

FOREWORD

Updates on COVID-19 control and vaccination campaigns (COVID-19 and non COVID-19)

Years 2020 and 2021 have been a historic turning point in Italian and international vaccination policies (1). In fact, on the one hand, during the most violent phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a drop in the immunization programmes of the National Immunization Prevention Plan 2017-19 (2), on the other hand, mass immunization campaigns against SARS-CoV-2 had an unexpected success, especially in our country. COVID-19 vaccine coverage rate of around 90% in subjects over 12-year allowed us to be among the first countries in Europe, with significant reductions in severe forms of COVID-19 as early as the summer of 2021 (3).

Although the availability of vaccines to prevent a serious threat could lead to a decrease in vaccine hesitancy in the population for all other immunizations, this has not happened so far (4, 5). If the drop in 2020 coverage rates in childhood immunization was very limited, this was not the case for vaccinations for adolescence, adults and the elderly, with the sole exception of influenza in the 2020-21 season (6).

This collection of scientific papers, focused on COVID-19 control and vaccination campaigns, aims to highlight accumulating evidence on the topic and best practices (7), so as to inform the planning and implementation of effective interventions of prevention and control and decision making at large.

With hopes that our country will be able to capitalize lessons learned and value public health action in the years to come.

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References

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