

# Children and Disasters Newsletter

September 2019

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## American Academy of Pediatrics

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The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) disaster preparedness and response initiatives staff is pleased to provide you with the September 2019 Children and Disasters newsletter. Included you will find important announcements, resources, and upcoming events that may be of interest. If you have any questions regarding the content in this newsletter, or if you would like to include a posting in a future Children and Disasters newsletter, email [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

### **Please Join the New AAP Council on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery!**

The AAP has launched a new Council on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery. This entity replaces the AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council, allowing an important expansion of activities, including new leadership, education, and membership opportunities. The AAP has appointed the following Council Executive Committee members to oversee Council activities:

- Steven Krug, MD, FAAP, Chairperson
- Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHSM, FAAP
- Carl Baum, MD, FACMT, FAAP
- Sarita Chung, MD, FAAP
- Deanna Dahl-Grove, MD, FAAP
- Eric Dziuban, MD, DTM, CPH, FAAP
- Aaron Gardner, MD, MS, FAAP
- Stephanie Griese, MD, MPH, FAAP
- Scott Needle, MD, FAAP
- David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP
- Joelle Simpson, MD, MPH, FAAP

All AAP members in good standing are encouraged to join the Council on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery. The Executive Committee is hoping for a broad base of members that represent various perspectives and subspecialty/specialty areas. Please note that there are no Council dues at this time. If you are interested in joining, please e-mail the AAP staff at [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org) your name, city/state, and AAP member identification number or call AAP Customer Service at 866-843-2271. A confirmation e-mail with resources will be sent once membership is confirmed.

The Council Executive Committee was recently approved to develop a new AAP policy statement titled, "Participation of Children and Adolescents in Live Crisis Drills and Exercises". This policy statement will offer guidance on how exercise/drill planners can consider children's needs if they are present or actively engaged during exercises and drills.

## National Preparedness Month

[National Preparedness Month](#) is an annual campaign observed in September each year to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies and disasters. This effort is led by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) and is sponsored by the [Ready Campaign](#) in partnership with [Citizen's Corp](#). This year's National Preparedness Month theme is, "Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters." The FEMA urges people to prepare for specific threats such as a floods, wildfires, hurricanes, and power outages. The FEMA features [Public Service Announcements](#) that promote the importance of engaging children and teenagers in preparedness planning for emergencies and disasters. In addition, the campaign will feature 4 weekly themes:

- **Week 1:** September 1-7 - Save Early for Disaster Costs
- **Week 2:** September 8-14 - Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters
- **Week 3:** September 15-21 - Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters
- **Week 4:** September 22-30 - Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

The AAP [National Preparedness Month web page](#) includes new resources from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), strategies to connect with families to encourage disaster preparedness, steps to enhance influenza prevention and control, and much more.

## Announcements

### **[New AAP Voices Blog on How H1N1 Sparked a Lasting Partnership for Pediatric Public Health Emergencies](#)**

A new *AAP Voices Blog* was released in August 2019, titled, "[How H1N1 Sparked a Lasting Partnership for Pediatric Public Health Emergencies](#)". In this blog, Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP, describes how the nation's pediatricians and public health officials teamed up in response to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, forging a partnership that continues today through a collaborative project with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) focused on improving the pediatric community's readiness and response to seasonal and pandemic influenza. Also see the Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness Journal (2012) article, "[Improving Pediatric Preparedness Performance Through Strategic Partnerships](#)".

### **[Public Health Emergency of International Concern - Ebola Outbreak](#)**

As cases of Ebola continue to increase in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and travel-associated cases have been reported in Uganda, the CDC supports the decision by the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization to declare the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern". The CDC activated its [Emergency Operations Center](#) in June 2019 to support the response. US health care providers are encouraged to stay up to date on the latest information about risk factors, signs, symptoms, and diagnostic testing for Ebola and increase their vigilance in asking patients about recent travel to DRC or Uganda. If you have any questions, please click [here](#) or contact the CDC's Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.

For more information, see the CDC [2018 Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo Outbreak web page or other](#) resources:

- [Hemorrhagic Fevers Caused by Filoviruses: Ebola and Marburg](#) (AAP *Red Book* chapter)
- [Parental Presence at the Bedside of a Child with Suspected Ebola: An Expert Discussion](#) (Article from ScienceDirect Journal)
- [Parental Presence During Treatment of Ebola or Other Highly Consequential Infection](#) (AAP clinical report)

### **[2019 Wildfire Guide for Public Health Officials](#)**

Originally published in 2002, the [Wildfire Smoke Guide for Public Health Officials](#) has been revised. Developed by the California Air Resources Board and the California Department of Public Health, this guide is designed to help local public health officials prepare for smoke events. This guide also includes information specific to children and emphasizes strategies for protecting children. The AAP has a [wildfires web page](#) that provides additional information for clinicians.

## Education/Training

### **AAP 2019 National Conference & Exhibition**

The AAP National Conference is taking place October 25–29, 2019, in New Orleans, LA. To secure the lowest rates, please remember to [register](#) before the early registration deadline on **September 13, 2019**. During this conference, several sessions and events will focus on disaster medicine. See the AAP Upcoming Events Web page for additional [details](#).

### **Save the Date: Influenza Webinar for Clinicians**

**Date:** Thursday, September 26, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 pm ET/1:00 pm CT

The AAP is collaborating with the CDC to conduct a [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) (COCA) webinar that will discuss strategies that primary care providers and medical subspecialists can use to improve influenza prevention and control in children for the 2019-2020 flu season. Email [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org) to be added to a Save The Date calendar appointment.

### **Global Health & Disasters Course**

**Date:** October 7–18, 2019

**Location:** Colorado School of Public Health, Aurora, CO

This course is a 2-week training that prepares its participants for international disasters and future global health work. The first week of the course covers global health, and the second week of the course focuses on disaster preparedness and response. October 14–17, 2019, will focus on pediatrics in disasters. If you have any questions about this course, please contact Molly Moss, Program Assistant, at [molly.moss@ucdenver.edu](mailto:molly.moss@ucdenver.edu).

### **National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference**

**Date:** December 2–5, 2019

**Location:** Houston, TX

The National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference highlights best practices of health care coalitions across the United States and provides opportunities for attendees to network with peers, share ideas, and learn about building and sustaining effective health care coalitions. Housing for the conference is now [available](#)! During the conference, the AAP will host a session on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, from 11:30 am–12:45 pm titled, “PEDs Ready: Launching a Regional System of Care for Children”. Also see additional [conference details](#).

## Call for Abstracts

### **2020 Preparedness Summit**

The [2020 Preparedness Summit](#) (March 31–April 3, 2020) is being held in Dallas, TX. The Preparedness Summit presents new research findings, shares tools and resources, and provides a variety of opportunities for attendees to learn how to implement model practices that enhance the nation’s capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies. Attendees usually include experts in health care and emergency management fields in addition to public health preparedness professionals. [Abstracts](#) for this conference are due September 17, 2019, by 11:59 pm ET. Select members who work with the AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives staff in advance to submit their abstract may be eligible for travel support. For details, contact the AAP at [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

### **Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) 2020 Annual Conference**

The [AMCHP 2020 Annual Conference](#) (March 21–24, 2020) is being held in Crystal City, VA. The theme for the 2020 conference is “The Power of Connections: Building Equity for Healthy Generations”. This conference invites presenters to share ideas, research, innovative programming, best practices, and effective outreach strategies to maternal and child health and other public health practitioners. Attendees usually include directors of state programs, federal officials, advocates, family leaders, researchers, and health care providers. [Abstracts](#) for this conference are due October 4, 2019, by 11:59 pm ET.

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