



CHILDREN AND DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



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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](#).

New Projects

➤ **AAP Awarded Additional Funding for Zika Virus Prevention and Response**

The AAP has been awarded an additional \$740,000 for Zika virus prevention and response activities from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The AAP will work with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as Zero to Three on this project. Project activities include national-level surveys to understand members' knowledge, attitudes, and practices around Zika virus, a large-scale meeting of experts, webinars, educational events, and state-specific outreach activities to members and families.

New Publications

➤ **Pediatric Article - Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Among Child Care Center Directors in 2008 and 2016**

To see how well child care centers are prepared to manage a pandemic flu outbreak, the AAP and the CDC conducted a telephone-based survey of child care center directors – in both 2008 and 2016 – before and after the 2009 H1N1 novel influenza pandemic. The results of the study appeared in the May 2017 issue of *Pediatrics*. The article, "[Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Among Child Care Center Directors in 2008 and 2016](#)", shows that only 7 percent of directors had taken actions to prepare their centers for a pandemic flu outbreak. To help child care center directors increase preparedness efforts, recommended actions are included. The AAP circulated information in this [AAP News](#) article. To promote connections between pediatricians and child care programs, the AAP is launching a Pediatric Preparedness Ambassadors program in June 2017.

➤ **Clinical Report - Disaster Preparedness in Neonatal Intensive Care Units**

The "[Disaster Preparedness in Neonatal Intensive Care Units](#)" clinical report authored by the AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn and the DPAC was recently published in the May 2017 edition of *Pediatrics*. This clinical report reviews disasters that have affected Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) in the United States and then examines how organizing concepts of mass critical care in pediatrics can be applied to the NICU, including the role of regionalized perinatal systems; disaster-based drills; and training, equipment, medication, and personnel needs.

Project Announcements

➤ **Emergency Preparedness in the NICU Webinar**

The AAP hosted another webinar in the Children's Hospitals and Preparedness series, "[Emergency Preparedness in the NICU](#)". RADM Wanda Barfield, MD, MPH, FAAP, and Douglas Carbine, MD, FAAP, discussed key issues in preparing to respond to a disaster that affects NICUs, and presented case studies and best practices that can help you and your colleagues to prepare. A total of 647 people participated via the webinar platform, and 245 people participated via the telephone.

➤ **Who's on First? Handoff Strategies in the Children's Hospital Webinar**

The AAP is hosting another webinar in the Children's Hospitals and Preparedness series, "Who's on First? Handoff Strategies in the Children's Hospital" taking place on Thursday, June 29, 2017, at 12:00pm-1:00pmCT. In this webinar, Toni Gross, MD, MPH, FAAP, AAP Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine; Jennifer Jewell, MD, FAAP, AAP Committee on Hospital Care; Paul Mullan, MD, MPH, FAAP; and Dana Ramirez, MD, FAAP, Section on Emergency Medicine will present on the AAP clinical report "[Standardization of Inpatient Handoff Communications](#)", a new policy statement, "[Handoffs: Transitions of Care for Children in the Emergency Department](#)" and two new tools, the 'Handoff Evaluation Tool' and the 'Briefing Checklist Tool'.

➤ **Zika Psychosocial Support Videos and Handouts Released**

With support from the CDC, two videos and accompanying handouts have been produced for families and providers caring for a child with a possible or confirmed congenital Zika virus syndrome. The family-focused video and handout, "Pediatrician Advice for Families: Responding to your Concerns about Zika" was produced in English and Spanish and is featured on a [Healthy Children Zika Resource page](#) and the [AAP Zika Resource page](#). In this video, David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at the University of Southern California and Carolina Peña, MD, FAAP, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente, West Los Angeles, provide expectant parents and their families with some basic information about the risks of Zika infection during pregnancy and recommends strategies to deal with stress if they are worried. Dr. Schonfeld and Dr Peña also address what expectant parents can do or expect if Zika virus infection is suspected or known during pregnancy. The pediatrician-focused video and handout, "Zika: Ten Tips for Pediatricians Supporting Families" can be found online as well. This video and handout focus on the pediatrician who is learning about Zika virus at the same time as their patients (who may be coming to them with questions). The video, featuring Dr Schonfeld, provides 10 tips for pediatricians to consider when speaking with their patients who may have a child with Zika virus syndrome, or are worried about possible infection in their unborn child.

The AAP would like to thank Dr Schonfeld and Dr Peña for their leadership on this project.

➤ **Members Supporting CDC Local Health Departments Zika Response Project**

AAP members in states with high risk for travel- or locally-acquired Zika infection have volunteered to join site visits to health departments in areas that are being funded by the CDC to support a Zika public health officer and conduct activities to strengthen data collection, reporting, and outreach to providers. There have been two rounds of funding for health departments thus far. In the first round, AAP members Eyla Boies, MD, FAAP; John Bradley, MD, FAAP; Dean Sidelinger, MD, FAAP; Alix Casler, MD, FAAP; Jmanuel Delarose, MD, FAAP; Brad Poss, MD, MMM, FAAP; Charles Pruitt, MD, FAAP; Chad Sanborn, MD, FAAP; Joelle Simpson, MD, FAAP; and Julie Wohrley, MD, FAAP, attended site visits in CA, District of Columbia, FL, IL, UT, TX, and VA. The second round of

site visits is ongoing in AZ, FL, MS, NY, and TX, and the AAP staff is working with chapters in these states to identify members who can join the visits.

➤ Ready Wrigley Preparedness for Flu Season

The CDC [Ready Wrigley activity book](#) series aims to build capacity in children's preparedness by inspiring youth readiness and promoting individual resilience. The books are designed for children 2 to 8 years of age. Each book is reviewed and endorsed by the AAP. To date, *Ready Wrigley* activity books have been developed for a variety of disaster-related topics, including earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter weather. The AAP worked with the CDC to develop and endorse a new [Ready Wrigley Activity Booklet](#) on [influenza](#). If you would like to request complimentary print copies of the influenza-focused book or the disaster-related books (up to 200 copies per location) while supplies last, email DisasterReady@AAP.org.

FYI's

➤ Joint Youth Leadership Report

In response to a request by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in May 2016, the National Preparedness and Response Science Board (NPRSB) and the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters (NACCD) developed the [Joint Youth Leadership Report](#). The report considers issues and opportunities associated with engaging the nation's youth in early identification and development of next-generation leadership in preparedness, response, and resilience. The report aims to identify promising practices; highlight the unique contributions youth can make to community and national preparedness and response; and recommend a discreet, prioritized set of strategic and tactical opportunities to recognize the nation's youth as assets and pursue their engagement toward assuring our overall resilience.

➤ Public Health Preparedness and Response National Snapshot 2017

The [Public Health Preparedness and Response National Snapshot 2017](#) demonstrates how federal investments enhance the nation's ability to respond to public health threats and emergencies. In the report narrative, activities are highlighted that occurred during 2015 and 2016, including those related to Zika response and CDC preparedness, as well as success stories demonstrating the effectiveness of these activities. Pages 40-41 of the report highlight children and school preparedness. The 2017 report does not include the Public Health Emergency Program (PHEP) state fact sheets in the body of the report. You can find state by state information online and available for download [here](#).

➤ Safe Transport of Children by EMS: Interim Guidance

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) released new guidance titled, "[Safe Transport of Children by EMS: Interim Guidance](#)". The purpose of the guidance is to maximize the safety of children when they are being transported in ambulances. For additional information, see the NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children Ad Hoc Committee [Resources page](#).

Spread the Word!

➤ Request for Volunteers - Pediatric Preparedness Ambassadors

The AAP is in the process of confirming members who have expertise in infectious diseases, child care health and safety, or emergency preparedness, and who are interested in being trained as Pediatric Preparedness Ambassadors. This group of pediatricians will be trained on approaches effective in child care settings and will be offered the opportunity to present at conferences or connect with child care programs at the community-level. Training will occur via a series of webinars, expected to launch in July 2017. Once the Pediatric Preparedness Ambassadors complete this training, they will be matched with opportunities for direct outreach based on need and high yield impact. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email DisasterReady@aap.org.