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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. **Registration** for the 2018 Preparedness Summit is open. Please note that an AAP Session titled “Hurricane Harvey: Key Response Moments Involving Children” will be held 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. If you plan to attend this Summit and might want to connect with other AAP leaders who are attending, please e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.

FYI's

- **ASPR Webinar: Pediatric Issues in Disasters - Recording Available**
  The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) **Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange** (TRACIE) held its first webinar of 2018 titled, “Pediatric Issues in Disasters”. The webinar shared examples and best practices of how to integrate pediatric issues in health care preparedness plans, trainings, and exercises. Speakers for the webinar included Michael Frogel, MD; Steve Krug, MD, FAAP; Scott Needle, MD, FAAP; Patricia Frost, RN, MS, PNP; Jake Marshall, MPS, CEM, FF-NRP; Diane Pilkey RN, MPH; and Michael Wargo, RN, BSN, MBA, PHRN. The PowerPoint slides, webinar recording, and speaker bios are available. Please note that you will be asked to enter your name and email address prior to accessing the recording.

- **Public Health Matters Blog: After the Storm: Helping Kids Cope**
  The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **Public Health Matters Blog** provides information about steps that are being taken in public health to protect and save lives through education, awareness, research, and promoting healthy lifestyles. Recently, a blog was released titled, “After the Storm: Helping Kids Cope”, that describes the issues and needs of children who were displaced as a result of the 2017 hurricanes. **Subscribe** to future Blog releases. For more information, visit the AAP **Promoting Adjustment and Helping Children Cope** and AAP **Hurricane Response and Recovery** resource pages, as well as the **National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement** Web site.
AAP Urges Leaders to Protect Communities from Gun Violence

The AAP offers its deepest condolences to the victims and families who lost loved ones in the shooting in Parkland, Florida. The press release on the AAP response to this situation by AAP President Colleen Kraft, MD, FAAP, can be found here. In the press release, it notes that the AAP advocates for stronger state and federal gun laws that protect children, including a ban on assault weapons like the one used in the school shooting. The AAP also calls for stronger background checks, solutions for addressing firearm trafficking, and encouraging safe firearm storage. Dr Kraft and David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP, co-wrote a letter to the New York Times editor. See the AAP Promoting Adjustment and Helping Children Cope and the AAP Talking to Children About Tragedies & Other News Events resource pages. Also, a two-page guide titled “Talking to Children About Terrorist Attacks and School and Community Shootings in the News”, offers advice on how to talk to children about tragic events. It provides answers to questions parents and caregivers may ask about talking to children about the tragedy.

Preparing for Spring Flooding

The current floods in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio illustrate that it is not too early to expect flooding. Floods are one of the most common hazards in the US and account for approximately 30% of disasters worldwide. Pediatricians play a central role in preparing families for flooding. Start by explaining the difference between a flood watch and a flood warning. A flood watch means that conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area. A flood warning means that flooding is either happening or will happen shortly. Flash floods are the number one cause of weather-related deaths in the US, so it’s important to discuss what a flash flood is and how to avoid risks. Pediatricians can direct families to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guide, “How To Prepare For A Flood” for additional information.

Flu Activity Remains Elevated in the US

Flu activity remains elevated in the US with 48 states still reporting widespread influenza activity. To date, 97 children have died from influenza this flu season, as noted in a recent AAP News article. Given this widespread influenza activity, clinicians should consider influenza infection as a highly possible diagnosis in patients with fever, cough and other respiratory symptoms, regardless of age. People with severe or progressive illness, hospitalized patients, and all high-risk patients with suspected influenza should be treated as soon as possible with antiviral medications. It should be noted that some manufacturers are reporting delays in filling antiviral medication orders. The CDC offers an Antiviral Drug Supply Web page that is updated regularly. Information regarding antiviral drug supply was shared with all AAP chapters. See the AAP Red Book Online Influenza Resource Page or the AAP What’s the Latest with the Flu Web page for additional information.

Online Course – Influenza Prevention and Control – Strategies for Early Education and Childcare 2017-2018

Partnering with early education and child care programs or schools to encourage proper influenza prevention and control strategies for all children, staff, and caregivers is hugely beneficial. Consider sharing the free AAP online PediaLink course “Influenza Prevention and Control – Strategies for Early Education and Childcare 2017-2018” with staff and others who work in Head Start and other early education and child care programs. After completion of this course, participants will be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of influenza, explain how influenza is spread, describe national and AAP recommendations regarding influenza, discuss the role of caregivers and teachers in preventing and controlling the spread of influenza, and much more. The course is approved for 1.0 contact hour.

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