Raleigh, N.C. — As North Carolina’s schools prepare to open in the fall, the state’s pediatricians are ready to help students with all of their healthcare needs from well visits and vaccines to physicals. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that North Carolinians continue to have in-person, routine well child visits, especially for children who need to maintain their vaccination schedules including children under two years of age.

“North Carolina’s pediatricians are ready to help the children and adolescents of our state as they begin to plan for a return to school. As many students need physicals and vaccines for school, pediatric offices are open and ready to help children be healthy and safe,” said Susan Mims, MD, MPH, FAAP, President of the North Carolina Pediatric Society (NCPeds).

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, pediatric practices across the state have adjusted their protocols to maintain the health and safety of patients and staff. Samples include:

- Separating well visit and sick visit areas of the office and/or times of office visits
- Assuring providers involved in patient care wear personal protective equipment and receive temperature checks daily
- Using telehealth visits, especially for sick patients
- Bypassing the waiting rooms and taking patients straight to the exam room
- Maximizing use of office parking lots to handle certain patient needs

Pediatricians are also using telemedicine appointments to discuss sickness, behavioral health concerns like anxiety and depression or other general questions. Pediatricians can assess during a telemedicine visit if an in-person visit is needed based on each child’s individual situation.

ABOUT THE NORTH CAROLINA PEDIATRIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1931, the North Carolina Pediatric Society (NCPeds) is the state affiliate Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics with more than 2,000 pediatrician and pediatric health professional members. Its mission is to empower pediatricians and its partners to foster the physical, social, and emotional well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

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