



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

September 10, 2021

To the patients and families of ACCC:

We hope that children are settling into school and routine. It appears that the vast majority of schools are teaching in person and with masks. We hope that these trends continue as all know the best place for children is physically in school. The Delta variant of the coronavirus continues to perplex us with **breakthrough infections** and unfortunately, **more children being infected** this year than last. As a result, more children are hospitalized with more severe disease. **Vaccination** continues to be the key to drive down these numbers. For younger children who cannot be vaccinated, the best way to protect them is for all the adults (parents, teachers, older siblings) to get vaccinated. This “cocoon” the younger children and makes it less likely for them to get infected.

We continue to vaccinate children (and their parents) ages 12 and over in the office. Please call us to schedule your child's **Covid vaccine** if they have not been vaccinated yet. Children who are vaccinated will not have to quarantine if exposed at school or elsewhere. This is a huge incentive to keep kids in school. While the vast majority of children become mildly ill, there is a chance they could end up **hospitalized**, develop chronic symptoms of **long covid** (headaches, brain fog, issues with taste/smell) for months or even develop **myocarditis**. Finally, every person that contracts Covid offers the virus a chance to mutate, and we could end up with a variant worse than Delta that is not susceptible to vaccines. Unfortunately, at that point, we will be back to square one with this pandemic.

Many parents have inquired about covid vaccines for children under 12. The pharmaceutical trials in children are ongoing, and we eagerly await their results. As soon as we hear of any progress on this, we will let you know.

We have **flu vaccine** in the office! **Flumist** is the nasal spray version of the flu vaccine. We are offering it to healthy children ages 4 and up. Many children prefer flumist to the traditional flu shot in the arm. **Flu shots** are available for all children ages 6 months and older. Many of the children who were hospitalized this summer had Covid and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). We hope to prevent a similar “double whammy” of Covid and influenza this winter by vaccinating a majority of the population against flu. Please call us to schedule your child's flu appointment or ask us when you are in for their annual physical.

A patient can receive a flu vaccine (shot or mist) at the **same time** as a Covid or any other vaccine. There is no need to wait for any intervals between other vaccines and either the Covid vaccine or the flu vaccine. We will offer flu vaccines during the day, after school, and on Saturdays for your convenience. There is no copay associated with flu or covid vaccines.

Thank you for your continued trust, cooperation, understanding, and patience.

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference