



Atlanta Children's Clinical Center, P.C.

April 19, 2021

To the patients and families of ACCC:

Georgia vaccination efforts continue to push forward despite some setbacks. The GA Department of Public Health along with the federal government has put a pause on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to concerns about a **very rare side effect** of increased blood clots. The Moderna and Pfizer two dose series continue to be used throughout the state, and there is some new data on their efficacy. Of the 66 million Americans who have been vaccinated, only 0.008% have become infected with Covid.

As a reminder, anyone over the **age of 16 is eligible** for the Pfizer vaccine (over 18 for Moderna). Furthermore, there is a recommendation for no other vaccine to be **given within 14 days** of the covid vaccine. So please be mindful of this as you are making checkup appointments for your older teen who may need routine vaccinations and may also be getting a covid vaccine. Mercedes Benz stadium has walk-in appointments for vaccines this week.

<http://dph.ga.gov/>

<http://vaccinefinder.org/>

<https://fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine>

We hope that **younger children (ages 12-15)** will soon also be eligible for covid vaccination and await the data and recommendations. We will continue to keep you updated of these developments. We are seeing slightly more routine **viral illness** among children as more schools are open and spring sports are in full swing. Please call the office to schedule an appointment if your child is sick. We continue to do a fair amount of **rapid and PCR covid** testing as well.

As we complete school and summer camp forms, we are becoming more aware of screening questions for **past covid infection** on the forms. If your child had covid, please schedule a **follow up visit** with us to evaluate their hearts. This is extremely important for all children, but particularly for those participating in sports and summer camps. If they have symptoms or an abnormal exam, we may refer them on to cardiology for further evaluation.

As a reminder, all 16 year olds will need a booster dose of the **meningitis vaccine** prior to school entry in the fall. **This is a new GA state requirement this year.** Please call to schedule those well visit appointments. We can also check in on their overall health. Over the past year of the pandemic, we have seen a rise in **obesity, anxiety and depression**, as well as some maladaptive behaviors like **substance use and eating disorders**. We can make the appropriate referrals to help get everyone back to health.

Thank you as always for your trust and cooperation!

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference