

the push to vaccinate children has taken on fresh urgency amid concerns that the new omicron variant of the virus first identified in southern africa and hong kong in late november will spread quickly in the united states causing a surge in infections already back on the rise from the easily transmitted delta variant given the pervasiveness of delta and prospects of new variants spreading in the united states having as much immunity in the population as possible is critical said dr amesh adalja senior scholar at the johns hopkins center for health security