The COVID-19 vaccine race is a scientific triumph. In just under a year, several vaccines have been tested, transported, and delivered to millions around the world. But as demand for vaccines outstrips supply, a ‘pandemic within a pandemic’ could turn into tragedy without these steps:

**SYSTEMS**
We have not done enough to prepare countries with fragile health systems for a pandemic. We need to build resilient health systems to avoid dangerous drops in routine vaccinations and procedures, especially for children.

**SCIENCE**
We have to trust the science, rely on data, and overcome vaccine hesitancy. Detecting and studying the new variants is essential to avoid epidemics within the pandemic.

**SOLIDARITY**
We have to lift trade barriers, share intellectual property rights and ramp up manufacturing plants on all continents. To speed up and scale up our global responses to COVID-19, humanitarian actors, governments and the private sector have to work hand-in-hand. The pandemic is not over anywhere until it is over everywhere.

What the experts say | COVID and Children

LEADING MINDS ONLINE | 28 APRIL 2021

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