

December 30, 2021

**Illinois Medical Professionals
Action Collaborative Team**



As both Delta and Omicron surge, Illinois is experiencing an unprecedented rise in COVID-19 cases, and our healthcare systems are again overwhelmed. As admissions skyrocket, the number of healthcare workers who are also out sick, or because a family member is sick with COVID-19, is growing even faster. Simply put, we can't keep up. We are drowning and need help immediately.

Here are our urgent "asks" to prevent deaths by slowing hospitalizations before we are forced to adopt crisis standards of care.

- Immediately use the emergency public broadcasting system to alert everyone to the crisis and encourage staying home, mask wearing, and avoiding gathering with those outside of your home.
- Mobilize and redeploy public health personnel and members of the armed forces (US Army and National Guard) to staff frontline healthcare, testing and vaccination efforts where health care worker shortages exist.
- Immediate (before New Year's Eve) re-institution of capacity limits and enforce vaccination/booster mandates for all public indoor and outdoor gatherings and at places of business
- Ensure access to free, high-quality masks for the public with an initial focus on those most at risk because of underlying health conditions or the inability to distance (immunocompromised, assisted living, incarcerated or homeless).
- Increase free or subsidized access to rapid antigen testing, with prioritization for those who are most at risk, those of low socioeconomic status and those providing essential services.
- Subsidize childcare for essential workers, especially those staffing frontline healthcare positions.
- Prioritize safe school reopening including access to high-quality masks for students and staff and prioritized testing availability for school age children (a population still largely unvaccinated, including 0-5 who are ineligible to be vaccinated).
- Provide transparent and clear planning and access for life-saving therapies (Paxlovid and monoclonal antibody treatments, etc) with clear priority for those most vulnerable for poor outcomes.

Sincerely,

The Illinois Medical Professionals Action Collaborative Team ([IMPACT](#))