



MEDIA ALERT
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**PEDIATRICIANS URGE NORTH CAROLINIANS TO
CONTINUE WELL VISITS AND VACCINATION SCHEDULES**

Raleigh, N.C. — North Carolina’s pediatricians are urging parents to maintain routine pediatric appointments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The North Carolina Pediatric Society (NCPeds) 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.

“The pediatric medical community is here to help North Carolinians with any medical issues they may have whether it’s a well visit or a sick visit. We urge all North Carolinians to continue to maintain well visits and vaccination schedules for their children during this time. Maintaining well visits and on-time vaccinations is critical to keeping children healthy during the pandemic and beyond,” said Susan Mims, MD, MPH, FAAP, President of NCPeds. “In addition, we recommend contacting your pediatrician’s office directly to discuss telehealth options for any sick appointments or other issues.”

Most pediatric practices have protocols in place to keep well visits and sick visits separate and have instituted additional COVID-19 specific policies to keep patients and families safe during office visits. These policies and practices may 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

“I am impressed with all the innovations pediatricians across our state have added to keep kids and families safe while making sure they stay healthy and well. Families are encouraged to contact their pediatrician’s office to inquire about what their practice is doing during this time to accommodate well visits, vaccinations and visits for other concerns,” Mims said. “We especially encourage families to continue to maintain vaccination schedules for all children including those under two years of age and for children requiring vaccinations for school records.”

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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