



## Letter to the Editor on COVID-19 Vaccine

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### Letter to the Editor

In view of the interest of your esteemed journal to publish research addressing prevention of diseases caused by viruses alongside the clinical research, I'm writing to comment on the research on COVID-19 vaccination from a public health point of view. After the introduction of vaccines in many countries, a lot of research was conducted to assess the status of the population regarding acceptance, hesitancy, and rejection of vaccination. A common finding in most of this research was omitting the frank referring to the time of conducting the research in relation to the stage of vaccine introduction and coverage in the given country. This defect was noticed in the main discussion and the limitations sections. Clear discussion of the effect of timing of data collection might explain to a large extent the wide variability of results between different studies.

Another point was that most research was conducted on the general population or specific high-risk sectors such as health providers, elderly, patients with chronic diseases or immune suppressive conditions, students, teachers, etc. A very few studies were performed on certain neglected groups of population who might be at a similar or a higher risk of hesitancy or rejection of vaccination. Those include, for example, patients with mental illnesses [1,2], drivers of public transportation, school bus drivers, school cleaning workers, etc. A review published in the Journal of the Egyptian Public Health Association titled: COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in patients with mental illness: Strategies to overcome barriers - a review concluded that the existing literature on the rates of vaccine hesitancy among people with mental health illness is limited despite the fact that mental health illness may increase the risk of hesitancy especially in patients having certain emotional disorders such as anxiety and phobia [3].

### References

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