

COVID FAQs (for Pediatric Physicians):  
12/29/2020

***Should pediatric physicians anticipate being called to take care of adult patients with COVID/NOVID?***

It is unlikely that any pediatric physician provider will be deployed to provide adult coverage any time soon. We may be needed in the improbable event that adult medicine, anesthesia, and surgery physicians are fully deployed and not able to take care of their patients. A deployment plan based on capacity of our adult hospitals will guide pediatric physician utilization. If we are needed, we will communicate to you via your Division Chief well in advance.

Our surge contribution for the time being is to assist with the care of young adult non-COVID patients with disease processes with which we are familiar. The upper age limit for acceptance at Children's will fluctuate depending on the capacity of adult hospitals to admit patients.

***Will we be limiting admissions and surgeries like we did in the spring?***

Not at this time. However, there is a plan for gradual reduction in operations if/when we reach certain thresholds for capacity in our adult hospitals. This is different than in the spring, when several factors that are no longer present (e.g., shortages of PPE and certain equipment like ventilators) played a significant role in curtailing the delivery of our services. Now that the supply concerns have been addressed, we will continually evaluate our census and forecasts for hospital bed utilization and make decisions accordingly. So, at this time, there is no plan for a wholesale shutdown of operations like what occurred in March 2020.

***Where can I get information on COVID numbers in the state and in my region?***

There are a number of good sites for information:

NC DHHS

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>

UNC-CH GILLINGS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

<https://gillingscovid19.unc.edu/research/all>

UNC CHAPEL HILL'S COVID DASHBOARD

<https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/dashboard/>

JOHNS HOPKINS

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

***Where can I get information about the vaccine?***

UNCHealth-specific

<https://vaccine.unhealthcare.org/>

North Carolina-specific

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

CDC guidelines and information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>