**Sample Op-Ed: “We Must All Do Our Part”**

Children’s hospitals across America, including [CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL XX], will not stop working every minute of every day to protect and treat children as we continue to confront the coronavirus pandemic. Health care providers, doctors, nurses, and government officials at the federal, state and local levels are working hard to address this continued crisis.

The recent dramatic spread of the Delta variant, including in children, the sudden and severe wave of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)—a respiratory illness that typically hits in the winter, and the increased mental strain on children is testing the pediatric safety net. This perfect storm is hitting at the beginning of a new school year, thereby increasing stress on families.

[INSERT LOCAL HOSPITAL DATA WHERE APPLICABLE ON COVID CASES, RSV AND MENTAL HEALTH.]

But we are resolved to continue to do everything we can to provide our kids the quality health care they need. This is at the heart of the mission of [HOSPITAL XX] to provide care for every child who seeks it, and we will not stop helping them and their families.

[OPTIONAL: INSERT HOSPITAL PROTOCOLS OF WHAT THEY ARE DOING]

As we do our part on the frontlines to care for kids, we urge every American and everyone in [COMMUNITY XX] to do their part as well.

* That means making sure that every eligible person is vaccinated.
* That means everyone should mask responsibly, particularly during school for kids and teachers, and while attending large gatherings.
* That means adhering to the proven safe practices of social distancing and hand washing.

Furthermore, given the stress on kids, we urge all parents, educators and others to talk to one another and to their health care providers if they are worried about a child’s mental health. This is critically important so that we can help our kids who might be quietly suffering from the social constraints that the pandemic has placed on them.

[INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLE OF WHAT HOSPITAL IS DOING.]

I also want to thank the dedicated staff at [HOSPITAL XX] who work every day to serve the [COMMUNITY XX]. They are under tremendous pressure but show up for duty every day with the health and safety of our kids firmly in their hearts and minds.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to be an almost immeasurable challenge for everyone across America and in [COMMUNITY XX], I hope you and everyone you know will do their part in this fight.