



Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

Please Help Us Protect Our Children: *An Open Letter to All Ohioans*

We need your help.

- More kids are coming into our hospitals with COVID symptoms.
- More kids are being hospitalized because of COVID and specifically the Delta variant.
- More kids are in the ICU with COVID than ever before.
- Other respiratory illnesses like RSV are at levels that we usually don't experience until peak season in winter.
- More kids are coming to our hospitals with mental and behavioral health issues.
- Our workforce, which faced staffing challenges prior to COVID, is being strained at unprecedented levels.

This is reality for us today. And it's threatening the capacity of our pediatric safety net in ways we have never experienced before.

We are asking and urging all Ohioans to do what you can to stand with us to help protect our state's children by using the tools that we have, including:

- ✓ If you are eligible, please get vaccinated.
- ✓ Please wear a mask, particularly during school and while attending large gatherings.
- ✓ Please adhere to proven safe practices of physical distancing and hand washing.

Together, we can keep our children safer. They need us to each do our part. They need us now.

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