

# Children & Disasters

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**June 2010**

TO: AAP Disaster Preparedness Contact Network

FROM: Daniel B Fagbuyi, MD, FAAP, Member, Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council  
Laura Aird, MS, Manager, Disaster Preparedness

RE: AAP DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) is pleased to provide you with information on its high priority activities. Additional information can be found in previous [Contact Network Newsletters](#). For more information on the DPAC, including a list of members and liaisons, refer to [AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council](#).

## **HAITI EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY**

The AAP, with support from the DPAC, is working at various levels to ensure that children's needs in Haiti are considered and taken care of in a strategic manner. Most recently, the AAP asked Gary Q Peck, MD, FAAP to assist in determining the most effective strategies for coordinating (and improving) pediatric care in Haiti after the earthquakes. Dr Peck, along with AAP President Judith Palfrey, MD, FAAP, traveled to Haiti and visited facilities that care for children (such as St Damien Pediatric Hospital, Hopital Universite d'Etat d'Haiti, Community Hospital, and J/P Haitian Relief Effort) and met with representatives from the Haitian Pediatric Society, Project Medishare, Haitian Medical School, Ministry of Health, the International Organization of Migrations, and other partners. A follow-up trip that will include some focused strategic planning with the Haitian Pediatric Society executive committee is being planned for the end of the month. For more information and resources, see [AAP Haiti Response](#).

In January 2010, the AAP sent out a call seeking members who wished to help in Haiti, and more than 600 individuals responded. An electronic mailing list was created and used to provide information and a vehicle for members to communicate. The AAP is working with Bonita Stanton, MD, President of the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, and Michael Callaghan, MD to conduct a survey of AAP members who have provided medical relief in Haiti; more than 300 members have responded to date. The purpose of the survey is to compile information on members' observations to inform future preparedness efforts.

We are aware that these activities in no way capture the efforts of members who did not travel to Haiti but who made significant contributions by supporting pediatric response and recovery efforts from within the United States. If you have ideas on how to improve preparedness based on experiences related to Haiti, please e-mail them to [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

## **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES**

The AAP provides various resources to promote emergency preparedness. This year's Hurricane Season runs from June 1st through November 30th, and experts are predicting a busier-than-usual season. Members can refer to relevant resources on [Hurricanes/Storms](#) or use [Disaster Preparedness for Pediatric Practices: An Online Tool](#) to help develop a written preparedness plan. The following resources are new this year: [Standards for Disaster Shelter Care for Children](#) and [Supplies for Infants/Toddlers in Mass Care Shelters](#).

## **H1N1 PANDEMIC**

DPAC member Daniel Fagbuyi, MD, FAAP and other Contact Network members made various presentations on H1N1 at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) 2010 Meeting in Vancouver, CA. [Sign up to view all abstracts](#). There were several other presentations at the AAP 2010 Pediatric Emergency Medicine Leadership Conference in San Antonio, TX. Presentations will be posted soon on the [AAP Section on Emergency Medicines Web site](#).

Select AAP staff and members are working to develop an "AAP H1N1 After-Action" report. This will be a brief report that will highlight the known challenges and some recommendations to support future preparedness. Once the After-Action report is complete, a brief handout/communication tool will be developed to highlight what was learned during the pandemic and identify what AAP members can do to promote preparedness for future public health emergencies. At the present time, the H1N1 virus is still circulating and vaccination is still recommended, so everyone should do what they can to encourage immunization. Free printable resources are available on [FLU.gov](#).

The AAP is in the process of compiling a Web page titled H1N1 Lessons Learned and Solutions. To submit your ideas or relevant information, e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org). For other resources, see [AAP H1N1 Resources for Health Professionals](#).

## **NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS (NCCD)**

Legislation entitled [The National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act of 2010](#) was recently introduced to extend the final report deadline and reauthorize the NCCD. The Commission delivered its [Interim Report](#) on October 14, 2009 and a follow-up report on May 13, 2010, titled [Progress Report on Children and Disasters: US Agencies Take Modest Steps to Achieve Commission Goals](#). The report revealed only modest progress of federal agencies in implementing recommendations designed to ensure better protections of children during major domestic disasters. The Commission calls for the White House to develop a National Strategy for Children and Disasters to command better integration, coordination, and outcomes from federal agencies and state, Tribal, local, and non-governmental partners. Congress must provide adequate resources to support first responders, hospitals, and a national disaster human services case management program to meet the recovery needs of children and families. For more information, see <http://www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov/>.

The NCCD was authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and is comprised of 10 commissioners, including 3 pediatricians—Michael Anderson, MD, FAAP; Irwin Redlener, MD, FAAP; and DPAC member David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP.

## **APPLAUSE PLEASE!**

The DPAC applauds the following agencies for their efforts to address pediatric disaster preparedness and the needs of children:

- The National Institute for Child Health and Human Development and representation by David Siegel, MD, FAAP. Dr Siegel has been instrumental in ensuring pediatric representation at federal disaster-related meetings, particularly those related to medical countermeasures.
- The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response for convening an internal working group to review the US Department of Health and Human Services and Administration for Children and Families activities and research related to children and disasters to support the implementation of the [National Health Security Strategy](#).

## OPPORTUNITIES

### **Call for Potential Members – AMA National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium**

The American Medical Association (AMA) is seeking nominations for 3 vacancies on its National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium™ (NDLSEC™) Executive Committee. The mission of the NDLSEC™ is to achieve and promote excellence in education, training, and research related to disaster medicine and public health preparedness. Representatives serve 2-year terms with a maximum tenure of 3 terms. A demonstrated interest in disaster medicine and public health preparedness is desirable. Additional information, including the nomination form and instructions, is available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/ndlsec-nominations>. Nominations must be received by June 25, 2010. Please also notify Laura Aird, MS, Manager, Disaster Preparedness, at [laird@aap.org](mailto:laird@aap.org) if you are an AAP member and apply or are interested in this opportunity.

### **DPAC is Seeking Disaster Preparedness Contacts and Updates on State Initiatives**

More than half of all AAP Chapters have identified an AAP member volunteer who can serve as a Disaster Preparedness point-of-contact. Information on these contacts and relevant state initiatives is compiled on the [AAP Children & Disasters State Initiatives page](#). Please check the information that relates to your state chapter. Much has happened since this information was initially posted (including the H1N1 pandemic influenza), and the DPAC would like to post current information and updates on projects that might inspire members and chapters to take action to promote preparedness. E-mail your updates to [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

### **National Biodefense Science Board: Call for Nominees**

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is accepting resumes or curricula vitae from qualified individuals who wish to be considered for membership on the National Biodefense Science Board. Six members have membership expiration dates of December 31, 2010. Nominees are being accepted in the following categories: industry; academia; health care consumers, state and local governments and public health agencies; emergency responders; and organizations representing other appropriate stakeholders. Submit a resume or curriculum vitae to [nbsb@hhs.gov](mailto:nbsb@hhs.gov) by June 30, 2010. More information is available online at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-13177.htm>.

### **Register for the AAP NCE**

Register to attend the 2010 [AAP National Conference & Exhibition](#) (NCE). See the [Events Calendar](#) for information on disaster preparedness sessions. [Online meeting registration and hotel reservations](#) are available now!

### **AAP CHILDREN & DISASTERS WEB SITE**

The DPAC is pleased to announce that the AAP Children and Disasters Web site has been redesigned to include an easier-to-use layout and navigation. The updated site includes:

- [AAP Information on the Oil Spill Affecting the Gulf Coast](#)
- Updated "What's New" and "Key Resources" sections on the revised [home page](#).
- [Preparing Child Care Programs for Pandemic Influenza](#)
- New resources to promote preparedness and awareness on the [Hurricanes/Storms page](#).

We appreciate your efforts to care and advocate for the needs of children! Please e-mail any comments to [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).