collaboration during calamity

Since children are among the least impacted by COVID-19, Dayton Children’s role in the pandemic is one of support for the adult systems who may become overwhelmed with a surge.

Dayton Children’s developed a plan that would allow the hospital to take adult patients if the need arose. Daniel Evans, MD, chief of the division of pulmonology, led Dayton Children’s surge planning. He surveyed the staff to identify those with previous experience caring for adult patients and determined which conditions the Dayton Children’s team could treat in the adult population. The group then rearranged inpatient units to create areas that could quickly be transitioned to adult wards.

inspiration and innovation

Innovation is a core value at Dayton Children’s. During the pandemic, many employees took ownership of a trouble spot and showcased their innovative spirit. One of these innovations was a respiratory clinic that was set up for children who do not have a primary care provider to review their fever or cough to determine if they needed to be tested for COVID-19. The respiratory clinic also served as a site where primary care providers could refer their patients if they wanted a second opinion or ran out of testing sample supplies.

COVID-19 support didn’t stop with the respiratory clinic. While we know COVID-19 has impacted children less severely, parents still had a lot of concerns. Our team set up a COVID-19 hotline for parents and primary care providers to call to get their questions answered by a pediatric trained nurse. The hotline remains open 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

about us

Dayton
Ohio
1967 founded
181 beds
88,020 visits each year to our ED
Level I pediatric trauma center

highlighted programs

• Dayton Asthma Alliance
• Cystic Fibrosis Center
• Teen nicotine cessation program
• Children’s Home Care of Dayton
• Asthma co-management program
• Video visits

5 physicians/advance practice providers on staff
3.92% sweat chloride quality not sufficient for patients 3 months and above
top 10 center in the U.S. for infant nutritional outcomes

Read Owen’s story on page 2
Dayton Children’s Cystic Fibrosis Center is accredited by and follows care and guidelines from the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Our patients include newly diagnosed infants, children and teens, and even adults who have been living with cystic fibrosis for decades.

**Clinical Studies**

The Dayton Children’s Cystic Fibrosis Center is a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) designated Therapeutic Development Network (TDN) site. This designation allows our team and patients the opportunity to participate in cystic fibrosis studies that have undergone a rigorous review process and ultimately been sanctioned by the TDN. Much research activity across the TDN was suspended or significantly slowed down during 2020.

Through the challenges of the pandemic, we continued to conduct the Vertex VX17-445-105 trial with minimal disruption. This is a study evaluating the long-term safety and efficacy of the drug Trikafta. We have four local patients participating in the study, and they will continue to participate for an additional two years.

Additionally, Dayton Children’s Cystic Fibrosis Center will soon begin enrollment in the SIMPLIFY-IP-19 study, which will test the impact of discontinuing chronic therapies in patients with CF on highly effective CFTR modulator therapy.

**Video Visits for Cystic Fibrosis**

Owen Brackman was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis soon after his newborn screening. His diagnosis was a complete surprise to their family and Owen’s mom, Kristine, felt like they were entering uncharted waters with a lot to learn.

As the Brackmans settled into their new routine life with cystic fibrosis, COVID-19 started to ramp up across the United States. Kristine became greatly concerned for her family’s safety and wanted to reduce Owen’s exposure to COVID-19, as much as possible.

In April 2020, Owen was due for his monthly visit with his pulmonologist, Mark Minor, MD. This time the visit took place over video and Owen was able to stay safe at home. Read more about Owen’s story and how Dayton Children’s is keeping families safe at home without compromising care by utilizing virtual visit technology.

**Nicotine Cessation**

For more than 20 years, Dayton Children’s has been providing teen nicotine cessation programming through the STAND program to “stop tobacco and nicotine dependency.” The STAND program at Dayton Children’s is the only adolescent specific program in the region, as it was developed by our respiratory therapy team members through the adaptation of the American Lung Association’s adult program and the Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Treatment Guidelines.

Our teen nicotine cessation program is widely known throughout the community and receives referrals from juvenile courts, schools, primary care offices, specialists and even families. In the past year, our program expanded to include e-cigarettes and this addition has been well received.

Knowing that prevention is key to keeping adolescents from becoming dependent, our nicotine cessation educators took to the road and have been presenting at middle and high schools, reaching thousands of kids each year and spreading the message of nicotine dependence.