

Children and Disasters Newsletter

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Inside This Issue:

National Preparedness Month	1
Education/ Training	2
Key Resources	3
Opportunities	5

American Academy of Pediatrics



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The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) is pleased to provide you with information on its activities. For more information on the DPAC, including a list of members and liaisons, see the [AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council](#). Also see the [AAP DPAC Strategic Plan for Disaster Preparedness 2016-2020](#).

National Preparedness Month

Each year during September, the AAP supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored National Preparedness Month to enable citizens to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. This year's theme is "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How." The AAP Children and Disasters Web site has a dedicated resource page for [National Preparedness Month](#). This Web page includes ideas for members who wish to get involved or implement general preparedness activities, including strategies to address influenza prevention and control in children at high risk.

During National Preparedness Month, the AAP asks members to take specific actions to promote pediatric emergency readiness in September:

- [Begin conversations](#) with families about potential disasters in their area and identify what each child would need to safely cope with the disaster.
- Encourage families to download a family communication plan for [parents](#) and [kids](#). Create an [Emergency Contact Card](#) for each family member. Review the [Tips for Communicating during an Emergency](#), developed by FEMA and the [Federal Communication Commission](#).
- Leverage collaborative strategies identified during the AAP/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Pediatric and Public Health Tabletop Exercise](#) or use the Resource [Kit](#) to plan your own pediatric tabletop exercise.
- Use Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, or a blog to send messages to your community about National Preparedness Month or how to prepare for disasters. See the AAP Voices [blog](#) or the CDC [Public Health Matters](#) blog.

- Work with the [AAP Chapter Contact\(s\) for Disaster Preparedness](#) in your state to initiate and mobilize disaster preparedness and response efforts. Partner to write an article for your AAP chapter newsletter. Email DisasterReady@aap.org to be connected with your Chapter Contact.
- Partner with your state Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) projects, and:
 - Share best practices for pediatric emergency preparedness efforts.
 - Work together to improve pediatric outcomes by identifying resources and opportunities within your area.
 - Get involved in regional drills or tabletop exercises; work with EMSC stakeholders to plan a pediatric-focused exercise or add a pediatric component to a community [exercise](#).
 - Develop a joint presentation with an EMSC stakeholder to offer ideas for improving preparedness for children in a disaster. If interested in a PowerPoint template already created, email DisasterReady@aap.org.

Do you need to be connected with your EMSC State grantee, or do you want to know more about what the state EMSC project objectives are? Email DisasterReady@aap.org for details.

This year, the CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response theme for National Preparedness Month is [The Power of Preparedness: Prepare Your Health](#). Each week, the CDC focuses on the roles individuals, state and local public health, and the agency play in creating resilient health communities.

Education/Training

Hurricane Recovery Webinar

In collaboration with the Texas AAP Chapter and the Florida AAP Chapter, the AAP DPAC convened a webinar in August 2018 titled, “Hurricanes and Storms: From Preparedness to Recovery, Strategies for a Brighter Future”. The webinar provided details on why disaster response and recovery efforts are critically important for all pediatricians and how they can prepare to respond and help colleagues and families to recover after a disaster. The [webinar](#) and [PowerPoint slides](#) are archived online.

Global Health & Disasters Course

Date: September 24 – October 5, 2018

This international health course is a 2-week training offered once a year as part of the University of Colorado School of Medicine Global Health Track. The first week of the course (September 24-28) is focused on global health and humanitarian approaches, while the second week of the course (October 1-5) covers disaster topics. This course prepares participants for international experiences and future global health work. The interactive training incorporates readings, lectures, small group problem-based learning exercises, technical skill sessions, and a disaster simulation exercise. Space is limited for this course, and preference will be given to those who are actively involved in promoting and implementing global health activities in low resource countries. If you are interested in attending, please obtain a [registration form](#). Questions about the course may be directed to Michelle Shiver, Center for Global Health, [here](#).

Save the Date: Influenza Webinar for Pediatric Providers

Date: September 27, 2018

Time: 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT

Webinar Link: <https://zoom.us/j/512836971>

The AAP and the CDC are collaborating to conduct a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinar on September 27th titled, "[2018-2019 Recommendations for Influenza Prevention and Treatment in Children: An Update for Pediatric Providers](#)". During this webinar, subject matter experts from the AAP and CDC will discuss strategies that primary care providers and medical subspecialists can use to improve flu prevention and control in children during the 2018-2019 season. The presenters will share AAP and CDC recommendations about influenza vaccination and antiviral treatment, including updated recommendations for the use of intranasal live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) in children. Registration is not required. Email DisasterReady@aap.org to receive a calendar invite with call-in details.

AAP 2018 National Conference & Exhibition

The [AAP 2018 National Conference](#) is taking place on November 2-6, 2018, in Orlando, FL. To secure the lowest rates, please remember to [register](#) before the early registration deadline on **September 21, 2018**. During this conference, several sessions and events will focus on disaster medicine. See the AAP [Upcoming Events](#) Web page for details.

Key Resources**New Family Reunification Planning Tool for Health Care Facilities**

The AAP is pleased to announce the release of a new tool titled, "[Family Reunification Following Disasters: A Planning Tool for Health Care Facilities](#)". The tool was inspired by discussions within an AAP DPAC Subcommittee on Reunification Planning and produced in collaboration with the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Disaster Medicine, with support from the CDC. The purpose of the tool is to provide guidance and templates for hospitals as they review and update their plans to provide information, support services, and safe reunification assistance to family members of patients who have experienced disasters. For additional information, contact the AAP via e-mail at DisasterReady@aap.org.

Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies

Breastfeeding remains the best infant feeding option in a natural disaster situation. Breastmilk helps protect babies from diseases such as diarrhea and respiratory infections and provides the calories and nutrients that babies need. The CDC launched a feature on [Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies](#). The AAP has a breastfeeding [policy statement](#) and a fact sheet on [infant feeding in disasters and emergencies](#).

New Zika Vital Signs Report

The CDC released a new [Vital Signs](#) report describes the health and follow-up care of babies born to mothers with laboratory evidence of confirmed or possible Zika virus infection during pregnancy in selected US areas, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Marshall Islands, and the US Virgin Islands. This is a comprehensive report on longer-term outcomes related to Zika virus in babies within US areas and highlights the importance of monitoring the health and development of these babies into early childhood. The *Vital Signs* includes data reported to the US Zika Pregnancy and Infant Registry (USZPIR) for children who had a date of birth on or before February 1, 2017, had reached the age of 1 year on or before February 1, 2018, and had follow-up care reported to the USZPIR by June 1, 2018. Some key findings from the report include:

- More than 4,800 pregnancies reported to the USZPIR had laboratory evidence of confirmed or possible Zika virus infection.
 - 1,450 babies were 1 year or older by February 1, 2018, and had follow-up care.
 - About 1 in 7 of these 1,450 babies had 1 or more recognized health problems possibly caused by Zika. Many of these health problems were not recognized at birth.
 - About 6% of these babies had Zika-associated birth defects, such as small head size, brain damage, or eye damage.
 - About 9% of the babies had nervous system disorders, such as seizures, problems with swallowing and moving, or learning delays.
- Only about 1 in 3 of these 1,450 babies had an eye exam by an eye doctor reported.
 - Eye exams can help identify vision problems early, so that babies can get glasses or other services they may need.
 - Without evaluation, some health problems may not be detected or treated.

On August 14, 2018, the CDC held a Town Hall titled, "[Zika in Babies: Opportunities for Monitoring Health and Development](#)", that reported on the findings from the Vital Signs report. For additional information, see the [CDC Vital Signs Web site](#) and the [AAP Zika Virus resource page](#).

Medicaid and CHIP: Responding to Public Health Crises and Disasters

Medicaid has played a critical role in helping states and territories respond to public health crises and natural and human-made disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding. To help Medicaid agencies prepare for such disasters in the future, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Learning Collaborative developed a [set of tools](#) on the strategies available to support Medicaid operations and enrollees in times of crisis. The first tool is a memorandum that provides a high-level summary of the types of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) strategies that can be used by states and Territories. The second tool is a companion inventory of the various strategies available to states and the action needed to enforce them.

School District Crisis Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plans in US — 2006, 2012, and 2016

The CDC released a new *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) article titled, "[School District Crisis Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plans - United States, 2006, 2012, and 2016](#)", that describes the strengths and challenges in emergency planning for schools. [Healthy People 2020](#) includes objectives to improve school preparedness, response, and recovery plans. To examine improvements over time and gaps in school preparedness plans, data from the 2006, 2012, and 2016 School Health Policies and Practices Study were analyzed to assess changes in the percentage of districts meeting objectives.

Despite progress made, gaps in achieving school preparedness goals at the national level persist, and progress in many essential areas is minimal. Findings from this report highlight the need for wider adoption of policies on family reunification, pandemic influenza and other infectious disease outbreak procedures, and provisions for students and staff members with special needs, particularly in rural areas. Adoption of strong policies by school districts can promote the health and safety of faculty, staff members, children, and families and meet the Healthy People 2020 preparedness objectives for safe school environments. The AAP offers [resources](#) for schools and [recommendations](#) for pediatricians who would like to support improved preparedness planning within schools.

Opportunities

Healthy Tomorrows Funding is Available!

Please consider developing a disaster planning or response project and submitting an application for Healthy Tomorrows funding. The Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program is a cooperative agreement between the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the AAP. Federal grants of up to \$50,000 per year for 5 years are awarded through the program to support community-based child health projects. Healthy Tomorrows projects must represent a new initiative within the community or an innovative component that builds upon existing community resources. The [grant opportunity](#) announcement provides additional information. The application deadline is **October 1, 2018**.

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, see www.aap.org/disasters or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.