



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

January 2, 2024

To the patients and families of ACCC:

Happy New Year! We trust and hope that you all had wonderful holidays and visited with family and friends. With the colder temperatures, we have been seeing a lot of respiratory illness—especially **influenza** these last few weeks. It is not too late to get a flu shot! We anticipate that flu will continue to circulate with families traveling over the winter break and prolonged colder weather these next several weeks. We offer flu shots to parents as well. Feel free to call or email us via the website to schedule your child's flu shot. Even if your child had the flu recently, we still recommend a flu shot. Every year, we have children that get the flu twice in one respiratory season, and a flu vaccine will help protect against that. Flu vaccines also help to decrease the spread of flu in a community to vulnerable people such as older family members, newborns and infants who cannot get a flu shot, and those with immunocompromising conditions such as cancer. So **get the flu shot to protect yourself and those around you.**

We also have the updated **2023-2024 covid vaccines**. The CDC recommends everyone 6 mos of age and older receive the new updated covid vaccine targeting circulating Omicron variants. If your child previously had covid or a vaccine, they are still eligible to receive this new vaccine provided it has been at least 2 months since illness or previous vaccination. Please call the office to schedule.

Many parents have also asked about the new **RSV immunization**, nirsevimab or Beyfortus. There have been supply shortages of this monoclonal antibody treatment to prevent hospitalization from RSV. If supply is available as the respiratory season progresses, we will let you know. There is also a maternal RSV vaccine that is indicated during pregnancy that does not seem to be in short supply so if you are expecting, please check with your OB about getting this vaccine that will protect your newborn as well.

Many of our families and teens are traveling internationally for study abroad programs or vacation. There may be some required vaccinations depending on which country you are visiting. Schedule a **travel consult** in person or via telemedicine to discuss. We can determine if you need a particular vaccine or prophylaxis for malaria. We stock the **typhoid** vaccine also. The optimal timing is at least 2 weeks prior to your trip.

Since it is a **new calendar year**, many of you may have **new insurance plans and cards**. Please bring them in when you come for your child's appointment. Submitting claims to the correct plan saves everyone time and money. If claim filing is delayed, many valid insurance claims will not get paid, which results in a bill to you. So help us help you when dealing with insurance!

Thank you for the treats and lovely holiday cards that you send us. We love seeing our patients grow and develop their unique talents and personalities. We appreciate you as always!

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference