In Pennslvania, many children are NOT seeing their pediatric providers right now

The problem:

Vaccinations, chronic health problems, everyday illnesses, and regular health checkups have been pushed aside by fears of COVID-19. This is putting children at risk for many other critical—even life-threatening—health issues. [Provider's name] in [city, state] is available for a virtual video or phone interview to address these concerns and what they mean for children in Pennsylvania.

Why is this so concerning?

1. The American Academy of Pediatrics is alarmed with the current pediatric visitation rates and is telling parents to reach out to their local pediatric health care provider NOW to determine the safest way for their child to get well-child and sick-child medical care.
2. [Provider’s name] is a practicing [pediatrician, physician assistant, etc.] in [state]. [He/she] wants to reassure parents that pediatric clinics are open and have implemented important policies and protocols to keep children safe during appointments.
3. Pediatric health care providers are concerned about mental health problems in children and teens, including increased suicide attempts.
4. Doctors are seeing flare-ups of asthma, diabetes, and other chronic conditions as families delay health care visits.
5. Pediatric health care providers are concerned about parents’ delaying or skipping newborn health checkups, including screenings for jaundice and failure to thrive—conditions in which a few days can mean life or death for an infant.
6. Rates of vaccination, including for highly infectious diseases like measles and pertussis, are dropping. We need to take steps to avoid additional preventable disease outbreaks in communities already threatened by COVID-19.
7. Pediatric health care providers are also concerned about delayed diagnoses and treatments for common childhood illnesses, from ear infections to broken bones.

Solutions:

[Provider’s name] can share stories from [his/her] own practice about what [he/she] is seeing in children, and can walk your viewers through the options, including:

1. Which health care concerns might be addressed by your provider via a video or telephone visit.
2. If your child needs to be seen in person, how health care providers are making in-person health care visits as safe as possible. This may include separate "sick" and "well" entrances, seeing patients in the parking lot, or seeing vulnerable newborns before the office opens to other patients.
3. How to talk with your pediatric health care provider about what visits can safely be delayed, and which are important for your child's current and long-term health.

Use the following resources to guide you in an interview:

* [Suggested questions to send to the reporter after you’ve secured an interview.](https://mcusercontent.com/35ee0fa27d80895fef237e0b2/files/1b57ed03-afe7-4995-bfa2-e5a245433e30/Suggested_questions_to_send_to_the_reporter_after_you_ve_secured_an_interview.01.pdf)
* [Talking points for spokespersons.](https://mcusercontent.com/35ee0fa27d80895fef237e0b2/files/f0c72f32-1976-4132-80ee-654f4476dd56/Talking_points_for_spokespersons.01.pdf)