

NEWS RELEASE



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100+ Nebraska Physicians and Health Care Providers Join Together to Max the Vax

Omaha, Neb. (Dec. 7, 2021) – Physicians and health care providers across Nebraska, including Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, have joined together to maximize vaccination rates for children and teens ages 5 and up, signing a [statement of support](#).

“As of December 1, 82,320 children and teens in Nebraska have been vaccinated against COVID-19. This is a good start, but we are not done,” said Children’s Hospital & Medical Center President & CEO, Chanda Chacón, MPH, FACHE. “At Children’s, our mission is to improve the life of every child. This means caring for kids when they’re sick, but it also means advocating for them to stay healthy and protected against things that would harm them. We stand in support with our fellow health care providers in working with families to continue to increase vaccination rates for kids and teens.”

[Max the Vax](#) was developed to provide families with vaccination resources and information straight from the source: Nebraska physicians and health care providers. The Max the Vax effort is funded by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Education, and includes Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, physicians and health care providers throughout the state who are ready to help parents and guardians get answers and information about vaccination for children and teens.

“Now is the time to maximize our vaccination rates to protect our community and lower the risk of someone we love becoming severely ill with COVID-19,” said Sharon Stoolman, M.D. “As someone who has cared for dozens of children hospitalized with COVID-19, some who are incredibly sick, I can tell you the risk is real. Many have tried to minimize COVID-19’s impact on kids, but the impact is real. Whether your child is home from school, quarantined, or if they are hospitalized and on life support, it’s a risk no parent wants to take for their child.”

According to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), COVID-19 cases among children remain extremely high. More than 6.8 million children have tested positive for the virus since the onset of the pandemic. While instances of severe illness remain at a low level for children and teens, physicians and health care providers point to the risk of passing the virus onto those who could experience more severe symptoms as a key reason to become vaccinated as soon as possible.

“COVID-19 continues to impact the lives of every Nebraskan. The Nebraska Department of Education is committed to supporting Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and our statewide network of trusted physicians and health care providers to educate and inform parents about the vaccine for children,” said

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Nebraska Commissioner of Education, Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D. “Keeping our students healthy and in school is of paramount importance to families and our community.”

In addition to scheduling vaccinations through physicians and health care providers, several Nebraska schools host regular vaccination clinics to give busy, working parents an easier pathway to schedule vaccinations for family members.

“We want parents to know they have a great resource in their child’s school and family health care providers to gain the information and care they need to keep themselves and their children healthy,” said Dr. Blomstedt.

Visit [MaxtheVaxNE.org](https://www.maxthevaxne.org) for resources, information and vaccine locations.

About Children’s Hospital & Medical Center

Children’s Hospital & Medical Center is the only full-service, pediatric health care center in Nebraska, providing expertise in more than 50 pediatric specialty services to children across a five-state region and beyond. Children’s is home to Nebraska’s only Level IV regional Newborn Intensive Care Unit and the state’s only Level II Pediatric Trauma Center. A regional heart center, it also offers expertise in pediatric heart transplantation. Children’s is recognized as a 2020-21 Best Children’s Hospital by U.S. News & World Report in four pediatric specialties: Cardiology & Heart Surgery, Gastroenterology & GI Surgery, Pulmonology & Lung Surgery and Urology. Visit us online at [ChildrensOmaha.org](https://www.childrensomaha.org)

About the Nebraska Department of Education

The [Nebraska Department of Education](https://www.nde.ne.gov) (NDE) is a constitutional agency approved by Nebraska voters. The Department operates under the authority of an elected board of education. With a mission to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning and living—NDE carries out its duties on behalf of Nebraska students in public, private, and nonpublic school systems.

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Note: A digital copy of this release, photos and a copy of the video recording of the press conference can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vgf01h74wkyewj5/AABjsh2nQXTOTeeZq-SnIXwna?dl=0>