Research Report



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Will Students Come Back?

A July 2021 Parent Survey About School Hesitancy and Parental Preferences for COVID-19 Safety Practices in Schools

For more information on this publication, visit www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2.

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About This Report

This report provides the survey questions and weighted responses from a July 2021 survey of parents concerning school hesitancy and preferences for COVID-19 safety practices in schools in the United States. The results are intended to inform school districts' and health officials' planning for operating schools in fall 2021.

A technical appendix describing the survey methods is available at www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2. Results of a similar survey fielded in May 2021 are available at www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-1.

RAND Education and Labor

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More information about RAND can be found at www.rand.org. Questions about this report should be directed to hschwart@rand.org, and questions about RAND Education and Labor should be directed to educationandlabor@rand.org.

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Overview of the July 2021 Parent Survey

The State & Territory Alliance for Testing (consisting of representatives from more than 40 states and territories) and The Rockefeller Foundation worked with RAND to develop a survey of parents of school-age children. The survey was open from July 16 to July 29, 2021, and 3,146 parents of children ages 5–18 took the survey. The completion rate was 43 percent, and the results have been weighted to be nationally representative of U.S. parents of children ages 5–18.

The July 2021 survey included three similarly worded survey questions from the May 2021 survey to gauge change in parent attitudes over time. Results of the May 2021 survey can be found at www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-1.

Because children under 12 were not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at the time the survey was administered, the researchers focused some questions on the youngest school-age child to understand parents' willingness to send their unvaccinated children to school. Overall, 62 percent of parents who took the survey had at least one child under age 12.

Survey methods and a description of the parent sample are available in the technical appendix at www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2.

Key Findings

- 1. Eighty-nine percent of parents planned to send their children to school in person in fall 2021 as of July, which was an increase from 84 percent in May. Parents took the second survey between July 16 and 29, by which time the number of COVID-19 cases nationally had increased since May 2021, due to the delta variant.
- 2. As of July 2021, 82 percent of Black and 83 percent of Hispanic parents planned to send their children to school in person in fall 2021, compared with 94 percent of White and 88 percent of Asian parents. Although this racial gap was substantial, it was smaller than in May 2021.
- 3. Parents with children under 12-who are too young to be eligible for COVID-19 vaccines-were just as likely to plan to send their kids back fully in person as parents with children 12 years and older.
- 4. COVID-19-related health concerns remained the top reasons for parents not sending their children to school in person in fall 2021, as opposed to concerns about academics, racial discrimination, bullying, or critical race theory.
- 5. About two-thirds or more of Black, Hispanic, and Asian parents needed each of the following practices in place to feel safe sending their children to school in person: ventilation in classrooms, teachers being vaccinated, social distancing, mandatory masking, and regular COVID-19 testing. Substantially fewer White parents needed these practices in place to feel safe. As in May 2021, parents who were unsure about sending their children to school in person especially wanted all these safety practices, and more.
- 6. Only 27 percent of parents said that they already knew in detail which specific COVID-19 safety measures their child's school will have in place. Sixty percent of parents wished to know more about which COVID-19 safety measures their child's school is enacting for fall 2021. Sixty-one percent of parents selected a school staff member–most commonly, the principal–as the source from which they most trust information about school safety measures.
- 7. Fifty-one percent of parents supported voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing at school in July 2021, which was similar to the percentage in May 2021. Seventy-five percent supported COVID-19 testing if their child showed COVID-19 symptoms. The most common reason parents did not support COVID-19 testing at schools was a concern that the test was physically uncomfortable for children.
- 8. Fifty-seven percent of parents overall planned to get their child vaccinated for COVID-19 as of July 2021. This was true for 79 percent of vaccinated parents but only 10 percent of unvaccinated parents.

Limitations

- By definition, a survey relies on self-reported answers. The results from this survey could provide overestimates or underestimates if, for example, parents provided what they perceived to be socially desirable answers (e.g., about being vaccinated) that deviated from their actual views and actions. To limit this type of bias, we wrote questions with neutral wording and provided a range of positive and negative responses for each question.
- We fielded this survey in the second half of July 2021. By that point, the delta variant had become the dominant form of coronavirus in the United States, and cases were rising. However, the number of new COVID-19 cases in the country rose much more rapidly in August 2021, after the survey closed. Therefore, parents' school hesitancy might have increased between July (when the survey was administered) and August (when the outbreaks were worse and media coverage was greater). Thus, our survey may underestimate parents' actual school hesitancy as the 2021-2022 school year began.
- Although we surveyed more than 3,000 parents in July 2021 and more than 2,000 parents in May 2021, the number of parents who responded at each point could have been as small as a few hundred in some parent subgroups—namely, Asian parents and Black parents. This relatively small sample size makes it hard to detect statistically significant differences across parent subgroups. With numbers this small, even when there might be substantially large, true differences across parent subgroups or over time—for example, the potential 13-percentage-point increase from May to July among Black parents who reported planning to get their child vaccinated—we were not always able to determine whether those changes are real and statistically significant.
- Readers should keep in mind that there is considerable overlap among the parental categories that we examined. For example, a
 majority of rural parents who took our survey are White (79 percent), as are a majority of the Midwestern respondents
 (79 percent).
- To reduce the length of the survey, we focused most questions on the "youngest school-age child" in the family so that we could determine how parents' views differed depending on whether their child was age-eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Our survey's focus on the youngest school-age child means that we do not know how parent preferences changed depending on which child they were thinking about when answering survey questions.

How to Read the Figures

- Throughout this report, we use asterisks and bold font in the figures to indicate when parent subgroup responses differ statistically significantly (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents in the survey who selected that response.
- There are two types of graphs in this report: heat maps and bar charts.
- How to read the heat maps:
 - The heat maps use variation in color to depict differences in the percentage of parents who selected a given survey response. Lighter yellow cells represent smaller percentages of parents; progressively darker shades of green represent larger percentages of parents.
 - In each heat map, we order the rows from the most to the least common survey response among parents overall. Each column shows responses for a different parent subgroup.
- How to read the bar charts that compare May and July 2021 responses:
 - We posed three nearly identical questions on both the May and July 2021 surveys to gauge change over time. However, we fielded the two surveys to cross-sections of parents, meaning that the same parents did not complete both surveys.
 - At the end of each dark green bar, we display the confidence intervals as horizontal black lines for each estimate. If the May and July confidence intervals do not overlap for a given parent group (e.g., Midwestern parents in May vs. Midwestern parents in July), there is a statistically significant difference in that parent subgroup's response over time.

Questions About Parents' Plans as of July 2021 for Sending Their Children to School in Person in Fall 2021

Will you send your child(ren) to school in person at least one day per week this fall 2021? [Comparison of May and July]



Figure notes: An * indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Are you sending your youngest school-age child to school in person this fall 2021?



Why do you plan to send your youngest school-age child to school in person?

Only parents who responded yes to "Are you sending your youngest school-age child to school in person this fall 2021?" (n = 2,801) answered this question.

		_	Race/e	ethnicity			Urbanicity			Re	Age of child			
	All parents n = 2801	White n = 1955	Black n = 170	Hispanic n = 493	Asian n = 102	Urban n = 822	Suburban n = 1495	Rural n = 484	Northeast n = 395	Midwest n = 762	South n = 955	West n = 689	Under 12 n = 1646	12 or older n = 1155
My child does better academically at in-person school	60	63	44	58	54	57	61	62	63	61	56	62	60	59
My child wants to go to school in-person	59	65	50	52	47	57	60	61	62	62	56	62	59	60
My child does better socially at in-person school	54	60	36	45	58	51	55	58	52	56	49	62	58	48
The school has made adequate efforts to reduce COVID-19 risks	42	44	32	40	52	41	44	41	49	42	38	45	43	41
I am not concerned that COVID-19 is a significant risk for my child	28	39	8	12	13	19	29	41	28	33	25	29	28	28
In-person school is easier for the adults in my house to manage	27	31	23	17	30	29	26	28	26	32	26	27	36	14
I am not concerned others in our family will get COVID-19 from my child if child goes in-person	25	33	11	10	15	19	25	31	24	29	22	25	25	24
Enough school staff will be vaccinated to make in-person school safe	22	21	17	21	38	24	23	17	24	19	19	28	23	21
My school is not offering fully remote learning	21	21	22	20	24	21	23	16	20	21	25	15	22	20
Enough children will be vaccinated to make in- person school safe	9	8	7	9	13	9	9	6	13	7	7	9	3	18
To access school-delivered programs and services	8	7	14	8	9	10	7	10	7	9	8	9	8	9
To access specialized instruction or therapy for my child's disability	5	5	2	3	4	5	4	6	4	7	4	3	5	4
Our home internet access isn't good enough for remote schooling	4	3	0	6	2	3	2	9	1	4	4	4	4	3

Percentage

0 50 100

Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses.

Why are you not sending (or unsure about sending) your youngest schoolage child to school in person in fall 2021?

Only parents who responded no or unsure to "Are you sending your youngest-school age child to school in person this fall 2021?" (n = 315) answered this question.

			Race/e	ethnicity			Urbanicity			Re		Age of child		
	All parents n = 315	White n = 147	Black n = 39	Hispanic n = 104	Asian n = 18	Urban n = 117	Suburban n = 149	Rural n = 49	Northeast n = 52	Midwest	South n = 110	West n = 89	Under 12 n = 167	12 or older n = 148
I am concerned about my child contracting COVID-19 at school and becoming ill	62	55	67	67	54	64	59	67	55	61	66	62	67	56
I am concerned about my child contracting COVID-19 at school and transmitting it	48	49	38	53	37	47	48	48	33	39	53	57	49	47
My child feels safer from COVID-19 in fully remote school	27	29	18	30	25	28	28	18	33	24	26	25	26	28
The number of COVID-19 cases in my community are too high	25	19	32	24	36	31	24	10	27	20	25	25	28	20
My child does better academically in fully remote school	11	21	10	7	0	9	13	11	9	15	12	10	9	14
My school has not made adequate efforts to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission	7	12	4	4	4	8	5	9	8	11	8	1	6	7
My school is not offering in-person school in fall 2021	5	7	1	3	9	3	6	6	3	6	4	7	5	5
My child experiences bullying at in-person school	5	7	1	2	0	2	7	3	7	4	2	7	3	7
My child does better socially in fully remote school	4	6	4	4	0	5	3	5	7	6	2	4	3	6
I or my child don't want to follow the health measures that my school requires	4	4	0	5	4	2	4	7	0	7	2	7	4	3
My child experiences racial discrimination at in-person school	2	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	5	3	0
I believe the school will teach critical race theory (CRT), which I object to	1	3	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	1	2
My child helps care for other family members at home while doing remote school	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	2
My child has a job they'd have to quit to return to in-person school	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	2
											Pe	rcentage		

Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses.

100

If the pandemic were over and you had the choice, what would you PREFER your youngest school-age child do this fall 2021?



What is your youngest school-age child's biggest concern about returning to school in-person? [Open response question]

			Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity	<u> </u>		Re		Age of child		
	All parents n = 2522	White n = 1708	Black n = 173	Hispanic n = 473	Asian n = 94	Urban n = 758	Suburban n = 1334	Rural n = 430	Northeast n = 367	Midwest n = 661	South n = 847	West n = 647	Under 12 n = 1465	12 or older n = 1057
No concerns	42	46	34	37	36	40	42	46	39	45	43	40	43	41
Getting COVID-19	21	14	31	33	21	22	21	18	23	13	23	22	20	22
Wearing a mask	7	8	7	4	5	5	7	7	8	- 11	4	6	7	7
Seeing or making friends	6	7	4	2	6	6	5	9	9	7	4	5	8	3
Lack of COVID-19 safety fidelity	5	3	9	7	14	6	5	5	4	6	6	5	5	6
Keeping up with school work	4	4	2	3	4	6	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	5
New (or re-adjusting to) school routines	3	4	3	2	3	4	3	1	3	3	3	4	3	4
Miscellaneous	3	2	1	4	1	4	2	2	1	3	3	4	3	2
Social anxiety from seeing more people	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3
COVID-19 will interrupt in-person school	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3
Starting a new school	2	2	1	O	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
											Percen	tage		

Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells are percentage of parents that wrote in a response relating to each theme, which RAND then coded. Parents could write in as many concerns as they wished. One percent or fewer of parents overall (and no more than 2 percent of any single parent subgroup) wrote in concerns about the following list in descending order of frequency (categories not shown): bullying; missing the parent or home; not liking school; uncertain lunch and snack routines; getting a good teacher; not enough recess; COVID-19 bullying, including mask wearing when others are not or not being vaccinated when others are; length of school day; school not being fun; following COVID-19 safety rules; and quality of learning. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses.

Questions About Parents' Preferred School Safety Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Which of the following need to be in place for you to feel your youngest school-age child will be safe at school in person?

		_	Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity			Re		Age of child		
Ventilation in each classroom at	All parents n = 3145	White n = 2124	Black n = 213	Hispanic n = 599	Asian n = 121	Urban n = 948	Suburban n = 1658	Rural n = 539	Northeast n = 452	Midwest n = 838	South n = 1071	West n = 784	Under 12 n = 1829	12 or older n = 1316
school	71	64	77	80	88	76	72	60	74	62	71	77	72	70
Most teachers being vaccinated	61	53	71	69	85	67	62	47	63	55	60	66	62	58
A minimum of 3 feet between people at school	53	40	68	70	73	57	53	44	57	44	56	53	53	52
All adults in my household being vaccinated	52	46	57	55	81	58	53	37	54	49	53	52	51	53
Regular COVID-19 testing of staff and students with reporting	47	35	65	62	71	54	49	32	49	38	50	51	47	48
Required mask wearing for students and adults	47	32	68	66	67	55	46	34	47	35	50	50	49	43
No group gathering at meal times when masks are off	36	24	54	53	53	44	34	28	35	29	41	35	37	34
My own child being vaccinated	35	27	49	41	56	39	35	26	37	30	36	35	23	53
Sneeze guards around each student's desk	33	16	61	55	58	43	31	23	32	22	39	36	34	33
Most children at the school being vaccinated	33	24	48	41	52	40	32	23	33	27	36	32	25	46
Hybrid schooling to limit the number of people at school each day	24	12	47	39	34	31	21	20	22	16	29	24	23	25
No team sports	13	7	26	21	16	18	11	9	12	7	17	13	13	14
											Perce	ntage		

Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (*p* < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses.

Which of the following need to be in place for you to feel your youngest school-age child will be safe at school in person?

This graph includes only parents who were unsure if they would send their youngest child to school inperson in fall 2021 (n = 254).

			Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity			Re		Age of child		
	All unsure parents n = 254	White n = 116	Black n = 31	Hispanic n = 86	Asian n = 15	Urban n = 96	Suburban n = 120	Rural n = 38	Northeast n = 45	Midwest	South n = 85	West n = 69	Under 12 n = 130	12 or older n = 124
Ventilation in each classroom at school	88	83	92	91	87	85	91	85	95	82	88	87	85	92
Most teachers being vaccinated	77	69	83	80	81	78	76	80	76	70	75	85	76	79
A minimum of 3 feet between people at school	73	63	85	72	82	75	74	62	80	71	70	73	69	78
Required mask wearing for students and adults	72	52	75	82	88	70	73	74	65	65	78	74	74	70
Regular COVID-19 testing of staff and students with reporting	65	54	69	68	83	66	69	49	63	68	70	58	58	74
No group gathering at meal times when masks are off	63	41	85	69	69	69	60	61	57	60	74	56	64	63
Sneeze guards around each student's desk	62	35	82	71	73	68	58	60	51	57	70	63	65	58
All adults in my household being vaccinated	61	59	63	60	74	60	64	57	61	63	67	54	57	67
Hybrid schooling to limit the number of people at school each day	55	32	73	63	63	54	58	49	45	48	67	53	56	54
Most children at the school being vaccinated	53	47	57	52	69	46	56	59	56	65	59	36	43	66
My own child being vaccinated	52	50	53	47	69	44	57	55	61	62	52	38	38	70
No team sports	23	9	30	29	31	22	22	30	17	9	33	24	21	25
											Perce	ntage		

Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses.

100

0

50

Do you know what specific COVID-19 safety measures (e.g., masking, ventilation, social distancing, etc.) your youngest school-age child's school is enacting this fall 2021?



Do you wish to know more about what COVID-19 safety measures your youngest school-age child's school is enacting this fall 2021?



From which source do you most trust information about your youngest school-age child's school safety measures for COVID-19?

			Race/e	ethnicity			Urbanicity			Re	Age of child			
	All parents n = 3085	White n = 2080	Black n = 208	Hispanic n = 592	Asian n = 117	Urban n = 930	Suburban n = 1630	Rural n = 525	Northeast n = 445	Midwest n = 818	South n = 1051	West n = 771	Under 12 n = 1794	12 or older n = 1291
School principal	44	47	29	37	57	40	47	41	51	43	42	42	43	45
Local health department	28	23	43	38	16	33	26	24	20	32	26	32	26	31
My child's main teacher	11	11	12	13	9	11	10	15	9	8	14	11	14	6
School nurse	6	6	7	5	3	6	6	6	7	6	7	3	6	5
Other	6	7	4	3	6	4	6	8	6	7	6	4	5	6
Parent association	4	3	4	3	7	5	3	4	5	2	4	4	3	4
Superintendent (or official district communications)	2	3	0	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	3	1

Percentage

0



Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options, including an "other" option. RAND coded the "other" responses but did not list them in the figure, as each had 1 percent or fewer parents who wrote them in. The most common "other" option not listed in the figure was the school board, family doctor, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, teacher's union, and research the parent does themselves. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses.

Questions About COVID-19 Testing of Children at School

If there was voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing of students at your child(ren)'s school(s), would you support your children getting tested? [Comparison of May and July]



Figure notes: An * indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

For which of the following reasons would you not support or are not sure if you would support your child(ren) getting tested weekly for COVID-19? Only parents who responded no or not sure to the question about voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing (n = 1,509) answered this question.

		Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity			Reg		Any child under 12			
	All parents n = 1509	White n = 1148	Black n = 76	Hispanic n = 203	Asian n = 40	Urban n = 404	Suburban n = 772	Rural n = 333	Northeast n = 195	Midwest n = 450	South n = 513	West n = 351	Yes n = 898	No n = 611
The COVID-19 test is physically uncomfortable for children	43	42	36	42	59	44	43	43	37	40	45	46	50	30
Only students with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested	39	40	31	43	44	35	41	41	42	36	40	39	40	39
The COVID-19 test gives too many false positives	33	38	33	20	17	31	31	37	34	34	33	30	33	32
COVID-19 tests shouldn't be administered at schools	30	36	23	18	18	26	30	35	31	33	31	25	31	29
I do not trust the COVID-19 test is accurate	30	33	33	20	15	29	27	38	25	31	35	24	31	29
Weekly testing is too frequent; less frequent testing is better	25	23	14	33	35	25	25	24	19	23	24	30	24	26
Testing is not necessary; our schools are safe	25	34	5	8	6	22	22	33	31	32	19	21	25	24
The government has too much information or say	23	28	13	15	12	21	23	27	23	26	22	23	24	23
Weekly testing will result in too many school shutdowns	20	21	24	13	13	18	20	20	19	21	18	21	20	19
I do not trust that my child(ren)'s results will be kept confidential	19	19	23	16	15	19	20	17	15	20	20	19	19	18
My child(ren) might be stigmatized if they get a positive test result	14	13	19	13	20	15	16	10	12	15	15	15	15	13
Ay child(ren) will have to quarantine if they get a positive test result	13	12	15	11	14	12	14	11	14	16	11	12	13	11
Other	6	7	7	5	4	6	7	4	7	7	6	6	4	10
											age			

Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses.

100

If your child(ren) had COVID-19 symptoms, would you support getting your child(ren) tested for COVID-19 at school?



How comfortable are you with your child(ren) taking the following kinds of COVID-19 tests?

			Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity			Re		Any child under 12		
	All parents n = 3137	White n = 2118	Black n = 213	Hispanic n = 598	Asian n = 121	Urban n = 946	Suburban n = 1656	Rural n = 535	Northeast n = 452	Midwest n = 836	South n = 1068	West n = 781	Yes n = 1824	No n = 1313
A saliva sample that your child spits into a test tube	77	75	76	81	88	77	79	72	81	73	78	78	77	78
A swab at the front of the nose that an adult administers	61	62	63	50	75	61	63	53	73	58	60	56	60	62
A swab at the front of the nose that your child administers	48	48	45	45	54	47	50	42	53	42	47	50	44	53
A swab to the back of the nose that an adult administers	33	34	31	31	43	37	34	24	42	33	31	31	30	39
											Percent	age		
											0	Ę	50	100

Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents that are "comfortable" with the listed kind of COVID-19 test. Respondents provided separate answers for each of the four listed kinds of COVID-19 tests. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of parents' responses. "Being offered a \$25 gift card in fall 2021 would make me more likely to allow my child(ren) to participate in voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing at school."



Questions About COVID-19 Vaccination

"I will get my child(ren) vaccinated for COVID-19 when a vaccine is authorized and available for their age." [1 of 2 slides; comparison of May and July]



Figure notes: An * indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

"I will get my child(ren) vaccinated for COVID-19 when a vaccine is authorized and available for their age." [2 of 2 slides; comparison of May and July]



Figure notes: An * indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different (p < 0.05) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Have your child(ren) who are age 12 and over gotten vaccinated for COVID-19?

Only parents with children age 12 and over (n = 2,021) answered this question.



¹ The undecided category includes three responses: (1) "Undecided; they or I want to wait a while to see how it's working", (2) "Some have, and some haven't," and (3) "Not yet, but they are planning to."

Have you personally received the COVID-19 vaccine?



"I would support getting my child(ren) vaccinated at school for routine vaccines such as polio, TdaP, and/or MMR if they lacked the immunizations."^a



^a The survey question went on to read, "(TdaP is the diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine. MMR is the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine.)."

Toolkits for Schools and Local Health Departments to Use to Communicate with Parents

Two Toolkits for Communication

Because 60 percent of parents in this survey wished to know more about which COVID-19 safety measures their youngest school-age child's school would be enacting, we offer references to two communications toolkits:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "School Testing for COVID-19," webpage, last updated August 25, 2021. As of October 15, 2021: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/school-testing.html
- 2. Brown University School of Public Health, "Testing in Schools," webpage, undated. As of October 15, 2021: https://www.covidtestingtoolkit.org/library/testing-in-schools/