

Pitch to [Christopher O'Donnell](#), Health and Medicine Reporter, Tampa Bay Times

Hi Christopher,

My name is Michaela Broyles and I'm a communications specialist at the University of Florida Health.

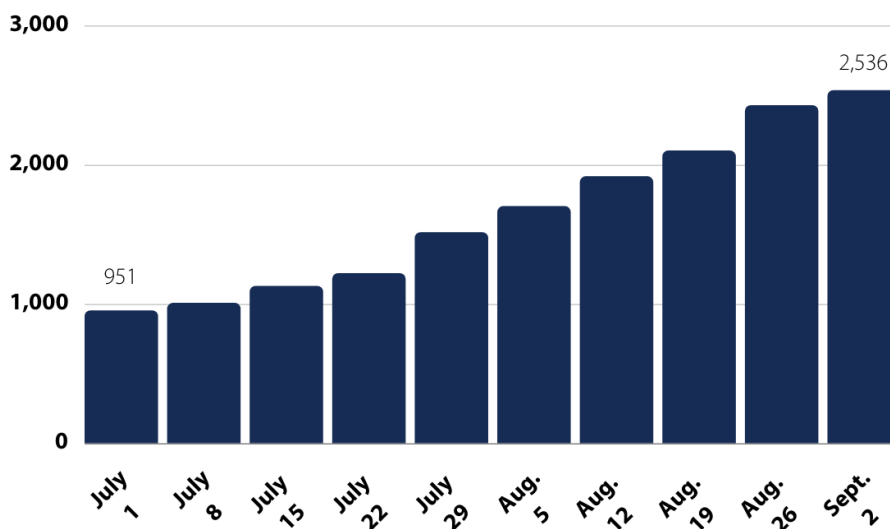
I'm reaching out because I read [your recent article](#) on how Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo advised against anyone under the age of 65 from receiving the new COVID-19 booster, which contradicts the CDC recommendations.

If you're interested in a deeper dive into this topic or seeking expert commentary on the new Moderna and Pfizer booster shots, consider having a conversation with UF Health Shands' Chief Epidemiologist, [Nicole Iovine, MD, PhD](#). As our infectious disease expert, she can provide valuable insights into the vaccine, helping Floridians better understand the news and information circulating online.

COVID-19 hospitalizations in Florida have surged steadily since the start of July, rising from 951 during the week ending July 1 to 2,536 during the week ending September 2, which is the latest data [available from the CDC](#).

Weekly COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions in Florida

July 1-Sept. 2, 2023



Source: CDC

Dr. Iovine can also shed light on the factors contributing to this ongoing surge and offer practical advice on staying safe, especially as we enter flu season.

Let me know if you'd be interested in speaking with Dr. Iovine, or if there are any stories you're working on that could benefit from expert commentary.

Thanks for your time, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

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