

Pediatricians Call for Help

Richmond, VA— 09/17/2021 — Pediatric practices across Virginia are unable to keep pace with surging demand for office visits and COVID testing. Dr. Michael Martin, President of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (VA-AAP) states, “Pediatric offices and outpatient centers across Virginia are underwater as a result of staff shortages, provider burnout, and an extraordinary increase in demand for COVID testing required by schools and daycare facilities. This comes at the same time we are seeing an unanticipated increase in respiratory viruses like RSV and a backlog of preventative visits and vaccines that overwhelmed providers this past summer.”

COVID Testing

In regard to meeting the significant need for COVID testing, the VA-AAP recommends that testing of asymptomatic children be done at alternative testing sites or through the schools themselves. “Many offices are so understaffed, that COVID testing alone can tie up needed staff members, which limits the number of children doctors are able to care for in a day.” states Dr. Martin.

The Virginia Chapter asks for patience and support of the community, as pediatric offices and clinics work to see as many patients as possible during this tremendously challenging time. The health and well-being of Virginia’s children is paramount and should be top priority for everyone right now.

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For more information on the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics:

www.virginiapediatrics.org