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!**

- **ASPR Webinar: Pediatric Issues in Disasters**
  - **Date:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018
  - **Time:** 1:00pm - 2:30pm ET/12:00pm - 1:30pm CT
  - Register Here!

  The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) is holding a webinar on pediatric issues during disasters. Examples and best practices of how to integrate pediatric issues in health care preparedness plans, trainings, and exercises will be shared. The webinar will be recorded and archived on the ASPR TRACIE Web site within 1 business day. Each registrant will receive a unique link that will be needed to access the webinar. Information regarding this webinar can be found on the webinar flyer. Please note that this webinar will be limited to the first 1,000 registrants, so register early.

- **Advanced Pediatric Emergency Assembly**
  - **Date:** March 13-15, 2018
  - **Location:** Lake Buena Vista, FL

  The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the AAP are collaborating to provide an accelerated learning experience in pediatric emergency medicine. Upon completion of this conference, participants will be able to apply the latest advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and clinical skills necessary for the practice of pediatric emergency medicine. The conference is designed for anyone caring for emergency department pediatric patients. Visit the Advanced Pediatric Emergency Assembly Web site for additional information, including registration and hotel accommodations.

**Resources**

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agenda 2050**

  The EMS Agenda 2050 is a 2-year project to create a plan for the next several decades to advance the vision for the future of EMS. In January 2018, a regional meeting took place in Los Angeles, CA, to discuss ideas for the EMS Agenda 2050. This marked the third public meeting held by the project’s Technical Expert Panel, and the first meeting since the recent release of a new version of the EMS Agenda 2050 Straw Man document. In this document, the panel has proposed a vision for EMS in the US that is people-centered, with 6 guiding principles. The document also includes many of the specific recommendations that were already suggested by members of the EMS community and the public. Consider providing feedback on the Straw Man document and share your ideas on what you would like to see included in the EMS Agenda 2050.
Vaccine Storage and Handling
Emergencies usually happen without warning. Various situations, including equipment failures, power outages, severe weather, or natural disasters, may compromise vaccine storage conditions. Vaccines are a key part of pediatric practice and a significant investment. To maintain potency and efficacy of vaccine products, they must be stored at the temperatures specified by the manufacturers at all times. Making preparations in advance to retrieve and/or protect vaccines as quickly as possible during a disaster is critical. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the January 2018 revision of the Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit. Changes to the document are highlighted online. This toolkit includes best practices for vaccine storage and handling from Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, product information from vaccine manufacturers, and scientific studies. For additional information on vaccine storage and handling, see the AAP Immunization Resources - Storage and Handling Series - Disaster Planning, the AAP Policies and Procedures: Vaccine Loss Due to Disaster document, and Section 12 of the AAP Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices. For more information, see www.aap.org/disasters/resourcekit.

AAP Resources
The AAP created a Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit, developed in response to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic that remains quite relevant. This resource encourages collaboration between pediatricians, public health leaders, and other pediatric care providers to assess what exists in their communities or states, and the kit helps to determine what still needs to be done before an emergency or disaster. Web pages were created to highlight information in the kit, including:

- Including Pediatric Care Providers in State-Level Decision-Making
- Promoting Strategic Communications and Systematic Messaging
- Prioritizing Within and Among High-Risk Groups
- Developing State Action Plans
- Establishing Pediatric Advisory Councils or Children’s Preparedness Coalitions

Based on concepts and information from the AAP Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit, the AAP also created the Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices. The checklist includes action steps and information for pediatricians on preparing for disasters, including the development of an office Disaster Supply Kit, creation of a plan for vaccine storage, and professional self-care strategies.

The AAP Family Readiness Kit was developed to help families get disaster-ready. This kit 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 included.

AAP Policy Statements/Clinical Reports
The AAP DPAC has developed several disaster preparedness and response policies including:

- Policy Statement - Ensuring the Health of Children in Disasters
- Policy Statement - Medical Countermeasures for Children Exposed to Public Health Emergencies, Disaster, or Acts of Terrorism
- Clinical Report - Providing Psychosocial Support to Children and Families in the Aftermath of Disasters and Crises
- Clinical Report - Supporting the Grieving Child and Family

New AAP Policy Statement - Pediatricians and Public Health: Optimizing the Health and Well-Being of the Nation’s Children
The AAP released a policy statement titled, “Pediatricians and Public Health: Optimizing the Health and Well-Being of the Nation’s Children”. Major threats to children’s health, such as chronic conditions, obesity, injury and communicable diseases, cannot be managed solely in the pediatric office. The statement offers opportunities for collaboration between pediatricians and public health professionals to improve the health of children in their communities, including a recommendation that children and adolescents are specifically considered in disaster planning. See the AAP News article for additional information.
Addressing Children’s Needs in Disasters: A Regional Pediatric Tabletop Exercise Article

An article was published in the Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness Journal titled, “Addressing Children’s Needs in Disasters: A Regional Pediatric Tabletop Exercise”. This article assesses the usefulness of a tabletop exercises in initiating pediatric preparedness strategies and assessing the impact of the exercise on participants’ understanding of and confidence in their roles during pediatric public health emergencies. This article summarizes the results of the 2016 AAP/CDC Pediatric and Public Health Tabletop Exercise.

Updates

New Zika Birth Defects Surveillance Data Shared in CDC MMWR

The CDC released a new Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) article describing 2016 Zika birth defects surveillance data. Titled, “Population-Based Surveillance of Birth Defects Potentially Related to Zika Virus Infection - 15 States and U.S. Territories, 2016”, this report describes the prevalence of birth defects most strongly linked to Zika in the US states and territories. In the report, researchers examined approximately 1 million birth records from 15 US states and territories and found that about 3 out of every 1,000 babies born had a birth defect strongly linked to Zika. Additionally, this is the first report to show a 21% increase in the birth defects most strongly linked to Zika in areas with local transmission in the second half of 2016 (when compared to the first half of the year). While it is not known if this increase is due to local transmission of Zika virus alone, CDC researchers plan to analyze the 2017 birth defects data to see if this trend continues. The study results emphasize the continued need to collaborate to protect mothers and babies. Key findings from the report are highlighted online.

Public Health Matters Blog: Educating Children After Hurricane Maria

The CDC Public Health Matters Blog shares perspectives and personal experiences of those working on the front lines of emerging infectious diseases and public health emergencies. Recently, a blog was released titled, “Educating Children After Hurricane Maria”. Sign up today to receive updates from the CDC on a variety of topics, including emerging infectious diseases and public health emergencies!

Questions and Answers with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Robert Kadlec, MD, conducted an interview with bParati, LLC, on a series of issues. A variety of questions were asked including “What do you see as the biggest challenges the health sector facing in biodefense?” and “What is your vision for healthcare preparedness?” The full set of questions and answers are available!

Flu Activity Continues to Increase in the US

Flu activity is elevated in the US with increasing illness anticipated during the coming weeks. Surveillance systems from the CDC show that nationally the flu season may be peaking now. To date, 37 children have died from influenza this flu season. That number is expected to rise. It is estimated that 85 % of the children who die from the flu have not been vaccinated. The CDC issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory on December 27, 2017, to notify clinicians that influenza A(H3N2) viruses are predominating in the US this season and to provide guidance on treatment. See the AAP Red Book Online Influenza Resource Page or the AAP What’s the Latest with the Flu Web page for additional influenza-related information.

Opportunity

Call for Applications - Healthy People 2020 Grant Program for Chapters

The topic of the 2018 Healthy People 2020 Grant Program for Chapters is empowering families, the media, or communities to address the mental health crisis of children and youth. This year, 5 AAP chapters will be awarded $20,000 each to develop and implement innovative programs. The Healthy People 2020 Grant Program for Chapters is supported by the AAP Friends of Children Fund. If interested, please review the Request for Proposal and Application (AAP ID and password required). Applications are due Friday, March 30, 2018, at 11:59pm CT. Please contact Hope Hurley, Manager, District Relations, at 800-433-9016, ext 6533, or hhurley@aap.org if you have questions.

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