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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.

Save the Date!

➢ 2018 Preparedness Summit
  Date: April 17-20, 2018
  Location: Atlanta, GA

The Preparedness Summit is the first and longest running national conference on public health preparedness. Since 2006, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has taken a leadership role in convening partners to participate in the Summit. The focus of the 2018 Preparedness Summit is to explore the factors driving change in the world, analyze how they will impact the future of public health preparedness, and identify opportunities to drive action toward meeting future needs. There is still time to register for the 2018 Preparedness Summit. The AAP has a session titled, “Hurricane Harvey: Key Response Moments Involving Children”, taking place on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, from 1:30pm - 3:00pm ET. Shana Godfred-Cato, DO, FAAP; Brent Kaziny, MD, FAAP; and Saranya Srinivasan, MD, FAAP, will be presenting.

➢ PREP®: EM - An Intensive Review and Update of Pediatric Emergency Medicine
  Date: July 28-August 1, 2018
  Location: Philadelphia, PA

Sponsored by the AAP, the AAP Section on Emergency Medicine, and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), this continuing medical education (CME) activity prepares participants to practice state-of-the-art pediatric emergency medicine, assess new developments in pediatric emergency medicine, and integrate new management strategies for acute pediatric illness and injury into practice. For detailed course information and to register, visit shop.aap.org/prepem2018. Register by June 29, 2018, for early bird rates.

➢ AAP National Conference and Exhibition 2018
  Date: November 2-6, 2018
  Location: Orlando, FL

The AAP 2018 National Conference and Exhibition registration opens May 1, 2018. Housing and registration will open on April 24, 2018 for AAP members only (you will need to have your AAP ID number handy). This year, several sessions and events will focus on disaster medicine. Visit the AAP Upcoming Events Web page for details. For additional information regarding the National Conference, see http://aapexperience.org/.

➢ Upcoming AAP Webinar - Pediatric Surge Planning
The next webinar in the AAP Children’s Hospitals and Preparedness Planning webinar series will focus on pediatric surge planning. The webinar will take place in May 2018. If you would like to be added to the invite list for this webinar, please email DisasterReady@aap.org.
FYI’s

➢ **Call to Action: New AAP Research Initiative Aims to Protect Children from Firearm Injuries**
The AAP has launched a new research initiative to protect children from firearm injuries. The AAP Gun Safety and Injury Prevention Research Initiative will bring together experts to study and implement evidence-based interventions. The AAP Board of Directors has approved initial funding of $500,000 from the AAP Friends of Children and Tomorrow’s Children Endowment funds. The Academy also will be fundraising and forming partnerships to support its efforts. See the AAP News article, “Call to Action: New AAP Research Initiative Aims to Protect Children from Firearm Injuries”, for additional information. Also see the National Prevention Science Coalition briefing on Capitol Hill to address gun violence prevention and school safety. David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP, AAP DPAC member, was one of the panel presenters.

➢ **Pediatric and Public Health Preparedness Exercise Resource Kit**
The AAP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have collaborated to promote pediatric preparedness through implementation of pediatric-focused exercises (as well as by adding pediatric content to existing exercises). The AAP developed a Pediatric and Public Health Preparedness Exercise Resource Kit to assist coalitions, hospitals, and other entities with these efforts. The Academy is looking for a few entities within states or communities that might be willing to use these materials to plan and conduct a pediatric-focused tabletop exercise. As part of this approach, the AAP would want the entity to finish the exercise and share any suggestions to improve the Resource Kit. If you would like more details regarding this request, or would like to review the Resource Kit, please email DisasterReady@aap.org.

➢ **Flu Activity Decreasing in the US**
The number of states with widespread or high flu activity continues to decrease, but many states are still seeing a lot of influenza-like illness. Flu activity is expected to continue for several more weeks. To date, 137 children have died from influenza this flu season. Providers can and should continue to encourage annual influenza vaccination, and vaccinate children until flu vaccine expires on June 30, 2018. See the AAP Red Book Online Influenza Resource page and refer to the AAP “What’s the Latest with the Flu” messaging series.

➢ **Zika Virus Travel Videos for Pregnant Women**
Although Zika isn’t broadcast in the news nearly as often anymore, parents still have questions. The AAP and ZERO TO THREE collaborated to develop 30-second videos describing the importance of talking to your doctor about Zika if you’re pregnant and the need to avoid travel to areas affected by the Zika virus if you’re pregnant or considering pregnancy. Consider sharing these short videos with families, as well as a link to the AAP HealthyChildren.org Web page, Zika Virus: What Parents Need to Know.

➢ **Preparing for Hurricane Season**
Hurricane season begins on June 1, 2018, and extends through November 30, 2018, with the peak season occurring from mid-August to late October. The AAP Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Storms Web page includes up to date information and resources. It is never too early to start preparedness conversations with families and encourage families to prepare for disasters. Families can start by creating a Disaster Supply Kit, developing a written disaster plan, and discussing this plan with their children. See www.healthychildren.org (search for “disaster”) for resources to share with families.

Also see the AAP Family Readiness Kit. This kit was developed to help families get disaster-ready and includes general guidelines for readiness that can be used in most situations. Simple steps to help families build a kit, make a plan, be informed, and get involved are referenced. Pediatricians can share this kit during routine office visits as a way to encourage families to plan for emergencies.

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.