

# Paediatricians' perceptions, practices, and barriers regarding COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years

**Summary** Most surveyed paediatricians were very likely to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5-to-11-years, perceived COVID-19 vaccines as safe and effective, and felt confident in their COVID-19 vaccine counselling for children aged 5-to-11 years. However, there remains areas for further training and capacity development

**Population**

- 152 Paediatricians in Ontario responded
- Median Years of Practice: 17 (8-31)
- 68% Female, 32% Male
- 78% general paediatricians, 22% paediatric sub-specialists

## STUDY DESIGN

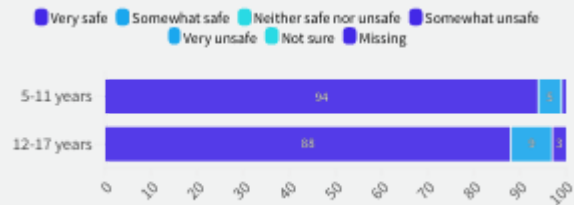
This is a descriptive cross-sectional study consisting of an online self-administered questionnaire distributed to **1,313 paediatricians** in Ontario



## STUDY RESULTS

**1 Safety:** 92% were very likely to recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-to-11 years. COVID-19 vaccine was perceived as safe, with higher safety perception in children aged 5-to-11 compared to 12-to-17 years.

Paediatricians' perceptions of COVID-19 vaccine safety, by age



**3** Most paediatricians thought it was unlikely that children aged 5-to-11 years would become seriously ill from acute COVID-19 caused by Delta (66%) or Omicron (80%).

**2 Confident in counselling:** 97% felt confident counselling caregivers of children aged 5-to-11 years on the COVID-19 vaccine

**4 Effectiveness:** COVID-19 vaccines were thought to be effective in reducing hospitalization or severe illness and reducing SARS-CoV-2 infection, with higher perceived effectiveness against Delta compared to Omicron.

