American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

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 DPAC Strategic Plan for Disaster Preparedness 2016–2020.

Key Resources

Recent Cases of Acute Flaccid Myelitis
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has noted a spike in cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in 22 states this year, most of which have been in children. This rare but serious disease is characterized by sudden muscle weakness. AFM is defined as acute onset of focal limb weakness and an MRI showing spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter spanning 1 or more vertebral segments (confirmed case) or cerebrospinal fluid with pleocytosis (probable case). For additional information, see the AAP Acute Flaccid Myelitis in Children Web page and the October 17, 2018, AAP News article, “CDC Seeks Cause of Acute Flaccid Myelitis as Cases Spike”. The AAP also released a Web page for parents.

Prepare for Winter Weather
With colder weather approaching, now is the time to start preparing for the winter months. During winter, children require protection from extreme temperatures. The likelihood of carbon monoxide poisoning increases when gasoline or diesel-powered generators may be more frequently used to supply power to generate heat. 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. As part of general preparedness planning discussions, pediatricians can refer families to the AAP Family Readiness Kit and to discuss ways to prepare ahead for power outages.
**Influenza Season 2018–2019**

Influenza activity in the United States remains low. Vaccination remains the best available preventive measure against influenza illness. The AAP policy “Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2018–2019” offers updated recommendations for the routine use of seasonal influenza vaccines and antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza in children. This year, the AAP recommends inactivated influenza vaccine (trivalent IIV3 or quadrivalent IIV4) given in shot form as the primary choice for children. This recommendation was made because the quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4) given via nasal spray showed inferior effectiveness against the A/H1N1 influenza virus strain during the 2013–14 and 2015–16 flu seasons. In addition, the effectiveness of the 2018–19 LAIV4 formulation against A/H1N1 viruses has not yet been documented in the US. Clinicians can view the AAP/CDC archived webinar, “2018–2019 Recommendations for Influenza Prevention and Treatment in Children: An Update for Pediatric Providers”, as well as the AAP News article, “AAP Policy Emphasizes Importance of Vaccination after High-severity Flu Season” and the AAP “What’s the Latest with the Flu” messaging series for additional information.

**Early Childhood Emergency Preparedness Manual**

Emergencies often happen suddenly and can be devastating to early childhood programs and communities. Early childhood education programs play an important role in supporting children and families in their local communities before, during, and after an emergency. Pediatricians can assist these programs to prepare for disasters by discussing and sharing the recently updated Emergency Preparedness Manual for Early Childhood Programs. This manual is intended to assist early childhood education programs in making plans that will help keep their Head Start program, child care center, or family child care home safe during an emergency. Additional resources are available on the Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center Emergency Preparedness page.

**Awardees Announced: Partnership for Disaster Health Response Cooperative Agreement**

During disasters, citizens may require specialty care surpassing the care available in the community. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) awarded 2 grants of $3 million dollars through a competitive application process to demonstrate how a Regional Disaster Health Response System could meet these needs. The funding was awarded to the states of Massachusetts and Nebraska. The purpose of these grants is to conduct pilot projects that show the potential effectiveness and viability of a Regional Disaster Health Response System. For additional information, see the September 2018 announcement.

**AAP Policy: Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department**

The AAP, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), published updated joint guidelines in the November 2018 issue of Pediatrics titled, “Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department,” that recommends ways health care providers can make sure every injured or critically ill child receives the best care possible. This is a revision of a 2009 AAP policy statement and highlights recent advances in pediatric emergency care that can be incorporated into all hospital emergency departments that care for children. The statement emphasizes the importance of evidence–based guidelines and includes additional recommendations for quality improvement plans focusing on children and disaster preparedness.
Education/Training

**AAP 2018 National Conference & Exhibition**
We look forward to seeing you soon at the AAP 2018 National Conference in Orlando! See the AAP Upcoming Events Web page for details on sessions that focus on disaster medicine. Registration is open for the conference. Access the Conference Schedule to view all sessions, special events, and meeting details.

During the conference, a physician health and wellness booth will be available to give individual information and education to physicians about their personal health care needs. By visiting the booth, attendees will be provided with information about adult immunizations, cancer screening, cardiovascular disease, menopause, vitamins, diet, exercise, stress, and burnout so that attendees can better understand what they can do to become healthier. Free 1-on-1 consultation will be available. The booth is located in the Orange County Convention Center West Building Hall B, within the AAP Exhibit Hall. The booth will be open on Saturday, November 3 (12:15 pm–4:00 pm); Sunday, November 4 (10:00 am–4:00 pm); and Monday, November 5 (10:00 am–2:00 pm).

**Save the Date: Acute Flaccid Myelitis: What Health Care Providers Need to Know Webinar**
**Date:** November 13, 2018  
**Time:** 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT  
**Webinar Link:** [https://zoom.us/j/272662215](https://zoom.us/j/272662215)

The CDC is actively investigating AFM, a serious condition that causes weakness in the arms or legs. From August 2014 through October 2018, the CDC has received information on a total of 396 confirmed cases of AFM across the US; most of the cases have occurred in children. During this webinar, subject matter experts from the CDC will highlight the importance of reporting cases to learn more about this condition and the process for reporting. The presenters will also cover specimen collection and testing, and what CDC is doing for its AFM investigation. A few minutes before the webinar begins, please click the link above to join the webinar.

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

The National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference highlights best practices of health care coalitions from across the United States and provides opportunities for attendees to network with peers, share ideas, and learn from others' experiences in building and sustaining effective health care coalitions. Registration for the conference is available. Questions about the conference should be directed to [info@healthcarecoalitions.org](mailto:info@healthcarecoalitions.org). The AAP will convene 2 sessions at the conference:

**Title:** Zika Takeaways: Lessons Learned that Can Accelerate Response in Future Emergencies  
**Date/Time:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018, from 11:00 am–12:15 pm  
**Presenters:** Carey Eppes, MD, FACOG; Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP; Rebecca Leeb, PhD  
**Session Description:** This session will highlight collaborative efforts among the AAP, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the CDC to develop clinical guidance and resources on Zika treatment for pregnant women and infants with congenital infection, assess health care provider preparedness for future infectious disease outbreaks, and evaluate Zika response efforts. Results from 2018 AAP and ACOG member surveys will be highlighted to guide efforts in future responses.
Title: Lessons Learned from Real and Simulated Pediatric Events: From Evacuation to Hurricane Recovery

Date/Time: Thursday, November 29, 2018, from 10:30 am–11:45 am

Presenters: Sarita Chung, MD, FAAP; Deanna Dahl-Grove, MD, FAAP; Jahzel Gonzalez, MD, FAAP; Brent Kaziny, MD, FAAP

Session Description: This session will 1) describe the Ohio Pediatric Disaster Coalition’s process to address the needs of hospitals within the state to create an exercise on how to care for pediatric patients within neonatal intensive care units requiring evacuation, 2) identify strategies used by pediatricians on the front lines of the 2017 hurricanes in Texas and Puerto Rico that will assist attendees in recovering from future hurricanes, 3) demonstrate a new AAP hospital reunification planning template, and 4) describe challenges, resources, and lessons learned from experiences with reunification planning in real-life disasters.

2019 Preparedness Summit: The Evolving Threat Environment

Date: March 26–29, 2019

Location: St Louis, MO

The 2019 Preparedness Summit will feature experts from the health care and emergency management fields in addition to public health preparedness professionals to address the gaps between these representatives to facilitate collaborations when planning for emerging threats. The earlier you register, the more you save!

Online Course: Influenza Update: Prevention, Treatment, and Management of Influenza

This 6-part AAP course series provides key information about the 2018–2019 flu season. The purpose of this series is to educate pediatric health care professionals on the current AAP policy recommendations for routine use of seasonal influenza vaccine and antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza in infants, children, and adolescents. The following content is included:

- Activity 1: Clinical Presentation and Complications
- Activity 2: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Tests
- Activity 3: Prevention of Influenza
- Activity 4: Treatment for the Clinician
- Activity 5: Vaccination in Egg-Allergic Individuals
- Activity 6: Immunizations for all Health Care Personnel.

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, see www.aap.org/disasters or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.