



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

July 25, 2022

To the patients and families of ACCC:

Summer has just been flying by and we are rapidly approaching the start of school! If your child needs a **well visit** before school starts, please call the office. We have a limited number of checkup slots available over the next few weeks to get those forms, physicals, and vaccines in before the start of school. We should be getting **flu vaccines** in just a few weeks and will update you when that is available in the office.

Unfortunately, we are seeing an **increase in the number of children with Covid-19** in the last few weeks. Most of the cases are in children who have not been vaccinated or it has been greater than 6 months since their vaccination/boosters. Children ages 6 months-4 years of age are eligible, and we have the Pfizer 3 dose series vaccine for this age group. Children ages 5 and up are eligible for a booster dose if it has been at least 5 months since their first 2 doses. We have all of these in the office and can vaccinate them any day of the week including Saturdays or if they are here for a well visit with other routine vaccinations.

As if one pandemic were not enough, the WHO (World Health Organization) just declared **monkeypox** a public health emergency. Monkeypox is similar to smallpox and is spread through close skin to skin contact with another person who has lesions. The majority of cases are in adults (specifically men who have sex with men) but it can spread from any human to human. Luckily, it is not a respiratory pathogen spread through droplet or airborne, like Sars- Cov-2 (the virus that causes Covid-19) nor nearly as deadly. It mostly causes these painful lesions as well as systemic symptoms like fevers and body aches. There are commercial tests to diagnose monkeypox as well as medication to treat monkeypox and a vaccine that the public health is trying to ramp up production to have it more widely available. At this point, if your child has a rash with fluid-filled bumps or scabs, please call us or bring them in, and we can help figure out next steps.

The first case of **polio in the U.S.** since 2013 has been diagnosed in New York. It was in an unvaccinated individual who may have caught it from an international traveler. A good reminder that all vaccines are important and even diseases that seem ancient and far away are only an airplane ride away in a susceptible individual. **Vaccines save lives!**

If you have a rising 7th grader or 11th grader, they must have the **meningitis** (Menactra) vaccine before starting school. If you have a college going student, we recommend **Meningitis B vaccine**. Please call the office if you are not sure if your child has or needs these vaccines. If you have **forms** for fall sports or school, we should be able to complete those as long as your child has had his or her well visit in the last year. We appreciate your trust and patience as always!

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference