



On the Front Lines

Responding to a Global Pandemic

APRIL 2021

As COVID-19 emerged and gained traction in the United States, Children's National Hospital led our region in addressing the public health emergency and launched some of the first proactive initiatives to combat it.

The generous support of our community made our swift and ongoing response to the pandemic possible. Donations to our COVID-19 Emergency Action Fund and in-kind gifts have helped us keep our patients, families and health care heroes safe.

Philanthropy enabled us to launch the region's first pediatric testing site. It supported the vaccinations of D.C. teachers and fueled critical research that led to many of the breakthroughs detailed in this report. Thanks to donor generosity, Children's National is there for our patients, families and community.

Drive-up testing site

6 days
to launch
pilot site

More than
\$1 million
donated in the
first 6 days



2,439
patients
tested



708
positive
results

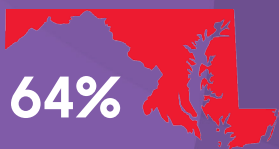
We tested kids from:

25%



Washington, D.C.

64%



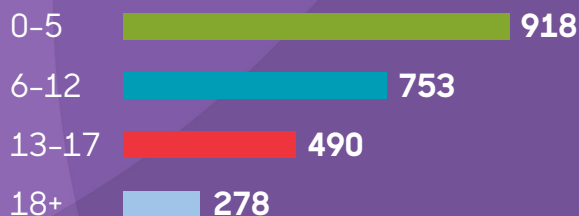
Maryland

11%



Virginia

Patient age:



Early Response

Our region's first drive-up/walk-up pediatric collection site

As the first documented COVID-19 cases emerged in the Washington, D.C., region, it was clear that safe testing for children was not readily available. Within one week, Children's National responded with a remote drive-up/walk-up collection site, allowing area physicians to refer patients up to the age of 22.

Donors helped us launch this pediatric collection site, one of the nation's first. District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser heralded it as, "critical...[to] ensure our children can get tested and support the District's efforts to flatten the curve."

Our testing site data, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, revealed the true impact of the novel coronavirus on children and how families of color experienced disproportionately higher rates of infection.

Tackling Shortages

The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented strain on our hospital's care providers and resources. Supply challenges were widespread. Our community stepped forward to donate thousands of masks, PPE, cleaning supplies and other vital contributions that supported our patients and dedicated staff.





Coronavirus Research

Children's National researchers worked tirelessly to innovate solutions to supply shortages that threatened the region. At our Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation, we developed OSHA-approved face shields for frontline staff. Each model costs about \$2 and takes about a minute to produce with in-house laser-cutting equipment. Our innovators also used 3D printing technology to scan a care provider's face and print a custom, reusable mask in-house.

We also responded to shortages of a critical reagent for COVID-19 testing. Our Center for Genetic Medicine Research successfully developed an in-house method to produce this substance. We created enough reagent for use in the hospital's COVID-19 rapid testing platforms and provided more than 1,000 tubes to the D.C. Department of Health. Production is ongoing. Our team produced more than 19,500 tubes of reagent as of September 2020.

Telehealth, a Bridge for our Patient Families

From the outset, telehealth was crucial for children with chronic conditions. Without regular follow-ups, these kids risked needing emergency or inpatient care at a time when Children's National and other area hospitals were preparing to care for potentially hundreds or thousands of critically ill COVID-19 patients.

In the 30 days following our first COVID-19 cases, we trained more than 1,000 doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, nutritionists, interpreters (covering 50 languages), physical therapists, art therapists and every other specialty provider to use our telehealth platforms to safely meet patient needs. Telehealth visits jumped from 77 in February 2020 to more than 2,000 a month later.

Telehealth offerings continue to grow. In September 2020, more than 1,400 providers offered some level of telehealth care, along with the return of many in-person clinic visits.



How does COVID-19 affect kids and why do they respond differently than adults? Research scientists and clinical experts at Children's National have been pursuing answers since the start of the pandemic. Results include:

- Findings that contradicted the prevailing view that the novel coronavirus did not seriously impact children
- Data validating a concerning trend: children and families of color facing socioeconomic barriers are more likely to become infected and severely ill with COVID-19
- Revelation that children can have both the virus and antibodies in their bodies at the same time

“ Each of these pieces of information that we, our collaborators and other scientists around the world are working to gather is critical for developing policies that will slow the rate of viral transmission in our community. ”

Roberta DeBiasi, M.D.
Division Chief, Infectious Diseases

Our teams remain steadfast in their determination to discover and share new pieces of the puzzle. Children's National continues to add to the body of knowledge, with studies to assess how infections proceed in children and how antibodies develop in individuals and at the population level.





Community Engagement

Timely information about what our frontline providers saw became valuable to families and pediatricians in our community. Our experts helped guide primary care providers with real-time updates, presentations and answers to pressing questions. We weighed in on topics including strategies for general pediatric practices in COVID-19 pandemic times, implementing successful telemedicine visits, diagnosis and monitoring celiac disease and guidelines for drive-up and walk-up specimen collection.

Our community efforts included:

Blood drives to address a national shortage

- Blood donations are essential to saving the lives of trauma patients, those with blood disorders, such as sickle cell disease, and patients with cancer and other conditions

Virtual Town Halls

- Special series aimed at educating pediatric primary care providers about COVID-19
- 8-part series to support families in our community (available in English, Spanish and Amharic)
- 3-part series for high school students that focused on adolescent health and the effects of the pandemic

Drive-up Immunization Clinic

- Innovative care delivery model to prevent outbreaks of measles, mumps, polio and other contagious diseases among children in our community

Returning to School Safe and Strong

As schools shifted to virtual learning, parents juggled work from home with helping their kids attend online classes and complete assignments. Children's National is partnering with local schools to support the return of students and educators in the safest way possible.

Our Returning to School Safe and Strong initiative is a collection of resources and services that draw on our pediatric experts and frontline experience with the pandemic to help schools navigate this time. Offerings included a free virtual webinar series, featuring topics such as teacher apprehension and student return to sports. Printable resources are posted to the new Return to School Safe and Strong web page, with webinar recordings and helpful tools.

In January and February of 2021, more than 300 Children's National volunteers administered the COVID-19 vaccination to thousands of D.C. teachers and staff preparing for a return to in-person classes.

COVID-19 Resources

During a public health crisis, trustworthy up-to-date information is critical. Our hospital engages daily with local and national news outlets to help our pediatric experts deliver important information. Children's

National has been included in more than 2,800 stories across local, national and international media.

We created an information hub on [ChildrensNational.org](https://www.childrensnational.org) to make COVID-19 resources easily accessible for families seeking information. We also post COVID-related content on the Children's National Rise and Shine website, a resource for parents that aims to help kids live healthy, happy lives.

Our Sincere Gratitude

Thanks to your generous support, Children's National continues to be there for our patients, families and community. Together, we are building brighter futures for every child.



Children's National.

[ChildrensNational.org/giving](https://www.childrensnational.org/giving)