

1 in 4 parents say their kids have been quarantined since school started

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(HealthDay)—One-quarter of U.S. parents report that their child has had

to quarantine because of possible COVID-19 exposure since school started, a new poll finds.

The nationally [representative survey](#) of 1,519 people conducted between Sept. 13 and Sept. 22 included 414 people who identified themselves as parents of [children](#) aged 17 and younger. Still, about two-thirds of parents said they thought schools are taking [appropriate measures](#) to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The vaccine landscape has changed some since the survey happened, with Pfizer announcing recently that its vaccine is safe and effective for children aged 5 to 11, though it has not yet applied for emergency use authorization. No vaccine has been approved yet for this age group.

Meanwhile, children aged 12 and older have been eligible to receive a Pfizer vaccine since May.

The Kaiser Family Foundation [report](#) suggests that, over time, parents of older children have slowly become more comfortable with the vaccine. About 48% of parents said that their children between the ages of 12 and 17 had received at least one dose of the vaccine by September, an increase from the 41% reported in July. Federal [data](#) suggests that 57% of children of those ages have received at least one dose of vaccine.

The report also found parents of younger children were more likely now to say they would vaccinate their children.

In July, the number who said they would get their kids a shot as soon as they could was 26%, compared to 34% now. Hesitation is also dropping, with 32% still saying they would "wait and see," compared to 40% in July.

The highly contagious Delta variant, which has been causing more

children to become ill and hospitalized, may be fueling the changing attitudes, *The New York Times* said.

What hasn't changed much are the parents who firmly say they will "definitely not" vaccinate their kids. For kids aged 12 to 17, this was 21% in September and just slightly more, 22%, in April. For kids aged 5 to 11, this was 25% in July and 24% in September.

Parents also had differing views on mask wearing. About 18% of parents who had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 [vaccine](#) did not think schools should require all staff and students to wear masks, whereas 63% of unvaccinated parents felt that way, the findings showed.

Among all [parents](#), 58% said schools should have comprehensive mask mandates, 35% said there should be no mandates, and 4% felt that only unvaccinated students and staff should wear masks.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended since summer that all vaccinated and unvaccinated students, teachers and staff in elementary and [secondary schools](#) wear masks to keep kids safe in the classroom.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on [COVID-19 prevention in schools](#).

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