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“Now’s the Time” Say the Region’s Hospitals *Hospitals urge COVID vaccination for children, especially as flu and RSV virus are on the rise*

Hauppauge, NY (November 17, 2022) Children remain highly vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, as vaccination rates among the youngest members of our population are lagging significantly. Couple that with the onset of colder weather, more time spent indoors, less masking and social distancing, and the current COVID-19 Omicron subvariants see children as easy targets. Complicating the situation are the rising cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a cold-like illness that can be dangerous for some infants and children and for which there is no vaccine.

That’s why the Suburban Hospital Alliance and its member hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions launched today a “Now’s the Time” public awareness campaign about the importance of getting children immunized against COVID-19. The campaign’s message advises parents/guardians to take COVID-19 out of the equation of contagious diseases this fall and winter by getting children 6 months and older vaccinated against COVID. Kids five and older can even get a booster, once the initial vaccine series is completed.

“Public health experts tell us that COVID has not retreated, and the virus continues to mutate. We are also bracing for a more virulent flu season, and we are already seeing the caseload for RSV increase. This is all the more reason to vaccinate our kids,” said Wendy Darwell, president/CEO of the Suburban Hospital Alliance. “Now really is the time to protect your children, your family, and your community.”

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About the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State advocates on behalf of hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions. It engages key lawmakers and regulatory decision-makers in Albany and Washington to ensure reasonable and rational health care policy prevails. The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. The Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals in the Hudson Valley region.

About the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC)



The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. It works in conjunction with the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NSHC serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals on Long Island.

About the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)





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The [Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals in the Hudson Valley region. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NorMet serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals in the Hudson Valley.

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