



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

February 2, 2024

To the patients and families of ACCC:

It's groundhog day, and we really hope Spring is coming! It has been a slew of illness from influenza to strep throat and viral gastroenteritis these last several weeks. Keep washing those hands and covering those coughs. We are down to our very last **few flu vaccines** so if you have not received a flu vaccine yet this season, please come in soon! Parents can also be vaccinated here at the office as a convenience.

We continue to offer the new 2023-2024 monovalent **Covid vaccines** to all patients ages 6 months and up. These can be given with other immunizations at your child's well visit or separately at a nurse only visit. While we are all tired of Covid, it is here to stay, and like other vaccine preventable illnesses, we prefer to prevent than to treat.

Speaking of treatment, if your child has **flu-like symptoms** (fever, aches, headache, cold symptoms), please bring them into the office **as soon as symptoms** first develop. If they test positive for flu, we can prescribe the antiviral medication tamiflu (oseltamivir) if we see them in the **first 48 hours** of symptom onset. For Covid, we have the oral antiviral paxlovid (ritonavir and nirmatrelvir) that can be started within **5 days** of symptom onset. Paxlovid is only approved for those ages 12 and up with other risk factors while tamiflu can be given to children as young as one.

We are thrilled that so many of you are planning international trips, and our college students are once again studying abroad. If you need advice or additional vaccines depending on your country of travel, please reach out. We have the **typhoid** vaccine and can prescribe **malaria** prophylaxis if that is recommended by the CDC. We can do travel consults via telemedicine also. **Telemedicine** visits are billed to your insurance company just like sick visits in the office so you may be responsible for a copay or coinsurance but they are infinitely more convenient.

Please remember to bring **your new insurance cards** so we can file to the correct insurance plan and save everyone the hassle of re-filing and missing timely filing deadlines.

Don't forget those **well child visits and checkups**. A new year is a great time to do those. The AAP recommends a well visit every year for all children ages 3 and up. It allows us a chance to evaluate growth, development, discuss diet, and sleep. Especially in our older teens, we are still addressing a fair amount of **mental health** issues including depression, anxiety, and eating disorders.

We are always trying to improve our processes and your experience in the office so if you have feedback for us, do let us know. You can tell us in person or send us an email. If you want to share your positive experience more broadly, you can leave us a **google review**. Please note, that due to HIPAA, we cannot respond to internet reviews so if you have had a negative experience, please tell us directly so we can make it right. Thank you!

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference