



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

February 8, 2021

To the patients and families of ACCC:

It seems that the holiday surge of Covid-19 infections is decreasing, thank goodness. Please continue to maintain social distancing, masks, and hand hygiene. Until we can achieve herd immunity, these public health measures continue to be our greatest weapon against this disease.

On the **vaccine** front, there are ongoing discussions about vaccinating adolescents **16 years of age** or older who may have **chronic medical conditions** such as diabetes, cancer, sickle cell disease, and possibly asthma and obesity in the next several months. We are working to extract this information from our patient database, but if you have a child that might fall into this category and would like for them to be vaccinated when their age group is eligible, please reach out to us and let us know. This is a work in progress, and we will continue to keep you updated. Many of the vaccine manufacturers are enrolling children ages 12-18 in **trials at Emory** so if you would like your child to participate, please email ecc.vaccine@emory.edu. Ultimately, the only way vaccines will get approved for children is if safety and efficacy trials are done in the pediatric population.

If your child has **recovered** from Covid-19, please call us and schedule a **follow up visit or a checkup**. We will examine them in the office and clear them for PE, Sports participation, or summer camp as needed. Many schools have specific forms for participation in these activities, and we can complete those for you when you come in.

Curbside check-in continues to be a popular option for both sick and well visits. When you call to make your appointment, the staff will collect any copays that may be due. You will then receive a text 20 minutes before your appointment. You can respond when you arrive in the parking deck, and we will let you know which room is cleaned ready for you and you can proceed directly to the room! This minimizes your time and contact in the office.

If your child is due for a **well** visit, please call the office to schedule those appointments. It is more important than ever for children and teens to have their checkups so we can do necessary screens and assess their physical and more importantly, their **mental well-being**. Here is a recent article about how the pandemic may be driving up suicide risk in children:
<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/02/02/962060105/child-psychiatrists-warn-that-the-pandemic-may-be-driving-up-kids-suicide-risk>

There is a new GA law mandating a booster **Meningitis vaccine** for all 16 year olds and they will be stopped prior to 11th grade entry. We will be open regular hours on **Monday February 15 (President's Day)** and would be happy to see them. We continue to offer **telemedicine** visits during the day as well as after hours, if and when appropriate. Thank you as always for your trust and cooperation!

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference