



## Packard Children's Pillars to Combat COVID-19: Care and Community

At Packard Children's, our mission is more critical than ever. We are leaning in to our two pillars of **Care** and **Community** to respond to the needs of our kids and families in order to have the greatest impact at this time.

### CARE

Packard Children's response to COVID-19 began with ramping up our [frontline caregiver efforts](#) and providing the highest level of care to our families. While COVID-19 isn't a children's disease, the impact of this virus on our patients is real. We have had to postpone key procedures, for example a [kidney transplant](#) where the adult organ donor could have been exposed to the virus.

To protect moms and children at the hospital, we implemented important measures such as testing every pregnant mom regardless of symptoms, implementing germ-zapping robots, and increasing telehealth visits. Our Child Life and Creative Arts team ramped up digital programming for kids to minimize infection spread. Pediatric psychiatrist [Victor Carrion, MD](#) is offering practical advice for talking with children of all ages about the pandemic.

Philanthropy from a generous Packard donor enabled us to jumpstart important research efforts to understand the virus, improve care, and seek cures. Epidemiologist and pediatric infectious disease specialist [Yvonne \(Bonnie\) Maldonado, MD](#) is researching several angles of COVID-19 ranging from how the virus is spreading, to whether or not previous infection confers immunity.

[Catherine Blish, MD, PhD](#), an immunologist and infectious disease expert, is working to understand how COVID-19 acts in lung tissues and is testing immune response to potential therapies and vaccines. The Blish lab is also studying the risks of mother-to-child transmission, and potential health outcomes for babies of moms who are infected with COVID-19 during pregnancy.

### COMMUNITY

The pandemic and related financial hardships are impacting all of us, but they are having an especially profound impact on underserved communities. [Lisa Chamberlain, MD, MPH](#), in her role as Director of the Pediatric Advocacy Program, is serving our outpatient population by working with federal and state agencies to secure legal help for COVID-19-related housing issues, improve employment benefits, and increase mental health access.

Our Department of Family Centered Care is helping patient families who are unable to afford food while in the hospital, and partnering with foodbanks to ensure patients and families have enough to eat when they return home.

To provide guidance for policymakers on reopening our communities, philanthropy is enabling [Jason Wang, MD, PhD](#) to build a decision-making algorithm, informed by the latest data, that will help policymakers weigh risks and benefits of reopening the economy. This tool incorporates several variables, such as opening schools and implementing contact-tracing programs, that quickly illustrate likely human health impact of decisions.

Packard Children's has rapidly mobilized to tackle this crisis. Philanthropy is crucial to help kids and moms in our community and around the world. With our collective efforts, we will have an enormous impact, not just on our ability to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also on our readiness for future health crises.

To learn more, please reach out to your Foundation contact or [Payal.Shah@LPFCH.org](mailto:Payal.Shah@LPFCH.org).