



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

September 14, 2020

To the patients and families of ACCC:

It seems that Covid-19 cases are declining, and we hope that Labor Day excursions do not lead to another surge. As a reminder, the cardiologists at Children's and Sibley Heart Center have recommended that **any child who has symptoms from Covid-19 of greater than 3 days duration, has a follow up visit with their pediatrician to evaluate their heart.** If your child had Covid-19 and symptoms for more than 3 days, please call the office to schedule an in person follow up visit with us. We will gladly walk you through their recommendations and next steps.

Testing for Covid-19 is finally improving! Persistence pays off: we now have sufficient swabs from both Labcorp and Quest. Turnaround times are also improving—about 2-4 days. If your child has symptoms, please bring them in. We can evaluate for infections that may need treatment (remember ear infections, strep and pinkeye?) as well as test for presence of coronavirus. The send out test is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and is more accurate than rapid (antigen) testing. If your child is in daycare or school, they will need to stay home if symptomatic, so hopefully waiting on the test results won't delay their return.

College campuses continue to be sites of rampant infection. As a reminder, if your young adult contracts Covid-19 with symptoms for more than 3 days, they will need to stay out of any sports for at least 14 days, and follow up with us or a physician on campus to evaluate for **myocarditis**.

We have **flu** vaccines! This year, we have both flumist and flu shots. Flumist is the nasal spray for healthy children ages 5 and up, although we can give it to a cooperative 3 or 4 year old as well. Flu shots are recommended for all infants older than 6 months. Both vaccines are equally effective at preventing the flu. We are very concerned about the possible confluence of **Covid-19** and **influenza** this fall and winter, so please call the office as soon as possible to schedule your child's flu vaccine. If your child is due for a checkup, we can schedule it and administer the flu vaccine at the checkup. If they are not due for a well visit, you can schedule a nurse visit only for the flu vaccine. Some parents have asked if it is too “early” to get a flu shot. The AAP recommends vaccinating all children by the end of October. We are also offering **flumist to parents** as a convenience to those healthy parents ages 49 or younger. The cost is \$40 (unfortunately we cannot bill insurance for parents.)

We continue to offer **telemedicine** for situations for which it is appropriate. Please call the office to schedule first so we can make sure your concerns can be addressed via telemedicine. Thank you as always for your patience and trust!

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference