



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

September 12, 2023

To the patients and families of ACCC:

Well, it's **back to school** time even though the weather still feels very summer-like! We hope your children have settled into their school year routines. Here at the office we are already starting to see an **uptick in illness**—mostly viral illnesses like colds and stomach bugs but we have definitely seen some covid as well. Remind your children to wash their hands often and keep them home if they are ill. If your child does contract covid, please call us. We can see them in the office if you are concerned about breathing issues. We can also do a telemedicine visit if appropriate. Children ages 12 and over are eligible for the antiviral medication **paxlovid** if they test positive.

Speaking of illness, **flu vaccines** are here! All children ages 6 mos of age and older are recommended to receive an annual flu vaccine. We have both the shots and the flumist (for older healthy children who do not have asthma). We are offering flu vaccines to **parents** as well. Some parents even prefer to get their flu vaccine here as we have the **preservative free** single dose syringes of flu vaccine (This may not be the one they give at your neighborhood pharmacy.)

Many parents have also inquired about **covid vaccines**. A new updated covid vaccine was just approved yesterday by the FDA, and we are awaiting recommendations from the CDC. We are hoping to be able to administer it here but there have been some challenges due to the fact that the vaccine is now a commercial product and is no longer being provided free by the federal government. Insurance companies have yet to decide on payment, and there are logistical issues with Pfizer's dose for babies and toddlers. Changes may still be on the horizon so we will keep you informed.

Some parents have also inquired about the new immunization **Beyfortus (nirsevimab)** for prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (**RSV**). This is actually not a vaccine but a medication (a monoclonal antibody to be exact) given to infants during the traditional RSV season. Here, too, we are waiting to hear from insurance companies about payment for this medication. We will continue to keep you posted if this becomes available.

There was another **recall about a highchair** that can come loose and pose a fall risk for infants. More info at this link: <https://www.npr.org/2023/09/03/1197497035/tomy-highchair-child-baby-safety-recall-fall-risk>

Thank you for your positive google reviews and for sending new patients our way. A referral from a current family is the highest compliment we can receive.

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference