

# Children & Disasters

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## **August 2014**

TO: AAP Disaster Preparedness Contact Network

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

## **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 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 the [April 2014 DPAC Meeting Minutes](#) or [AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council](#).

## **ANTHRAX**

A Medscape article titled "[Anthrax in Children: Prevention and Treatment](#)" was published to highlight certain details in the AAP clinical report, [Pediatric Anthrax Clinical Management](#). Additional articles were published to focus on [adults](#) and [pregnant women](#). The AAP [anthrax](#) Web page was recently updated to include key information from the Pediatric Anthrax Clinical Management clinical report, including a mass anthrax exposure scenario, treatment for clinical forms of anthrax, and updated resources.

## **CHAPTER CONTACTS FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

The AAP Disaster Preparedness and Response staff, with support from the AAP DPAC, is in the process of identifying AAP Chapter Contacts for Disaster Preparedness in every state (some states have more than one Contact). A Chapter Contact is someone who can work to initiate and mobilize disaster preparedness and response efforts. The role of the Chapter Contact is voluntary and responsibilities vary depending on member interests and expertise. The responsibilities of a Chapter Contact include:

- Serving as the main point of contact within a state to encourage Chapter disaster preparedness and response activities.
- Advocating for the needs of children to be identified and addressed in disasters.
- Introducing key concepts for children's preparedness into exercises as well as state disaster planning and response efforts.
- Monitoring AAP information and progress and reporting back to AAP Chapter leaders and members.

If you would like to become a Chapter Contact for your state, or if you would like more information, please e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

## **EBOLA**

As the ebola outbreak in West Africa continues, the AAP has released an [AAP News Latest News](#) article on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for patients with known or suspected ebola hemorrhagic fever. [Guidance](#) and information on the [ongoing outbreak](#) will continue to be monitored. [Information for Clinicians in US Healthcare Settings](#) has also been developed. The White House has put together a [Questions and Answers document on Ebola](#) Web page.

The American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) will be releasing new expert guidance in care of the critically ill and injured as the global health care community prepares for and cares for patients with ebola. The "Care of the Critically Ill and Injured During Pandemics and Disasters: CHEST Consensus Statement" will be available in the journal *CHEST*. The consensus statement was developed by more than 100 clinicians and experts representing a broad variety and scope of clinical fields from more than nine countries. It offers the latest evidence-informed recommendations on how best to prepare and manage the critically ill and injured during large-scale disasters and pandemics. The statement will appear in the [Online First section](#) of *CHEST* on August 21, 2014.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN 30th ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

Joan Shook, MD, MBA, FAAP, chairperson, AAP Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine, spoke at the [annual meeting](#) of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program, which celebrated the 30th anniversary of the program. At the event, Dr Shook presented Pat DeLeon, PhD, chief of staff to the late Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), with the AAP President's Certificate for Outstanding Service for his leadership in supporting the EMSC Program over the past 30 years. Dr Shook spoke about the 30-year partnership between the AAP and the EMSC Program, and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, in recognition and appreciation of the Academy's support for the emergency medical care of children.

## **HURRICANE SEASON**

The 2014 hurricane season began on June 1 and ends November 30. The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) oversees the [National Hurricane Center](#) and provides details on active weather alerts. It is important to have a plan in place prior to a hurricane. Pediatricians can encourage families to create a [family disaster plan](#) and compile a [disaster supplies kit](#), to be better prepared for all disasters. For strategies for clinicians, visit the AAP [hurricanes](#) Web page.

## **INFLUENZA**

As part of a new cooperative agreement with the CDC, titled "Improving the Pediatric Community's Readiness and Response to Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza", the AAP plans to support health care providers and others who care for children to employ influenza prevention and control strategies for the 2014-2015 influenza season. Objectives include:

1. Increasing pediatrician awareness of influenza prevention and treatment strategies.
2. Compiling and sharing priority strategies for ensuring that children at highest risk for developing influenza complications receive influenza immunization and early treatment.
3. Increasing Head Start staff and child care provider awareness of influenza prevention and control strategies.
4. Determining and implementing strategies to conduct needs assessments and evaluate project activities.

The AAP will host two webinars that focus on influenza prevention and control. The first webinar "Improving Head Start/Child Care and Community Readiness and Response to Seasonal Influenza" will take place on October 2, 2014, at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT. Expert speakers for this webinar are Hank Bernstein, DO, MHCM, FAAP, and Timothy Shope, MD, MPH, FAAP.

The second webinar will be a CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity that will take place on September 18, 2014, at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT. During this call, clinicians will receive an update on the AAP policy "Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2014-2015" and information on how hospitals can address pediatric surge during influenza season. Expert speakers for this webinar are Brent Kaziny, MD, FAAP; Joseph Bresee, MD, FAAP; and Dr Bernstein.

An online *Pedialink* course "Influenza Prevention and Control: Strategies for Early Education and Child Care Programs" is scheduled to be released in late August 2014. This free course educates staff who

work in Head Start and other early education and child care programs about influenza policies and strategies that help keep children healthy. Drs Bernstein and Shope, as well as Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP, (on behalf of the DPAC) and Dennis Murray, MD, FAAP, (on behalf of the Section on Infectious Diseases) assisted with creation of this course. To take the course, click [here](#).

### **NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the appointment of members of the [National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters](#) (NACCD). The NACCD was created under the authority of the [Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013](#). The NACCD was established to provide expert advice and consultation to the Secretary of HHS with respect to the medical and public health needs of children in relation to disasters. The National Advisory Committee on Children and Disaster Charter can be found [here](#). Also see the AAP [press release](#). Congratulations to the following AAP members, who were among those appointed:

- Michael Anderson, MD, FAAP (Chairperson)
- Scott Needle, MD, FAAP
- Sarah Park, MD, FAAP
- Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP
- Jeffrey Upperman, MD, FAAP
- Anne Zajicek, MD, PharmD, FAAP
- Dianne Murphy, MD, FAAP

### **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

This September marks the eleventh annual National Preparedness Month, which is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Ready Campaign](#). This year's National Preparedness Month theme is "[Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare](#)". The goal of this effort is to enable citizens to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. The AAP [Children and Disasters](#) Web site has a dedicated Web page for National Preparedness Month. This Web page includes ideas for members who wish to get involved or implement preparedness activities, become more aware of strategies to address influenza prevention and control in high risk children, or utilize concepts and approaches included in the AAP [Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit](#).

FEMA's [America's PrepareAthon](#) is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards through drills, group discussions, and exercises. The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of individuals who understand which disasters could happen in their community; know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage; take action to increase their preparedness; and participate in community resilience planning. America's PrepareAthon has a [National PrepareAthon Day](#) on September 30, 2014. This day of action will focus on four specific hazards; [tornadoes](#); [wildfires](#); [floods](#); and [hurricanes](#). Do one thing today (and sign up for PrepareAthon Day) to improve preparedness. For more information, please visit the AAP [National Preparedness Month](#) Web page.

### **UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**

The AAP has held several calls with leaders of key federal agencies to discuss the situation of unaccompanied minors coming from Central America into the United States along the southern U.S. border and has issued a [statement](#). An AAP [Web page](#) with resources and information was created to help pediatricians in responding to the crisis. For AAP members only, the page includes updated [talking points](#) for the media (login required). Stay-tuned for relevant articles in the September 2014 issue of [AAP News](#).

### **APPLAUSE, PLEASE**

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

- Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP, as she becomes the acting director of the CDC National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) Division of Human Development and Disability on August 24, 2014. Dr Peacock will be serving in a 120 day detail while the CDC continues its efforts to recruit and hire a permanent director.
- Elizabeth Edgerton, MD, MPH, FAAP, as she becomes the new Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health (DCAFH). Dr Edgerton has been serving as the Division's Branch Chief for the EMSC and Injury and Violence Prevention in the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health since June of 2011.

## CHAPTER CONTACT HIGHLIGHTS

The DPAC applauds the following Chapters and individuals for their efforts to address pediatric disaster preparedness and the needs of children in their state:

- Robert Chaplin, MD, FAAP, Nebraska Disaster Preparedness Chapter Contact, is the medical director for the pediatric/neonatal transport team at the Children's Hospital & Medical Center, and last year he developed a resident elective. The final week of this elective is now focused on disaster preparedness and helps residents to understand the resources available, exposing the residents to the concepts and information. In the past year, Dr Chaplin presented grand rounds on disaster preparedness for the general pediatrician and their office staff, and spoke at a regional pediatric conference in Sioux City, IA. The AAP would like to congratulate Dr Chaplin for his accomplishments related to improving disaster preparedness for children.
- The AAP New Jersey Chapter is very involved in disaster preparedness efforts. Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP, immediate Chapter Past-President, is a member of the AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council. Dr Fisher was also appointed to serve as the AAP representative to a new research project to study the recovery from Hurricane Sandy and identify key lessons learned from that disaster. Elliot Rubin, MD, FAAP, Chapter President, New Jersey Disaster Preparedness Chapter Contact, and Fran Gallagher, Executive Director, are coordinating the Chapter's efforts.

The AAP New Jersey Chapter has been actively engaged in disaster preparedness initiatives in the two years following Hurricane Sandy. The Chapter has launched the [Pediatric Partnership Initiative](#), in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families to provide learning opportunities for pediatric and family practice providers who serve children and families in communities hit hardest by Hurricane Sandy. The education is in the form of Grand Rounds, EPIC (Educating Practices in their Communities) office-based sessions, and learning collaboratives to identify and support children and families who have experienced stress as a result of and are still recovering from the impact of the storm. The Chapter has produced a [video](#) discussing the struggles it faced with recovery, emphasizing how important it is to be prepared for such disasters.

The AAP New Jersey Chapter is partnering with the New Jersey Department of Health on the [Healthy Homes Initiative](#). The goal of Healthy Homes is to educate primary care practices in the Hurricane Sandy affected counties on strategies to address exposure to lead and other housing-based hazards that may impact the health of children and pregnant women. The disaster preparedness education for pediatric and family practice providers will be conducted in the form of webinars and EPIC office based trainings.

The AAP New Jersey Chapter's 2013 Annual Meeting, titled "Preparing for the Unexpected", had disaster preparedness as its central theme. Goals of the Chapter are to expand efforts to include coordinated practice and hospital preparedness. The AAP would like to congratulate Dr Rubin and the AAP New Jersey Chapter for their efforts to improve disaster preparedness for children.

If you would like to highlight your Chapter's disaster efforts, please e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

## EDUCATION/TRAINING

### [Pediatric Emergency Response Workshop](#)

**Friday, September 19, 2014**

This workshop is designed to help improve emergency pediatric care capabilities in all types of healthcare organizations. Participants will hear from a keynote speaker and local experts in the morning and will be offered the opportunity to participate in hands-on breakout sessions in the afternoon. The course is designed for physicians, nurses, mid-level practitioners, emergency clinical planners, managers, and instructors from all medical specialties. For more information, view the workshop [flyer](#) and [brochure](#). To register, click [here](#).

### [American Academy of Pediatrics 2014 National Conference](#)

**October 11-14, 2014**

The AAP 2014 National Conference is in San Diego, CA. It is time to register for the conference and to book hotel reservations. To register, visit [www.aapexperience.org/register](http://www.aapexperience.org/register). Advanced registration ends Friday, August 29, 2014. To make your hotel reservation, please call 800-468-6322. For more information, visit <http://www.aapexperience.org/hotels>. Hotel reservations must be made no later than Friday, September 26, 2014.

A new session will be held this year at the AAP National Conference titled "V1074 – Disaster Recovery for Pediatricians: Professional Self Care Lunch and Learn". The session will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. This session will provide members in communities stricken by disasters with practical strategies to assist them with recovery efforts. Members of the AAP DPAC will answer questions and facilitate discussions. A box lunch will be provided. Registration for the conference is required to attend this session. This session is a follow-up to a meeting held at the AAP headquarters office in November 2013, as requested by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. To register for this session, e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org) by September 1, 2014.

For additional information on disaster related National Conference 2014 events, visit the AAP [upcoming events](#) page.

This summer, consider viewing the following archived webinars or courses to further your knowledge on disaster preparedness for children:

### **[Children and Disasters: An Integrated Approach to Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery Webinar](#)**

The National Mass Care Council hosted a National Mass Care Strategy webinar series titled "Children and Disasters: An Integrated Approach to Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery". The webinar focused on whole community partners working together to integrate children's disaster-related needs and implementation at the National, State, and local levels. Copies of the [PowerPoint](#) presentation and [transcript](#) are available online.

### **[Get Ready Get Safe Prep Rally](#)**

The Prep Rally emergency preparedness program, created by [Save the Children](#), provides children and families with knowledge and tools they need to be ready for disasters. The free, easy-to-use curriculum pairs practical emergency education with fun activities. The flexible format can be shaped to meet the needs of any community: whether it's afterschool; summer camp; or the start of tornado season. Questions about the program should be e-mailed to [GetReady@savechildren.org](mailto:GetReady@savechildren.org).

### **[NCDMPH Disaster Learning Webinar Series](#)**

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) Disaster Learning webinar series features subject matter experts in disaster medicine and public health. In May 2014, a webinar titled "Promoting Resilience in Disaster First Responders: A Psychological First Aid-Based Approach" was held. Webinar [slides](#) and a presentation [recording](#) are archived.

### **[Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Educational Toolbox Online Courses](#)**

The Tennessee EMSC program created the Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Educational Toolbox for families, and for healthcare and other professionals who may be expected to respond in the event of large-scale disasters.

### **[Pediatric Disaster Triage: Doing the Most Good for the Most Patients in the Least Time](#)**

The [EMSC National Resource Center](#), in collaboration with the Indian Health Service Clinical Support Center, released the course, "Pediatric Disaster Triage: Doing the Most Good for the Most Patients in the Least Time". Targeting prehospital providers, this course contains five narrated modules addressing the following: recognizing a disaster; disaster triage rationale; pediatric triage considerations; triage methodologies; and special triage decisions. Continuing medical education (CME)/continuing education (CE) credit is available.

### **[Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions Webinar and National Call](#)**

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) hosted a [webinar](#) and national call on Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions. Presenters described resources, partnerships, and strategies that ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) directors and healthcare coalitions have implemented to strengthen pediatric components within their jurisdiction's healthcare preparedness capabilities.

### **[Radiation Disaster Issues in Children](#)**

The NCDMPH launched the "Radiation Disaster Issues in Children: A Case-Based Activity," an online lesson targeted toward health care providers. The lesson presents a scenario in which an improvised nuclear device is detonated in a medium-sized American city. CME/CE credit is available.



### **Webinar Archive: From Hurricanes to Pandemics: Helping Practices Prepare for the Worst**

Hosted by the AAP, this webinar offered general preparedness strategies and ideas for how pediatricians and their office staff could prepare for disasters. Tips were shared on how pediatricians can work to improve preparedness in families with children with special health care needs, as they are more vulnerable in disasters. The webinar also offered concrete steps to help pediatricians strengthen office practices related to newborn screening and contingency planning.

## **KEY RESOURCES**

### **Community Health Resilience Toolset**

The Community Health Resilience (CHR) Toolset, sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Health Affairs and supported by the HHS, provides practitioners and experts from all sectors, disciplines, and functional areas who have roles, responsibilities, or interests in CHR access to guidance and resources to make their community (or organization) more resilient. This toolset is currently going through final edits. Please e-mail [CHRISupport@anl.gov](mailto:CHRISupport@anl.gov) with any comments on the toolset, or submit a new resource or tool to be added to the site [here](#).

### **Death of a Child in the Emergency Department AAP Policy Statement**

This policy statement, created by the AAP, American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Emergency Nurses Association, identifies practices and principles to guide the care of children, families, and staff in the challenging and uncommon event of the death of a child in the emergency department. A [technical report](#) and [AAP News](#) article were also developed.

### **Emergency Management Portal**

The Joint Commission recently launched an Emergency Management Portal that provides free disaster preparedness resources. The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 20,500 health care organizations and programs in the United States. The mission of The Joint Commission is to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **The Partner Bulletin**

The Office of Infrastructure Protection recently introduced a new e-mail distribution resource titled "The Partnership Bulletin". The Bulletin provides a snapshot of upcoming/available cross-sector training opportunities, exercises, and key announcements. For additional information, to subscribe, or to submit content, contact [sector.partnership@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:sector.partnership@hq.dhs.gov) with "The Partnership Bulletin" in the e-mail subject line.

### **Opportunity to Schedule 2-day Pediatric Disaster Planning Course**

A new course, "Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness," is available for local delivery at no cost for anyone who might be involved in planning for or addressing the needs of children in a disaster. Special emergency management issues will be addressed such as pediatric decontamination, triage and reunification with family. Although it is not a clinical class, the course does cover some clinical aspects strictly from a resource management/allocation perspective.

Developed by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), the course was formally certified by the US DHS/FEMA. Tentative class dates are being scheduled right now and will continue until the first allotment of no-cost classes is filled. There is also a waiting list for 2015 classes.

The course was developed as part of the DHS/FEMA-funded Homeland Security National Training Program, and it will be delivered to local jurisdictions at no cost. The only expense involved will be a host site and the time for someone to host/coordinate the program, as well as any travel/time incurred by participants to attend. All other instructional-related expenses, including travel costs for the instructional team, are covered by TEEX/NERRTC. The 16-hour class is conducted in two consecutive days at the host site and may include weekends if necessary. There is a minimum of 30 students per class to meet the cooperative agreement requirements.

The target audience includes hospital- and community-based emergency management personnel, first-receiver staff (particularly those who work in hospital emergency departments), jurisdictional emergency managers, and hospital planners. A secondary audience includes all other disciplines that

may be involved in the medical response or hospital staff who may be called to any event that generates pediatric patients, such as community and federal disaster service agencies.

To schedule the course, or for more information, contact lead instructor John Rinard, Senior Training Specialist, at [John.Rinard@teex.tamu.edu](mailto:John.Rinard@teex.tamu.edu) or 979-255-6993 or contact Juan Guerrero, Training Manager, at [Juan.Guerrero@teex.tamu.edu](mailto:Juan.Guerrero@teex.tamu.edu) or 979-862-1063.

We appreciate your efforts to care and advocate for the needs of children!