

## **Background and Current Prayer Requests for the Aiden and the Hernandez Family**

In November 2025, Aiden was admitted to Nemours Children's Hospital after experiencing flu-like symptoms. He was diagnosed with B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL) and immediately began an aggressive treatment plan.

Aiden underwent two intensive rounds of chemotherapy. Despite his resilience he did not achieve remission after either round. In March the medical team shifted strategies from traditional chemotherapy to CAR-T therapy, a process where Aiden's own T-cells are genetically modified to hunt and destroy cancer cells.

Aiden received his CAR-T infusion on April 28. He was admitted to the hospital on May 3 after developing a fever, which is a common side effect known as Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS). The fever has subsided and he has been discharged. There was a minor complication with his central line port that the team was able to resolve. The Hernández family is currently living in Wilmington to be within five minutes of the hospital during this critical phase.

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### **Up-to-Date Prayer Needs from the Hernández Family:**

- That Aiden doesn't develop any more fevers or experience neurotoxicity. While the peak window of risk of CRS ends on Tuesday 5/12, the risk for neurotoxicity remains until day 60 and is not necessarily prefaced by a fever. It can develop at any time.
- Pray for rest. We have not been able to establish consistent routines. Being in the hospital this past week took a toll on all of us.
- Continue to pray that his bone marrow biopsy at the end of the month comes back negative and that he reaches remission. We are so close! Pray also that he remains in remission. There is still a 50/50 chance of relapse.
- Pray for no complications with anesthesia. It has been a delicate process in the past. Pray for wisdom for the doctors as well.
- Pray for his ANC (infection fighting cells) to go up. Those are currently severely low, which puts him at risk for infections.
- Pray for the remainder of our school year, that we can finish strong.
- Pray for his physical strength, that he would continue regaining it.
- Given the nature and unpredictability of Aiden's treatment, Marcella will be finishing this school year, which concludes at the end of May, but she will not be returning to work in the fall. Pray for provision as they walk by faith.
- It is unlikely that Aiden will be able to start his senior year in person. Pray for him. He is disappointed, and struggles with feeling isolated and disconnected.
- Pray for no complications from CART, and that the T-cells would continue to multiply for years to come. Like all cells, they eventually die off, but the hope is that they remain in his body for a long time and keep him in remission long-term.

### **Recent answered prayers:**

- All viral and/or bacterial infections have come back negative thus far. PTL!
- CD-19 is the specific B-cell marker that needs to be zero. His peripheral blood work is now showing zero, but that number is ultimately confirmed by his bone marrow results.