

August 1, 2016

To Our Patients and Families:

As you probably already know, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) have both recommended that nasal influenza vaccine (commonly known as Flumist) not be used for the 2016-2017 flu season. According to ACIP, surveillance studies over the past three years suggest that Flumist was not as effective as initially thought at preventing influenza infection.

Here, at Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, we are following the advice of these organizations as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics to **not** administer nasal flu vaccine this year. Flumist will not be available in the U.S. this year; only injectable flu vaccine will be available. We realize that this will make some of our patients unhappy at getting another shot; however, it seems to be the best way to prevent infection with flu which kills about 150 children and hospitalizes many more in the U.S. every year. Flu vaccine is recommended for all children ages 6 months and up and is especially important for children with asthma and other chronic medical conditions that put them at increased risk for complications from flu.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office or speak to one of us directly at your next appointment. As always, your child's health is our utmost priority.

Sincerely,

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