated. I feel left out because I can't participate, and my friends talk to me less and less because I don't see them after school. I'm afraid I'll be alone."
– Sabrina, age 13



"I feel like I'm hurting people around me because they tell me it's selfish not to get the vaccine...but the vaccine scares me and I don't know what to do. I don't know who to talk to about it."
– Marylena, age 17

Youth in Schools



"My teacher told me that if I wasn't vaccinated, I wouldn't be able to participate in the assignments (outside of school) and that I would fail my class. I feel pressured to get vaccinated."
– Sam, age 14

"My teacher is really afraid of the virus, she says non-vaccinated people are irresponsible criminals."
– Laurent, 17 years old



Family, Peers, and Schools

"I would really like to get vaccinated so I can do activities like all my friends, but I can't do it without my parents' permission and they won't allow it."

- Audrey, age 13



"The kids in my class call my family 'idiots' because they don't believe in the vaccine. It makes me want to fight."

- Justin, age 12



"I'm going to be able to get the vaccine, but the other kids in my class are laughing at me because they've been vaccinated for a while already. I thought they would be happy for me, but now I'm ashamed that my parents took so long to decide."

- Joël, age 13



"I really want to continue soccer, it's such an important part of my life, but I'm not vaccinated because my parents are afraid of vaccines, and that makes me a little scared too. I'm going to find it very difficult, another year without soccer, it's going to be hard. I've been playing soccer since I was 3 years old, it motivates me a lot at school and it gives me energy."

- Brenda, age 13



"60 years of feminism in Quebec, 15 years of teaching my daughter that only she decides what she does with her body, and now I'm discussing with her that she should go get vaccinated against her will so she won't be excluded from society!"

- Mother of a teenager



Carmen, now 13 years old, wants to be vaccinated to visit her grandmother in her final weeks in the hospital, but she cannot do so because she is not vaccinated. Her mother agrees to let her be vaccinated but her father refuses.

Family, Peers, and Schools

"My parents don't want me to be around 'unvaccinated' people, nor do they want them to come to my house. My best friend is not vaccinated, but I want to say that he is, so I can continue to hang out with him."

- Noah, age 15



"I'm on the neighborhood baseball team, the end-of-season games have started, but I can't participate because I only have one dose. Why did my parents wait so long to get me vaccinated? I feel like I'm letting my team down."

- Fred, age 13



School Team

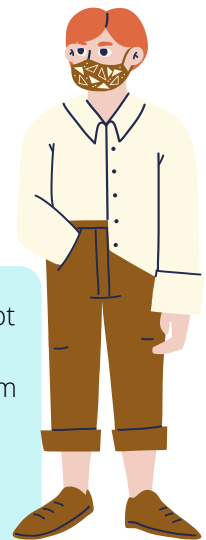
"My colleagues laugh and insult the 'anti-vax' people, as they say, so I don't go into the teacher's lounge anymore. I'm really afraid of their judgment, and not really in the mood to come to work."

- Issa, age 37



"I think some of the staff are not even vaccinated! It's not right, they're putting me in danger, I'm afraid for my family."

- Javier, age 32



School Environment

"I've seen demonstrations on TV in front of schools. It's violent, it scares me, I'm afraid it's going to happen in my school. I asked my parents to stay home."

- Edith, age 13



"We can't even protest now, we can't say anything! It's not right."

- Simon, age 32

