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.

Critical Updates

- **Family Separation**
  The Academy continues its efforts to speak out against family separation, while urging that detention of children is not the solution. In June 2018, a US district court ordered the federal government to end family separation and to reunite immigrant parents with the 2,300 children who had been separated from their parents under the Trump administration’s family separation policy. The Academy and UNICEF USA issued a joint press release, praising the order and offering assistance in reunifying families and supporting their needs. As of now, it remains unclear as to how the government plans to reunite these families or whether families will remain in detention upon reunification, something the AAP opposes per its 2017 policy statement, “Detention of Immigrant Children”. Additional AAP recommendations can be found in the AAP policy statement, “Providing Care for Immigrant, Migrant, and Border Children”.

- **AAP District Meetings: Presentations on Disaster Topics**
  This year, each of the AAP District meetings includes discussions, presentations, or exercises focused on pediatric disaster preparedness or response topics. Materials, such as a Chapter Preparedness Checklist and the Chapter Planning Template were shared, along with the Family Readiness Kit and the Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices. For additional information, please email DisasterReady@aap.org.

- **Ready Wrigley Coping After a Disaster Activity Booklet for Children**
  The AAP and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have collaborated to release Ready Wrigley disaster preparedness activity books for children 2 to 8 years of age. Each book includes tips, activities, and stories to help the families prepare for disasters. A new Ready Wrigley Coping After a Disaster book was recently released. Previous versions of the books can be found online.

- **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. Recent webinars in this series, “Planning for Hospital Pediatric Surge: Solutions Within Reach”, and “Family Reunification: Debut of a New AAP Tool”, will be archived on the AAP Disaster Preparedness and Response Webinar Archives Web page.

- **New AAP Web Page on Volcanoes**
  Although they happen infrequently, volcanoes can result in emergency situations and health conditions that impact children. In collaboration with the AAP Council on Environmental Health, Hawaii AAP Chapter leaders, and a volcano expert, the AAP DPAC developed a new Volcanos Web page on the AAP Children & Disasters Web site.
What’s the Latest with the Flu?
Although flu activity is winding down in most of the country, it’s important to recognize that flu viruses continue to circulate at low levels even during the summer. For the 2018-2019 influenza season, the AAP recommends intramuscular inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) for children, as it has been more consistently effective against most strains of flu in recent seasons, but says that the nasal vaccine (LAIV) may be an option for kids who otherwise would not be vaccinated. See the June 2018 AAP What’s the Latest with the Flu? message for additional information. This is the last message specific to the 2017-2018 flu season.

New AAP Voices Blog on USVI Health Brigade on Zika
AAP Voices is the official blog of the AAP, where AAP member pediatricians and others share their perspectives on a wide variety of topics relating to children’s health and wellness. Shana Godfred-Cato, DO, FAAP, recently shared her experience as part of a team of pediatric care providers requested by the US Virgin Islands Department of Health to help respond to health and developmental needs for a growing number of children born to mothers who tested positive for Zika virus infection. See the blog, “Answering the Call for Pediatric Specialty Care in the Wake of Zika and Two Hurricanes”.

Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program Call for Proposals
The CATCH program is a national initiative of the AAP that supports pediatricians to collaborate within their communities to implement projects that advance the health of all children. The CATCH Program 2019 Cycle 1 call for proposals is open through July 31, 2018, at 3:00pm ET/2:00pm CT. Click here to find the guidelines which include special funding opportunities. If interested, the application can be found online.

Educational Opportunities
Pediatric Musculoskeletal Boot Camp for Primary Care Providers
The AAP Section on Orthopedics annual Pediatric Musculoskeletal Boot Camp for Primary Care Providers is taking place at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center (Hershey, PA) and at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago (Chicago, IL) on September 29, 2018. The boot camp combines lectures, workshops, debates, and question and answer sessions aimed at improving the musculoskeletal care of children. This program is targeted toward pediatricians, primary care physicians, and advanced practice providers who work with children.

American Academy of Pediatrics 2018 National Conference and Exhibition Joint Program: Section on Infectious Diseases (SOID) and DPAC
This year, the 2018 AAP National Conference is taking place November 2-6, 2018, in Orlando, FL. The AAP DPAC and the AAP SOID are presenting a joint session titled “Improving Pediatric Office Preparedness and Addressing Children’s Needs in the Context of Infectious Disease Outbreaks and Disasters” on November 5, 2018, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. See the AAP Upcoming Events Web page for additional conference sessions and events that focus on disaster medicine.

Hurricane Recovery Webinar
Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2018
Time: 4:00pm ET/3:00pm CT
Registration Link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q2LXZ5X
Presenters: Scott Needle, MD, FAAP; David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP
This webinar, titled: “Hurricanes and Storms: From Preparedness to Recovery, Strategies for a Brighter Future”, will provide guidance on why disaster response and recovery efforts are critically important for all pediatricians and discuss how pediatricians can prepare to respond and help colleagues and families to recover after a disaster. 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. Email DisasterReady@aap.org to be added to a Save-the-Date calendar appointment that will include call-in details and a webinar link. Registration is required.
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, 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.

The National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference
Date: November 27–29, 2018
Location: New Orleans, LA

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