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Recommendations of the working group of the Association of Pediatrics regarding an exceptional approval for the immunization of children

The first clinical studies regarding the mRNA vaccines of Pfizer - Biontech and Moderna (1,2) did not include children under 16 years of age and therefore these vaccines were not approved for use in children. Studies are now being conducted on ages 15-12 and the results should be available in a few months.

Pediatric morbidity is largely mild, and the main motive for vaccinating children is mainly to stop the pandemic, being about one-third of the population and being a possible vector for infection.**(3)**

However, there may be, with low frequency, exceptional cases of severe COVID morbidity, as well as due to PIMS, with the main risk factors in reports from around the world (10–4), as well as unpublished data from Israel, being:

Obesity, neurodevelopmental disorders including seizures, diabetes, chronic lung disease, genetic diseases, immunosuppressive conditions, malignancies, heart disease, sickle cell anemia and kidney disease.

In light of the good safety data in the clinical trials, and in light of the Ministry of Health's approval for vaccination in exceptional cases under the age of 16, we recommend considering vaccination of adolescents, over the age of 12, in the following situations

- Family members of a person with severe immunosuppression.
- Adolescents suffering from significant morbidity in the following situations:
- Severe obesity with a BMI above 99 percent of age.
    - Neurodevelopmental disorders including seizures, and congenital syndromes.
    - diabetes mellitus
- Severe chronic vision disease, with low lung reserve (excluding balanced asthma)
- Immune repressive conditions, including patients on biologics and immunosuppressants
- Malignant conditions
    - Heart failure or pulmonary hypertension
    - Renal failure
- Sickle cell anemia

In these cases, Form 3 is required - a doctor's instruction to use a preparation that is not registered with a medical institution for individual treatment. After approval by the HMO, the decision to vaccinate will be approved by the chairman of the Corona Vaccines Committee.

Particular care must be taken to monitor side effects in this population, and to collect all data from the vaccinators for further control and monitoring .

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