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](https://www.aap.org/about-us/aap-disaster-preparedness-advisory-council). Also see the [AAP DPAC Strategic Plan for Disaster Preparedness 2016-2020](https://www.aap.org/about-us/aap-disaster-preparedness-advisory-council).

### Updates

#### Crisis at the Border: Family Separation and Detention

The Academy continues its efforts to speak out against family separation, while urging that detention of children is not the solution. Many children remain unnecessarily separated from their families. The AAP 2017 policy statement outlines that no child should be placed in detention, and that even short periods of detention can cause psychological trauma and long-term mental health risks. The Academy is asking members to consider contacting representatives of Congress via the AAP federal advocacy (AAP login required) Web site and urges them to oppose family separation and detention, as well as any effort to rollback special protections for children. The AAP led a group of 14 medical and mental health provider organizations in sending a letter to House and Senate congressional committees expressing concern about the quality of care and treatment children and families are receiving in federal custody and calling on them to hold oversight hearings. See the AAP News articles, “AAP Shines Light on Effects of Toxic Stress as it Advocates for Children at the Border” and “Pediatricians Speak Out: Detention is Not the Answer to Family Separation”.

#### 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](https://www.aap.org/newsroom/prepare-now-learn-how). 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 high risk children. During National Preparedness Month, the AAP asks members to take specific actions to promote pediatric emergency readiness:

- **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. Also, ask families to 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/CDC Pediatric and Public Health Tabletop Exercise or use the Resource Kit to plan your own pediatric tabletop exercise.
- Partner with your AAP state Chapter for Disaster Preparedness to write an article for your AAP Chapter newsletter. Encourage members to get involved in preparedness activities!
- 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](https://www.aap.org/newsroom/aap-voices) or the CDC [Public Health Matters blog](https://www.cdc.gov/phms/index.html).
National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Use NIAM to raise awareness in your practice about why vaccines are important and how they prevent serious, sometimes deadly diseases. For the 2018-2019 influenza season, the AAP recommends intramuscular inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) for children, as this vaccine has been more consistently effective against most strains of flu in recent seasons, but says that the nasal vaccine or live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) may be an option for children who otherwise would not be vaccinated. Also see the AAP News article, “AAP Influenza Immunization Recommendations Revised for 2018-'19 Season”.

To prepare for this year’s flu season, plan to attend the upcoming AAP and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity webinar titled, “2018-2019 Recommendations for Influenza Prevention and Treatment in Children: An Update for Pediatric Providers”. The webinar is taking place on Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT. Email DisasterReady@aap.org to receive an Outlook calendar invite.

Hurricane Season

The 2018 hurricane season began on June 1 and extends through November 30. The AAP urges members to prepare throughout the season. Advanced preparedness planning can mitigate risk, reduce physical and operational losses, improve financial stability, strengthen the medical home, and help promote the health of the children in the community. The AAP Hurricane Preparedness Web page offers clinicians steps they can take now to prepare themselves and the families they serve. For information on impending hurricanes and other storms, see the National Weather Service National Hurricane Center and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center. Also see the AAP Hurricane Response and Recovery Web page.

Pediatric Simulation Course for Ebola/Emerging Infectious Diseases

Karen Landers, MD, FAAP, attended the 2-day Pediatric Simulation Course for Ebola/Emerging Infectious Diseases at Children’s Hospital Colorado on Anschutz Medical Campus June 25-26, 2018. This training was sponsored by the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC). This simulation was a high quality, hands on experience led by physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals, who have had actual, real world experience in this field.

Children’s Hospitals and Preparedness Webinars Archived

The AAP and the CDC work together to improve children’s preparedness planning. The Children’s Hospitals and Preparedness Webinar Series aims to promote a dialogue among clinicians and disaster planners at children’s hospitals and to improve each hospital’s response plan and ability to care for children in an emergency. All webinars in this series are archived on the AAP Disaster Preparedness and Response Webinar Archives Web page.
Educational Opportunities

- **Upcoming Hurricane Recovery Webinar**
  - **Date:** Wednesday, August 8, 2018
  - **Time:** 4:00pm ET/3:00pm CT
  - **Presenters:** Scott Needle, MD, FAAP; David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP

  This webinar will provide guidance on why disaster response and recovery efforts are critically important for all pediatricians and describe how they can prepare to respond and help colleagues and families to recover after a disaster. Detailed information on which issues might arise during prolonged recovery from a disaster and how pediatricians can help will be discussed. Based on actual examples from the 2017 hurricane season, this webinar will strive to improve pediatricians’ abilities to protect their practices, care for their patients, promote optimal mental health and well-being, and promote community health resilience. This webinar is co-sponsored by the AAP, Florida AAP Chapter, and Texas Pediatric Society. Email DisasterReady@aap.org to be added to an Outlook calendar appointment that will include call-in details and a webinar link.

- **Zika in Babies: Opportunities for Monitoring Health and Development**
  - **Date:** Tuesday, August 14, 2018
  - **Time:** 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT
  - **Presenters:** CDC; Meg Fisher, MD, FAAP; V. Fan Tait, MD, FAAP
  - **Call-in Information:** 1-800-857-0764 (US Only); Passcode 795-4413

  This CDC state health department Town Hall event will be held in response to the CDC Vital Signs report about babies born in US territories to mothers who had laboratory evidence of confirmed or possible Zika virus infection during pregnancy. The report will describe the health outcomes and follow-up care of babies who were at least 1 year of age. The report will be available on August 7, 2018, at 1:00pm ET via www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns.

- **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) focuses on global health topics, and the second week of the course (October 1-5) covers disaster topics. This course prepares its 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 may be directed to Michelle Shiver, Center for Global Health here.

- **AAP 2018 National Conference & Exhibition**
  - The [AAP National Conference](#) takes place 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.

- **The National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference**
  - **Date:** November 27–29, 2018
  - **Location:** New Orleans, LA
  - The National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference highlights best practices of healthcare 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 healthcare coalitions. Early bird registration ends August 30, 2018. Questions about the conference should be directed to info@healthcarecoalitions.org.
Federal Emergency Management Agency Children and Disasters Newsletter

This newsletter showcases work being done across the country on youth preparedness by FEMA and others. The newsletter also provides details on relevant research (such as research about the impact of traumatic events on youth or the unique needs of children with access and functional needs during disasters), as well as resources for those implementing youth preparedness programs. The newsletter also features specific programs that seek to prepare youth for and help them respond to disasters. Sign up for the FEMA newsletter and choose your subscriber preferences.

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