

# PEDIATRIC DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING IN LOUISIANA

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**Every disaster has a pediatric component, whether directly or indirectly, that can impact the health and well-being of children and families for generations.**

## Goals of the Project

1. **ENGAGE** Pediatricians in disaster preparedness!!
2. Translate the AAP/CDC Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Tabletop Exercise of January 2016 into a statewide program to develop regional communication and infrastructure to address pediatric needs during disasters.



## The Louisiana Approach

1. Identify people in each Public Health Region who are key points of contact for disaster response.
2. Identify Pediatricians and Family Medicine Physicians in each Public Health Region to serve as liaisons to the LA-AAP for Pediatric disaster preparedness.
3. Develop pediatric training modules for state-specific responses to natural disasters, terrorist events and infectious disease pandemics.
4. Implement a Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Roundtable Training program for statewide (Phase 1) and regional (Phase 2) training on pediatric-specific responses to disaster events.
5. Implement a training and mobilization plan for deployment of Pediatric and Family Medicine Residents during in-state disaster responses (Phase 3).

## Phase 1

- 49 attendees included 16 physicians, 16 state-level and 17 regional/local public health personnel.
- 9AM to 3PM program held on September 22, 2017
- Overview of Public Health infrastructure for disaster response, by topic area
  - Stockpile, ESFs, Vital Records, Epidemiology, Office of Community Preparedness, Vaccines
- Tabletop discussions by small groups, then reporting to the entire group.

## Phase 2

Regional training sessions in Spring 2018

## Phase 3 (Summer 2018)

Develop mechanisms and dedicated funding for deployment of pediatric residents from unaffected areas to disaster areas to assist with pediatric medical, psychological and social needs.

- 4-6 representatives from each of the state's four pediatric residency programs
- Program Directors, plus one or two key faculty members from each program.
- Use the roundtable format as a team-building exercise.
- Develop plans for deployment of resident teams to affected areas of the state.

## Tabletop Exercises

- Three scenarios for discussion:
  - Infectious disease outbreak (Pandemic influenza)
  - Natural disaster (No notice flood)
  - Terrorism event (Anthrax release at Mardi Gras!!)
- Consideration of common and unique features for different disaster scenarios.
  - Physical and emotional impacts on children
- Evaluate the needs for each scenario at 2 hours, 2 days, 2 weeks, 2 months and 2 years post-event.
  - Single event vs. predictable waves
  - Mass casualty vs. widespread morbidity
  - Short-term vs. long-term effects
- Identification of state agencies and resources with specific infrastructure related to each scenario.
  - Basic necessities (food, clothing, shelter)
  - Strategic stockpile activation
  - FEMA and National Guard resource requests

## Key Resources

Available at: [www.AAP.org/disaster](http://www.AAP.org/disaster)



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