



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

November 7, 2022

To the patients and families of ACCC:

Hope everyone is enjoying this last burst of summer in the middle of fall! Respiratory season is upon us in full force with plenty of **influenza A** and several other respiratory viruses including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and a smattering of adenovirus and rhinovirus. If your child has not yet been vaccinated against influenza, please bring them in as soon as possible. We have **flu shots** for children ages 6 months of age and older as well as **flumist** for older children. We are offering both versions to parents as well. Our flumist will expire at the end of December so if your child is averse to needles, please bring them in for flumist. If their annual well visit is usually in January or later, they can come in for a quick flu shot or mist appointment now and do their checkup later. **Even if your child has recently been diagnosed with flu, they should still get a flu shot.** There will be other surges of influenza B later on this winter, and we do not want anyone to get flu twice in one season!

We have also received our new Pfizer **Covid bivalent booster doses for those ages 5-11**. These vaccines consist of the original strain as well as an update to include the Omicron subvariants BA4 and BA5. If it has been at least 2 months since your child received their previous booster dose, original vaccine, or had covid disease, they are eligible to receive this new booster dose. We have the new bivalent boosters for those ages 12 and up as well along with the original Pfizer Covid vaccine for babies ages 6 mos up to 4 years of age. We can do these at their well visits **with other routine vaccines** or at their flu appointments.

We have been extremely busy with sick visits these last few weeks, and we are doing our best to accommodate the demand. If you call us in the morning and no one answers the phone right away, please leave us a message as to whether you would like a same day sick appointment or if you wish to speak to a member of the clinical staff. Our receptionists and medical assistants return calls as they are received, and that is the quickest way to get a call back. Rapid, repeated calls only serve to slow things down. If you have not received a call back within 1-2 hours, then please do call us back, and we will do our best to help you as quickly as possible.

We will be open November 8<sup>th</sup> on Election Day and November 11, Veterans Day. These are often school holidays and are good ones to schedule older kids for flu vaccines and Covid boosters so they don't have to miss school. We will be closed November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday but are open regular hours Monday November 21st-Wed November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, some school aged children are out the whole week, and many of our college aged patients are home, so we can see those patients that week.

We always appreciate your trust and patience in these crazy times!

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference