

Children and Disasters Newsletter

October 2018

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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](#).

Hurricane Florence

The AAP continues its efforts to collaborate with the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia AAP chapters to assess and address hurricane recovery needs of AAP members and the families they serve. During each hurricane, the AAP monitors national-level calls with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support a coordinated response focused on addressing children's needs.

As flood waters recede, the AAP offers guidance on ensuring children remain safe during efforts to clear flood-impacted areas. The [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units](#), with support from the AAP, developed [specific recommendations](#) regarding the return of children to flood-impacted areas. Children, including teens, should not help out with flood clean-up efforts; they should be the last to return to flood areas. A typical question that the AAP receives after a disaster is whether pediatricians can volunteer to provide health services in disaster-impacted areas. For various reasons, pediatricians are instead encouraged to sign-up in advance to provide medical relief after disasters. Opportunities for physicians to help out in a disaster include the [Disaster Medical Assistance Teams](#), [Medical Reserve Corps](#), or [Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals](#). Resources are also available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) [Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange](#) (TRACIE).

A critical consideration for physicians is how to keep their vaccine supplies safe in a disaster. The AAP offers a [Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#) as well as [vaccine storage information](#) so that pediatricians can prepare in advance of a disaster.

The AAP summarizes the [policies and processes](#) of vaccine manufacturers and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Vaccines for Children Program](#) to help members address vaccine loss due to a natural disaster. Pediatricians are encouraged to hold on to any vaccine product, not to throw it away or destroy it, and to submit an insurance claim as a first step.

For additional strategies, see AAP [Policies and Procedures: Vaccine Loss Due to Disaster](#). See the AAP [Hurricane Recovery Web page](#) for additional information.

Education/Training

AAP 2018 National Conference & Exhibition

Date: November 2–6, 2018

Location: Orlando, FL

The [AAP 2018 National Conference](#) offers several sessions and events that focus on disaster medicine. See the AAP [Upcoming Events](#) Web page for details. [Registration](#) is open for the conference. Access the [Conference Schedule](#) to view all sessions, special events and meeting details.

National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

Date: November 27–29, 2018

Location: New Orleans, LA

The [National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference](#) highlights best practices of health care coalitions from across the United States. The conference provides an opportunity to network with peers, share ideas, and learn from others' experiences in building and sustaining effective health care coalitions. [General registration](#) for the conference is available. Questions about the conference should be directed to info@healthcarecoalitions.org. The AAP will convene 2 sessions at the conference:

Title: Zika Takeaways: Lessons Learned that Can Accelerate Response in Future Emergencies

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 28, 2018, from 11:00 am–12:15 pm

Presenters: Carey Eppes, MD; Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP; Rebecca Leeb, PhD

Session Description: This session will highlight collaborative efforts among the AAP, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the CDC to develop clinical guidance and resources on Zika treatment for pregnant women and infants with congenital infection, assess health care provider preparedness for future infectious disease outbreaks, and evaluate Zika response efforts. Results from 2018 AAP and ACOG member surveys will be highlighted to guide efforts in future responses.

Title: Lessons Learned from Real and Simulated Pediatric Events: From Evacuation to Hurricane Recovery

Date/Time: Thursday, November 29, 2018, from 10:30 am–11:45 am

Presenters: Sarita Chung, MD, FAAP; Deanna Dahl-Grove, MD, FAAP; Jahzel Gonzalez, MD, FAAP; Brent Kaziny, MD, FAAP

Session Description: This session will 1) describe the Ohio Pediatric Disaster Coalitions process to address the needs of hospitals within the state to create an exercise on how to care for pediatric patients within neonatal intensive care units requiring evacuation, 2) identify strategies used by pediatricians on the front lines of the 2017 hurricanes in Texas and Puerto Rico that will assist attendees in recovering from future hurricanes, 3) demonstrate a new hospital reunification planning template, and 4) describe challenges, resources, and lessons learned from experiences with reunification planning in real-life disasters.

2019 Preparedness Summit: The Evolving Threat Environment

Date: March 26–29, 2019

Location: St Louis, MO

The [2019 Preparedness Summit](#) will feature experts from the health care and emergency management fields in addition to public health preparedness professionals to address the gaps between these representatives to facilitate collaborations when planning for emerging threats. The earlier you [register](#), the more you save! The date for [abstract submissions](#) extended to Friday, October 12, 2018.

Key Resources

Influenza Recommendations for Children: Webinar for Clinicians

In September 2018, the AAP collaborated with the CDC to conduct a [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) (COCA) webinar titled, “[2018–2019 Recommendations for Influenza Prevention and Treatment in Children: An Update for Pediatric Providers](#)”. During this COCA webinar, subject matter experts from the AAP and CDC discussed strategies that primary care providers and medical subspecialists could use to improve flu prevention and control in children for the 2018–2019 season. The presenters shared recommendations about influenza vaccination and antiviral treatment, including updated recommendations for the use of quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4) in children. The PowerPoint slides from the webinar and a recording of the presentation are posted [online](#).

Influenza Implementation Guidance for Offices

The AAP has updated its [Influenza Implementation Guidance](#) for the 2018–2019 flu season. This guidance is designed to help practitioners and pediatric office staff prevent influenza by administering influenza vaccine according to the AAP policy statement: [Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2018–19](#). The implementation guidance includes information for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, office managers, and other office staff.

Archived Webinar - National Preparedness Month: Children in Public Health Emergencies

In September 2018, the CDC convened an [Emergency Partners Information Connection](#) (EPIC) webinar titled, “[National Preparedness Month: Children in Public Health Emergencies](#)”. During this webinar, the presenters discussed preparedness and response strategies for children affected by natural disasters (including hurricanes), infectious disease outbreaks, and other emergencies. The PowerPoint slides from the webinar and a recording of the presentation are posted [online](#).

Family Separation and Reunification in Disasters Web Page

During a disaster, there is an increased probability that children will be separated from their parents or guardians. Being separated from family during or after an emergency can have long-term psychological and physical effects on children. The faster that children are reunited with their family, the better their outcomes will be. Monitoring and tracking children and reunifying them with their families requires significant collaborative planning and an efficient system that is in place prior to a disaster. This is typically an issue after a major disaster, but the need to track unaccompanied minors and to have a plan to reunify children with their families can arise even in a small community event (e.g., vehicle accident or shooting). To assist clinicians to prepare, the AAP created a new Web page titled, “[Family Separation and Reunification in Disasters](#)” that can be found on the AAP Children & Disasters [Website](#).

American Academy of Pediatrics Reaffirms Care Coordination Policy Statement and Offers Implementation Resource for Pediatric Clinicians

The AAP recently reaffirmed its policy statement titled “[Patient- and Family-Centered Care Coordination: A Framework for Integrating Care for Children and Youth Across Multiple Systems](#)”. This policy statement has laid the foundation for various care coordination tools and resources developed collaboratively by the National Center for Care Coordination Technical Assistance (NCCCTA) and the National Center for Medical Home Implementation. For more information and resources, visit the [NCCCTA Web site](#).

National Test of the Emergency Alert System

The FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a [nationwide test](#) of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on October 3, 2018. The WEA portion of the test begins at 2:18 pm ET, and the EAS portion follows at 2:20 pm ET. The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements are needed.

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