



# 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 Web page](#) and the [AAP DPAC Strategic Plan for Disaster Preparedness 2016-2020](#).

### Project Announcements

- **Challenging Cases: Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika Virus Infections Course**  
The AAP has released a new online course titled [Challenging Cases: Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika Virus Infections](#). This course covers these three conditions together because they share similarities in transmission and some clinical manifestations, so knowing the differences between them will aid in diagnosis.
- **New Zika Guidance Highlights the Need for Pediatricians to be Vigilant**  
A recent *AAP News* article, "[New Zika Guidance Highlights the Need for Pediatricians to be Vigilant](#)" was published related to the release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "[Update: Interim Guidance for Health Care Providers Caring for Pregnant Women with Possible Zika Virus Exposure — United States \(Including U.S. Territories\), July 2017](#)". The article urges pediatricians to be aware of the changes in testing requirements for asymptomatic pregnant women with limited Zika exposure, to ask questions of parents about an infant's risk of exposure, and to follow the CDC guidance in regards to infant screening, testing, and imaging for Zika Virus Syndrome.
- **AAP Academic and Subspecialty Advocacy Washington Report**  
Please note you will need an AAP ID to access the [AAP Academic and Subspecialty Advocacy Washington Report](#). The report details important advocacy work that the AAP is engaging in and highlights issues of particular importance to medical and surgical subspecialty pediatricians. The report includes updates on AAP advocacy efforts to protect Medicaid from cuts, extend the Children's Health Insurance Program, promote pediatric subspecialty workforce issues, increase funding for pediatric research, and improve drugs and medical devices for children, among many other issues.
- **Zika Care Connect**  
Zika Care Connect is a program designed to help women, parents, and caregivers of infants and families affected by Zika to connect to recommended health care services. Zika Care Connect has expanded its network of specialty health care providers to additional jurisdictions in the United States. These jurisdictions include [10 states](#). Zika Care Connect is seeking health professionals in maternal-fetal medicine, mental health, radiology, pediatric ophthalmology, pediatric neurology, developmental pediatrics, infectious diseases, and endocrinology to join the network. If you are interested in joining the Zika Care Connect health care professional network, please click on this [link](#).
- **State Preparedness Applications**  
The deadline to submit applications requesting funding for pediatric state preparedness has [passed](#). Thank you to those of you who prepared and submitted applications!

## Planning Ahead

### ➤ National Preparedness Month

Each year during September, the AAP supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored National Preparedness Month to enable citizens to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. This year's theme is "[Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can.](#)" The AAP Children and Disasters Web site has a dedicated resource page for [National Preparedness Month](#). This Web page includes ideas for members who wish to get involved or implement general preparedness activities, including strategies to address influenza prevention and control in high risk children. During National Preparedness Month, the AAP asks members to take specific actions to promote pediatric emergency readiness in September:

- Begin conversations with families about potential disasters in their area. Share the [AAP Family Readiness Kit](#). This kit includes simple steps and information that will help families prepare for a disaster.
- Enhance your influenza prevention and control strategies. Get your annual flu shot and encourage others to do the same. Share the CDC [Ready Wrigley](#) activity book on [influenza](#) with families.
- Improve your personal preparedness planning. [The Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#) offers tips on preparing an office practice for disasters. To request complimentary print copies, e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).
- Review AAP policies related to disasters. See [Disaster Preparedness in Neonatal Intensive Care Units](#), [Ensuring the Health of Children in Disasters](#), [Medical Countermeasures for Children in Public Health Emergencies, Disasters, or Terrorism](#), [Providing Psychosocial Support to Children and Families in the Aftermath of Disasters and Crises](#), and [Supporting the Grieving Child and Family](#).
- Work with or become a [Disaster Preparedness Chapter Contact](#) for your state.

### ➤ American Academy of Pediatrics 2017 National Conference and Exhibition

The AAP National Conference takes place September 16-19, 2017, in Chicago, IL. To secure the lowest rates, please remember to [register](#) before the early registration deadline on **August 4, 2017**. See sessions with disaster-related topics [here](#). Sessions that include content related to the Zika virus are listed below.

**Saturday, September 16, 2017, 2:00pm CT – 2:45pm CT**

#### **Congenital Infections Affecting the Brain: Zika and More**

**Presenter:** Octavio Ramilo, MD

**Description:** This session will familiarize pediatricians with the epidemiology, presentation, and diagnostic approach for newborns with signs indicative of congenital infection affecting the brain.

**Monday, September 18, 2017, 8:00am CT – 10:00am CT**

#### **Meet the Red Book Committee**

**Presenters:** Carrie Byington, MD, FAAP; Yvonne Maldonado, MD, FAAP; Sean O'Leary, MD, FAAP; Theoklis Zaoutis, MD, MSCE

**Description:** This session will update participants on immunization recommendations and a wide variety of other diagnostic and management issues related to infectious diseases in children, including the Zika virus.

**Monday, September 18, 2017, 5:00pm CT – 5:45pm CT**

#### **Tick- and Mosquito-borne Illnesses: Facts, Fiction, and Myths**

**Presenter:** Eugene Shapiro, MD, FAAP

**Description:** This session will provide information related to current and predicted changes in the epidemiology of vector-borne diseases. Faculty will review age-specific clinical/laboratory manifestations and treatment for such diseases, how to address common public misconceptions regarding vector-borne infections, and approaches to prevention, including tick/mosquito avoidance and repellents. *This session repeats on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 3:00pm CT – 3:45pm CT.*

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).