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Save the Date

- Upcoming Webinar: Preparing Head Start/Child Care and Communities for Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza
  - Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2018
  - Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm Eastern Time/1:00pm – 2:30pm Central Time
  - [Register Online Here](#)

  This webinar is targeted towards Head Start and child care professionals. During this webinar, presenters will share recommendations for this flu season, discuss strategies to prevent and control the spread of influenza in child care settings, and explore ways to prepare for a flu pandemic. Feel free to share information about this webinar with child care professionals in your community.

- 2018 AAP Legislative Conference
  - Date: April 8-10, 2018
  - Location: Washington, DC

  Each year, the conference brings together pediatricians, residents and medical students from across the country who share a passion for child health advocacy. Participants attend skills-building workshops, hear from guest speakers, learn about policy priorities impacting children and pediatricians and go to Capitol Hill to urge Congress to support strong child health policies. In addition, the conference will feature a Pediatric Subspecialty Advocacy Track offering specific legislative and skills building workshops uniquely focused on the interests and needs of pediatric medical subspecialists and surgical specialists. Visit [aap.org/legcon](http://aap.org/legcon) for more information and instructions on how to register.

FYI’s

- Seasonal Influenza Activity Increasing
  - Flu activity continues to increase in the US. There have been 12 pediatric deaths from influenza reported so far this flu season, and even 1 preventable death is too many. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory on December 27, 2017. In the US, influenza A(H3N2) viruses are predominating this season. In the past, influenza A(H3N2) virus-predominant influenza seasons have been associated with more hospitalizations and deaths in persons aged 65 years and older and young children compared to other age groups. Influenza should be high on clinicians’ lists of possible diagnoses for ill patients because influenza activity is increasing. Hospitalized patients and all high-risk patients with suspected influenza should be treated as soon as possible with antiviral medications. 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.
FEMA Children & Disasters Newsletter

New Year, New Plan: Be Prepared in 2018
Family Preparedness is critically important. See the FEMA [video](#) with ideas from families and the [AAP Family Readiness Kit](#) which includes readiness strategies that can be used in most situations. The kit includes simple steps to help families build a kit, make a plan, be informed, and get involved. Pediatricians can share the video and the kit with families during routine office visits.

Many States Fall Short on Emergency Preparedness
As outlined in a recent [AAP News article](#), many states are not well-prepared to respond to public health emergencies. Trust for America’s Health scored states’ health emergency preparedness using 10 indicators. Twenty-five states met 5 or fewer of the 10 indicators. Scores are not an indicator of how specific health departments are performing. The findings are detailed in the report, “[Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism](#)”. The report also offers recommendations to improve preparedness.

Prepare for Winter Weather
During winter months, the likelihood of carbon monoxide poisoning increases when gasoline or diesel-powered generators may be more frequently used to supply power. The AAP urges clinicians, families and communities to work together to protect children against carbon monoxide poisoning. See the [AAP Protecting Children from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#) Web page for more information. Also see the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units [fact sheet](#) aimed at parents and families. This fact sheet describes the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, highlights concerns of carbon monoxide poisoning in pregnancy, and discusses sources of carbon monoxide in a disaster setting. In the event of a power outage, pediatricians can encourage families to become educated about the risks and to have [flashlights](#) or battery-powered lanterns ready and available. For other ways to protect children in times of severe weather, visit the [AAP Extreme Temperatures](#) Web page.

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).