



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

Timothy C. Robinson, Chief Executive Officer

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Governor DeWine,

Our state and nation are making significant strides toward bringing the COVID-19 pandemic under control. It has been over a year since the first documented COVID-19 case, and in that time, state, federal and local public health officials have been at the front line protecting society from a novel virus against which we had little natural defense and no immunizations.

Thanks to a comprehensive response, we now have safe and effective vaccines, robust testing programs, and clear public health messaging to help prevent avoidable spread. As a result, COVID-19 hospitalizations, deaths, and cases are all on the decline. Despite the recent successes in combating COVID-19, clear public health authority is necessary in navigating COVID-19 and future public health emergencies.

As a pediatric health care provider serving central and southeastern Ohio, Nationwide Children's Hospital has played a vital role in responding to the pandemic. We have developed COVID-19 testing methodologies and infrastructure, reported data to public health authorities, conducted targeted and public vaccination drives, and participated in the temporary shutdown of non-emergency health care procedures.

I understand that Senate Bill 22, legislation that modifies the process by which the governor and state health department issue statewide orders, is sitting on your desk. Given the ongoing public health challenge, I humbly request that you veto this legislation. The governor's administration and state health department must retain the ability to act quickly and proactively with life-saving, evidence-based measures in order to protect the public and our medical professionals who are continuing to care for patients on the front lines.

On behalf of Nationwide Children's Hospital, thank you for your efforts to lead our state through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Tim Robinson
CEO