

# 2022 Speak Now for Kids Family Advocacy Day

## What You Need to Know

This summer, elevating patient stories and educating lawmakers about the unique role of children's hospitals will remain critical toward increasing awareness about the ongoing and essential care provided by children's hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Below is information about [2022 Speak Now for Kids Family Advocacy Day](#), June 12-14, 2022.

- **In which ways will the virtual 2022 Family Advocacy Day be *different* than the annual in-person Family Advocacy Day?**
  - There will not be an in-person event in Washington, D.C. Instead, patient families will participate by videoconference from home, through social and traditional media, and/or through an in-person event at your hospital—dependent upon local and regional factors.
  - This year's event program will run three days to provide hospitals with flexibility to schedule the families' meetings and visits with lawmakers, plus secure media opportunities.
  - Rather than produce hard copy materials, CHA will provide hospitals with customized digital advocacy assets about each child patient registered for the event.
- **How will the 2022 Family Advocacy Day be *similar* to previous Family Advocacy Days?**
  - Families will advocate to their lawmakers about the unique role of children's hospitals and our current public policy priorities.
  - Hospitals will be able to download CHA policy issue briefs for use in advance of your family's meetings with lawmakers.
  - Social and traditional media will be more relevant than ever to amplify our collective advocacy efforts for children's hospitals.
  - Videos will be collected for effective storytelling and outreach to Congress.
  - To engage with families leading up to, during and after Family Advocacy Day, we will offer tools and resources for families to get to know and engage with one another.
  - There will be a live kickoff session that will emulate the annual, in-person family briefing through a videoconference platform.
  - Each child patient registered by April 29 will receive a Family Advocacy Day t-shirt.
- **With which lawmakers should we schedule videoconference meetings or visits to our hospital?**

There are compounding fiscal and public health crisis at the national, state and local levels. As a result, hospitals should consider scheduling meetings with state *and* federal lawmakers during Family Advocacy Day. If your hospital services a region, consider scheduling meetings with lawmakers who represent those states and districts.

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- **What are the top public policy priorities to advance during Family Advocacy Day?**

This summer, we're up against serious challenges—potential threats to Medicaid that will put children's health at risk, the pandemic's worsening impact on children's behavioral and mental health, and, without a stronger investment in the pediatric workforce, children face a looming crisis in terms of access to care. Hospitals are strongly encouraged to address one or more of these public policy issues during Family Advocacy Day.

- **What's the theme for Family Advocacy Day?**

Our overarching theme is "Virtually Unstoppable." Although we cannot be together as a community again this year, we have found that our voices connect us whether we meet in person or virtually. We have not allowed the pandemic to stop our passion or our engagement. We chose the theme **Virtually Unstoppable** because we know that there is nothing stopping our commitment to this cause. By coming together to share our stories this Family Advocacy Day, we can speak and act locally, while having an impact nationally. We are #VirtuallyUnstoppable.

- **Which types of activities will be for patient families?**

In addition to their legislator meetings and visits, patient families will engage in a range of activities from their personal mobile devices and computers.

- Our Family Advocacy Day website will offer families the opportunity to share user-generated video content with one another, their lawmakers, and through social media on relevant child health issues—to further increase awareness about children's hospitals and our public policy priorities.
- We will host a live kickoff session for families through videoconference.
- Families will engage in fun social media and community-building activities during Family Advocacy Day.

- **Is it okay to register multiple patient families to participate?**

Yes! If your hospital is in a position to accommodate multiple families, you're welcome to register them. Each patient family registered for the event will receive priority attention from CHA.

- **Where do I register and how?**

Please register each patient family in our special [Family Registration portal](#). Hospital staff are required to complete and submit registration on behalf of their patient families. In advance of starting the online questionnaire, please review all listed instructions and send the registration questions to families so they can provide you with their responses. It will make completing registration much easier.

- **When is the registration deadline?**

To ensure each child patient receives a Family Advocacy Day t-shirt and your hospital receives customized digital trading cards before the event, each patient family must be registered by Friday, April 29, 2022.

We look forward to your hospital's participation during Speak Now for Kids Family Advocacy Day, June 12-14. Please contact [Vikki Sara](#) or [Elleni Almandrez](#) if you have any additional questions or need further assistance.