

# Protect Our Children

## A Message from the Nation's Children's Hospitals

Children's hospitals are on the frontline of care for kids, anchoring the pediatric safety net for the most vulnerable among us. Tragically, rising numbers of COVID-19 infections among children, surging cases of respiratory illnesses such as RSV, and the pandemic's ongoing impact on mental health are pushing our children's hospitals to capacity. Combined with significant hospital workforce shortages, the pediatric safety net for all children is being threatened in unprecedented ways.

**We call on leaders in the public and private sectors and the American public to stand with us to help protect our children.**

- All eligible populations should be vaccinated.
- Everyone should mask responsibly, particularly during school and while attending large gatherings.
- All should adhere to proven safe practices of social distancing and hand washing.

**Together, we can keep our children safer. They need our support, our care and our commitment to their future. They need it now.**

With urgency and respect,

The Presidents, CEOs and Executive Directors of the nation's children's hospitals

**Craig Albanese, M.D.**

NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley and Komansky Children's Hospitals

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Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville

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**Callie Dobbins, RN**

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**Marissa Kiefer**

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**Paul A. King**

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