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.

Project Announcements

- **Announcement: State Preparedness Funding Awarded!**

  The AAP offered a funding opportunity to AAP chapters, states or regions to support implementation of state-level activities designed to improve pediatric infectious disease and natural disaster emergency preparedness. Six AAP chapters and 1 district as listed below were approved. Project descriptions and points of contact follow:

  **Arizona AAP Chapter (Contact: Anne Stafford, MA, anne@azaap.org)**

  As part of the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP) Pediatric Prepared Emergency Care (PPEC) program, which is a partnership between the Chapter and the Arizona Department of Health Services that provides a voluntary certification recognizing hospitals that have demonstrated their ability to stabilize and/or manage pediatric medical emergencies, the AzAAP will conduct a PPEC Disaster Preparedness and Planning Workshop for rural, urban, and tribal certified hospitals and free-standing emergency departments, their employees, and community members. This workshop will allow collaboration on evidence-based learning activities, learning and sharing from both certified and soon to be on-boarded PPEC certified entities, the sharing of information from larger urban hospital systems to rural and tribal hospitals, and the development and enhancement of emergency department disaster plans and policies.

  **AAP District IX in California (Contact: Kris Calvin, office@aap-ca.org)**

  The 4 California-based AAP chapters are collaborating on regional projects to educate and prepare pediatricians for pediatric disasters and/or emergencies across the state. Each chapter will host continuing medical education seminars and other activities to share information regarding available resources for specific regional disasters. Target audiences for this education and information sharing include pediatricians, other healthcare providers, local school health professionals, and state and community staff/entities. In addition to improving individual pediatrician readiness for disasters and emergencies, a primary goal of this project will be to engage participants across professions and organizations, to enable them to better work together in a sustainable fashion.

  **Maryland AAP Chapter (Contact: Richard Lichenstein, MD, FAAP, samidad@verizon.net)**

  The AAP Maryland Chapter has worked with the chapter leaders to plan a pediatric needs assessment for disaster preparedness within the state. Chapter leaders plan to develop a comprehensive competency and gap assessment of Maryland's pediatric disaster preparedness capacities and capabilities through an electronic survey. This effort will include activities to identify planning, training, and resource inadequacies, and to learn about existing commitments and status within the pediatric and Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) health care communities.
Additionally, key stakeholder focus groups will help the chapter validate the specific pediatric needs in the Eastern Shore region and create educational tools and planning resources. Ultimately, these efforts will facilitate coordination and planning for the care of children during disasters in Maryland with eventual creation of a specific implementable toolkit for the Eastern Shore region. The Maryland AAP disaster preparedness committee will also catalogue existing and recurring pediatric disaster preparedness activities through communications with hospitals, other centers, and the Health Department.

Massachusetts AAP Chapter (Contact: Cathleen Haggerty, chaggerty@mcaap.org)
Man-made and natural disasters continue to increase in frequency. After a disaster, hospitals will receive victims - particularly unaccompanied children - even if they are unharmed. In this role, hospitals need active partnerships with state and local emergency management professionals to assist in reuniting families with their loved ones. Given that only 46.8% of hospitals in the US have disaster plans that include children, a hospital family reunification plan that synchronizes with the broader community plan is essential to providing the first steps to recovery. Starting in the late fall of 2016, the AAP DPAC convened family reunification experts to discuss the creation of a hospital family reunification planning template. Representation on monthly calls included federal and national groups such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, state and regional leaders, and emergency management leaders, as well as local hospital pediatricians and emergency management representing all regions of the US. With the assistance of the state preparedness funding opportunity, this group will finalize the hospital reunification planning template, vet the template in 2 states (MA and MO) and pilot test the template in 4 hospitals. The final planning tool will be formatted for easy-use and broadly shared.

Michigan AAP Chapter (Contact: Teresa Holtrop, MD, FAAP, tholtrop@wchap.org)
The Michigan AAP Chapter (MiAAP) has partnered with the State Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) representative, state preparedness planning professionals, and Regional Healthcare Coalitions from across the entire State, to launch a project that will promote pediatric preparedness in all of the regions, both for disaster, but also for everyday pediatric surge. The MiAAP Disaster Chapter Contact, along with other MiAAP leaders (Chapter President plus other MiAAP members) have designed and will conduct a Web-based, simultaneous tabletop exercise of a pediatric mass casualty incident. Pediatric champions from the 8 Michigan regions (HHS Designated Healthcare Coalitions) will lead teams in their region to “play” through the exercise, react to scenarios and discuss how their region would manage the mass casualty (in this case a school bus fire with multiple injured children). This exercise will include consideration of how prehospital and hospital resources would be used and how the pediatric experts and chapter members in that region would be engaged or contribute. During the course of play, data will be gathered around that region’s response capabilities, gaps, etc. After-exercise analysis will better help EMSC, MiAAP, the State of Michigan and the regional coalitions to understand each other’s capabilities, to share resources (example, tools available through EMSC and AAP to hospitals) and to strengthen ties between the MiAAP Chapter and other preparedness partners.

Minnesota AAP Chapter (Contact: Katherine Cairns, MPH, MBA, cairns@mnaap.org)
The Minnesota Chapter of the AAP and the Minnesota Department of Health are collaborating to develop a Minnesota Pediatric Surge Education Curriculum. This state preparedness funding opportunity will be used to create and distribute materials and educate both medical and community stakeholders on how to handle large volumes of sick or injured children. The goal is to host trainings in the 8 Health Care Coalition Regions of Minnesota and record and post video versions of the trainings on the Internet for free access.

Ohio AAP Chapter (Contact: Deanna Dahl-Grove, MD, FAAP, dld7@case.edu)
The Ohio Pediatric Disaster Coalition will create a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) disaster exercise to expand on the recently released AAP clinical report, “Emergency Preparedness in Neonatal Intensive Care Units”. The Ohio-based AAP members have expressed concerns regarding transportation, evacuation, and
surge among the many aspects of caring for this vulnerable population, especially during a disaster, and this project will better prepare Ohio hospitals for a disaster.

The funding for the state preparedness projects is supported by cooperative agreement number, 5 NU380T000167-05-00, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

➢ What’s the Latest with the Flu

Flu activity is low in the US. With flu being unpredictable, it’s not possible to say when, where, or how quickly flu activity might increase, how severe it will be, or which viruses will predominate. See the AAP policy “Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2017 - 2018” for updated recommendations on the routine use of seasonal influenza vaccines and antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza in children. Also see the recent AAP News article noting an update to the policy to provide dosage and administration information for intravenous peramivir, a neuraminidase inhibitor. For additional information, visit the AAP What’s the Latest with the Flu Web page.

Save The Date

➢ Upcoming AAP/CDC Webinar

Title: What’s New for the 2017-2018 Flu Season: Recommendations for Children
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT
Zoom Webinar Link: https://zoom.us/j/712924341

The AAP is collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinar titled, “What’s New for the 2017-2018 Flu Season: Recommendations for Children”. During this COCA call, subject matter experts from the AAP and CDC will highlight critical information about this year’s flu season, and discuss strategies primary care providers and medical subspecialists can implement to improve flu prevention and control in children. Registration is not required. The webinar will be archived. To be added to a calendar appointment with call-in details, email DisasterReady@aap.org.

➢ Upcoming ASPR TRACIE Webinar

Title: Highly Pathogenic Infectious Disease Exercise Planning for Healthcare Coalitions
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT
Registraion Link: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/395047384592847373

Join the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (ASPR TRACIE) and the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC) for a webinar titled, “Highly Pathogenic Infectious Disease Exercise Planning for Healthcare Coalitions”. This is the fourth in a series of joint webinars that will highlight NETEC’s free exercise templates for health care coalitions (HCCs) to test their readiness to manage patients suspected or known to have a highly infectious disease. The webinar will feature speakers from HCCs that have already exercised their plans. Each registrant will receive a unique link needed to access the webinar. The webinar will be limited to the first 1,000 registrants. The webinar will be recorded and archived on the ASPR TRACIE Web site.

FYIs

➢ Media Visiting Professorship Opportunity

The AAP Council on Communications and Media (COCM) is accepting applications for the 2018 Media Visiting Professorship. Each year, the COCM invites hospitals and institutions to apply to host a pediatric media expert who spends 1 to 2 days at the selected institution conducting lectures, seminars, or rounds. Preference will be given to those institutions that can supply an audience of pediatricians, pediatric residents, and medical students and can link with the community to include a presentation or webinar to parents and/or teachers. The deadline for
submissions is January 2, 2018, and the visit must take place by June 30, 2018. Information and an online application can be found [here](#). Questions can be directed to [cocm@aap.org](mailto:cocm@aap.org).


  On October 17th, FEMA published the third edition of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Released 15 months after the public draft, NIMS 3.0 is the first update of the Nation's incident management system since March of 2008. NIMS provides a common, nationwide approach to enable the whole community to work together to manage all threats and hazards. NIMS applies to all incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity. More information can be found [here](#).

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