



## We're making changes in our Emergency Department!



**Prior to the COVID pandemic, Emergency Department (ED) volumes in Maryland were slowly declining, with the largest drop-off occurring among the pediatric population. Now, due to COVID and the proliferation of urgent care clinics, including those specializing in pediatric urgent care, the number of pediatric ED visits over a 24-hour period is declining even further.**

**Based on this data, and in an effort to improve our efficiency, wait times and patient experience for emergency visits for people of all ages, we are making some changes to our dedicated Pediatric ED at UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (UM UCMC).**

**Beginning in October**, the UM UCMC ED will combine the adult and pediatric treatment and care areas into one space, while continuing to provide pediatric care 24/7 by experienced and board-certified physicians and nurses to treat adults and children.

- Dedicated daytime pediatric emergency physician coverage will be reduced from 12 hours a day to 8 hours per day, 7 days a week, with the final hours determined after additional evaluation.
- Our hospital board-certified Emergency Medicine physicians are able to see all patients — including children — during all hours. Pediatric patients will be prioritized, along with adults, based on need.
- We have board-certified pediatric hospitalists onsite at all times to care for and support the ED and pediatric patients.

**UM Upper Chesapeake Health remains committed to caring for all members of the family, including children. These changes will allow us to better serve the health care needs of all of our ED patients — both adults and children — and will benefit those in our community.**

**Questions or concerns? Contact Fermin Barrueto, MD, Chief Medical Officer for UM UCH, at 443-643-1508 or [fbarrueto@umm.edu](mailto:fbarrueto@umm.edu).**