

# Children & Disasters

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## **August 2015**

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 [DPAC Meeting Minutes](#) or [AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council](#).

### **AAP UPDATES**

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, MPH, FAAP, began her tenure as the new CEO of the AAP on July 13, 2015. Dr Remley is replacing Errol Alden, MD, FAAP, who was the CEO for the past 11 years. Of note, Dr Remley is the first female CEO of the AAP. If you would like to contact Dr Remley, e-mail her at [kremley@aap.org](mailto:kremley@aap.org) or follow her on Twitter at [@DrRemleyAAP](https://twitter.com/DrRemleyAAP). See a video welcome message from Dr Remley [here](#).

### **AVIAN INFLUENZA**

The AAP continues to monitor the situation regarding avian influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released an official [CDC Health Advisory](#) on June 2, 2015. Avian flu viruses occur naturally among wild birds (especially wild water fowl such as ducks and geese), and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. At this time, no human infections with these viruses have been detected. However, because similar viruses have infected people in the past, it's possible that human infections with these viruses may occur. The AAP has developed a new Web page on the [AAP HealthyChildren.org Web site](#). The CDC offers details on the [current situation](#). For more information, visit the CDC [Information on Avian Influenza](#) or the World Health Organization (WHO) [Avian influenza](#) Web pages.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS**

The AAP and the CDC are working together to increase preparedness planning in regards to children and youth with special health care needs. Two draft educational handouts for pediatricians and families were developed to cover the topic of how to initiate and maintain communications on emergency preparedness. The AAP collaborated with [Family Voices](#) to pilot test these educational handouts, and important tips were

incorporated into the recently updated [Children and Youth with Special Needs](#) Web page. In June 2015, a conference call was held with select AAP members and Family Leaders. The call offered participants a chance to share their ideas on how pediatricians and families could initiate conversations about improving preparedness for children and youth with special health care needs, as well as reviewed experiences in talking with parents or pediatricians about emergency preparedness. The AAP will continue to work with Family Voices to finalize the handouts, offer Web-based resources, and explore opportunities to develop video clips and/or PowerPoints with voice overs that could enhance education and awareness of various audiences to improve emergency preparedness for children and youth with special health care needs.

## **EBOLA**

The AAP continues to monitor the situation regarding the Ebola epidemic, including [case counts](#). The Web page for clinicians on the [Ebola Outbreak](#) along with the [Ebola and Children FAQ](#) page include key material. The pages for [parents](#) and [child care program/schools](#) also offer up-to-date information.

New [entry screening and monitoring guidelines](#) for travelers entering the US from Liberia have been released. The World Health Organization declared the end of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. However, recently, a [new confirmed case](#) of Ebola in Liberia was detected, the first case since March 20th. The CDC is working closely with the Liberian government and other international partners to investigate the chain of transmission, identify any new cases, and prevent further spread. Travelers from Liberia entering the US will continue to be funneled through the five US airports conducting enhanced entry screening. Entry screening and monitoring will not change for travelers entering the US from Guinea or Sierra Leone. See the [CDC Health Advisory](#) for more information.

[Interim guidance](#) for US hospitals on the care of a neonate born to a mother who is confirmed to have Ebola, is a Person under Investigation, or has been exposed to Ebola was released. The guidance was developed for health care professionals working with neonates in labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care units, newborn nurseries, and other settings within US hospitals. The AAP offered feedback during the development of this guidance. Articles on the topic of parental presence are pending publication.

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has selected [nine health departments](#) and associated partner hospitals to serve as special regional treatment centers for patients with Ebola or other severe, highly infectious diseases. These facilities will remain ready and available to care for a patient with Ebola or another severe, highly infectious disease, whether the patient is medically evacuated from overseas or is diagnosed within the US.

The HHS launched a new [National Ebola Training and Education Center](#) to ensure that US health care providers and facilities are prepared to safely identify, isolate, transport, and treat patients with Ebola and other emerging threats. A total of \$12 million will be given over the next five years to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia; University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska; and Bellevue Hospital Center in New York City, New York, which will collaborate to lead the National Ebola Training and Education Center.

## **HURRICANE KATRINA'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Since Hurricane Katrina, much progress has been made with regards to disaster preparedness within the AAP. In 2006, the AAP Board of Directors identified disaster preparedness as 1 of 7 priority issues requiring special attention and resources. The AAP appointed the [DPAC](#) in 2007 to establish a focused effort within the AAP. The AAP has developed several disaster preparedness resources, including the [Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit](#), [Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#), and the [Preparedness for Pediatric Practices: Newborn Screening in Emergencies](#). The AAP will release a [Web page](#) with detailed information on this progress on August 29, 2015.

## **HURRICANE SEASON AND SUMMER WEATHER**

The 2015 [hurricane season](#) began on June 1 and extends through November 30. The AAP urges members to prepare throughout the season. Advanced preparedness planning can mitigate risk, reduce physical and operational losses, improve financial stability, strengthen the medical home, and help promote the health of the children in the community. Pediatricians can prepare themselves and their staff by reviewing disaster preparedness plan details and compiling preparedness materials. Determine where planning materials, essential supplies, and the [Disaster Supply Kit](#) should be stored.

Hurricanes can often result in [flash floods](#). Take time now to prepare your facility by discussing the [Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#) with office staff. Identify disasters that are most likely to affect your practice. Locate and review your office insurance policies to ensure you have the correct coverage. Pay special attention to exclusions, limits, and deductibles.

[Heat extremes](#) can lead to severe health consequences in children. Talk to families about monitoring children's exposure to heat and making plans for home cooling or sheltering in the event of a heat wave. Inform parents of the dangers of [leaving children in the car](#), and suggest locking cars when parked so children cannot get inside to play. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is asking for assistance in spreading awareness of the dangers of child heatstroke in hot cars. The NHTSA offers [resources](#) to assist in communicating with the public. Also see the "[Prevent Child Heatstroke in Cars](#)" Web page located on SaferCar.org. For more information, visit the FEMA [Extreme Heat](#) Web page.

## **INFLUENZA**

The AAP disaster preparedness and response staff finished up Year Two of a Five Year cooperative agreement with the CDC. In Year Three, the AAP will continue to support health care providers, Head Start and other early education and child care providers, and others who care for children to employ influenza prevention and control strategies for the 2015-2016 influenza season. [Reminders](#) for child care programs were released this week. The "[What's the Latest with the Flu](#)" messaging series will continue beginning in October 2015.

In June 2015, the AAP collaborated with the CDC to hold an influenza outreach and collaboration conference call. The call brought together 10 key partner organizations to consider what AAP messaging and resources could be shared to help with outreach to clinicians who may be in a position to assist in influenza prevention and control efforts. Henry Bernstein, DO, MHCM, FAAP, provided an update on behalf of the AAP regarding influenza and children, as well as offered a summary of existing AAP influenza policies. The call also offered an opportunity for partner organizations to provide updates on influenza related activities and resources.

The 2015 Edition of the [Head Start Emergency Preparedness Manual](#) was released. This manual provides Head Start programs with the latest tools and resources to guide their planning processes. Included is a new chapter on public health emergencies, and an appendix on influenza prevention and control.

The free online *PediaLink* course "[Influenza Prevention and Control: Strategies for Early Education and Child Care Programs](#)" is being updated. This 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. The course is approved for 1.0 contact hour.

Two webinars that focus on influenza prevention and control will be conducted. The AAP will host a CDC [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) pediatric-focused influenza prevention and control webinar on Thursday, October 1, 2015, at 2:00pm ET. If you would like to be included on a calendar appointment for this webinar, please e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

The second webinar will be designed for caregivers who work in Head Start and other early education and child care settings. This webinar will take place in November 2015. For additional details, e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

A CDC [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) published in June 2015 highlighted the 2014-2015 influenza season (which included 143 influenza-associated pediatric deaths) and the composition of the 2015-2016 influenza vaccine. The 2015-2016 influenza trivalent vaccine will contain an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus. The quadrivalent vaccine will contain the viruses recommended for the trivalent vaccines, as well as a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus.

The updated "Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, 30th Edition", is available on [Red Book Online](#). All AAP members receive Red Book Online as a free member benefit. The paperback edition is available to AAP Members with a 50% discount off the retail price on [shopAAP](#).

## **MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (MERS)**

The AAP has been monitoring the [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome \(MERS\)](#) viral outbreaks. The MERS situation represents a very low risk to the general public in the US. Only two patients in the US have ever tested positive for MERS, both in May 2014. The CDC [Interim Guidance for Health Care Professionals](#) notes that providers should maintain awareness of the need to detect patients who should be evaluated for MERS. See the CDC Health Advisory "[Updated Information and Guidelines for Evaluation of Patients for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) Infection](#)".

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

The National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters (NACCD) was established in 2014 to provide expert advice and consultation to the Secretary of HHS and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) on the medical and public health needs of children in regards to preparedness, emergencies and disasters.

The NACCD and its Surge Capacity Work Group released a report titled, "[Near-Term Strategies to Improve Pediatric Surge Capacity during Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)". In the report, the NACCD concluded that the lack of data and complete national pediatric surge protocols makes it difficult to fully analyze the US current preparedness to respond to an infectious disease outbreak with many ill children and recommendations for improvement are included. The DPAC is considering how best to support implementation of report recommendations. The [second task](#) of the NACCD will be to review the current state of health care preparedness to care for children in a disaster. For additional details on the NACCD, including future [public meetings](#), visit the [NACCD Web page](#).

## **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 "[Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today.](#)" 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 general preparedness activities, including strategies to address influenza prevention and control in high risk children.

The FEMA [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.

The CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response will focus on developing communities of preparedness during National Preparedness Month. Weekly messages will focus on family, neighborhood, workplace and school, and global preparedness. The final four days will focus on sharing preparedness resources with the online social media community. Visit the [CDC National Preparedness Month](#) Web page. Also see the CDC [Caring for Children in a Disaster](#) Web page (the home page for the CDC Children's Preparedness Unit activities).

## **APPLAUSE, PLEASE**

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

- Steve Krug, MD, FAAP, chairperson of the DPAC, for representing the AAP and speaking at a briefing hosted by Save the Children titled, "Ten Years After Katrina." The briefing investigated progress as well as remaining gaps five years after the National Commission on Children and Disasters [report](#) assessing the needs of children in relation to disaster preparedness and response. Dr Krug discussed the work of the AAP to educate pediatricians and federal partners about how to care for children in case of disaster. Dr Krug also shared the importance of the National Commission on Children and Disasters report in identifying and calling attention to gaps in preparedness for children, and he celebrated the progress that has been made in addressing these gaps in the past five years.
- Natalie Lane, MD, FAAP, for writing an article for [AAP Chapter Connections](#) providing an update from the Georgia Chapter of the AAP on pediatric disaster and emergency preparedness.

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

### **[American Academy of Pediatrics 2015 National Conference](#) October 24-27, 2015**

This year, the AAP National Conference will be held in Washington, DC. To register, visit [www.aapexperience.org/register](http://www.aapexperience.org/register). To make your hotel reservation, please call 800-468-6322 or visit [www.aapexperience.org/hotels](http://www.aapexperience.org/hotels). For more information, e-mail [aapsupport@cmrus.com](mailto:aapsupport@cmrus.com). For details about the sessions and events that focus on disaster medicine, see the [Upcoming Events Web page](#).

The [AAP Conference Planner](#) is a great source to get updated information regarding sessions and events taking place at the 2015 National Conference. Use the Conference Planner to find a session by searching for a keyword, session title, date, speakers, or session topic. For more information about the AAP Conference Planner, click [here](#).

The DPAC is sponsoring a session on October 24, 2015, that will focus on key preparedness and response strategies as applied to various types of disasters and disaster medicine topics. Members will learn how to apply strategies by moving through table-top discussions in a speed-dating type format. Sarita Chung, MD, FAAP, and Daniel Fagbuyi, MD, FAAP, will be the presenters.

This year the AAP Section on Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics is hosting a [session](#) on October 26 that will discuss the ways in which children are uniquely vulnerable in disasters. A theoretical framework and practical tips for preparation will be given by pediatric practitioners who experienced and/or have responded to disasters. The session will outline the steps that attendees need to take to make themselves and the children they serve more resilient and prepared when faced with disaster.

### **National Pediatric Disaster Coalition Conference** **November 2-4, 2015**

This national conference, taking place in Scottsdale, Arizona, is focused on providing tools, training, resources, and information to facilitate continuous improvement in pediatric disaster preparedness. Nationally-recognized speakers will address many key areas of disaster preparedness and response that are specific to children and the field of pediatrics. The conference is for medical practitioners, clinical staff, hospital emergency managers, other hospital representatives, local, state, and federal government, emergency medical system/technicians, community leaders, school nurses and other school representatives, behavioral health providers, and faith-based organization representatives.

Additional information on [upcoming events](#) and [education and training](#) opportunities are available, including details about all AAP 2015 National Conference sessions that focus on disaster medicine.

### **KEY RESOURCES**

#### **2015 National Report Card on Protecting Children in Disasters**

The Save the Children 2015 National Report Card on Protecting Children in Disasters addresses the status of the 81 recommendations included in the National Commission on Children and Disasters [2010 Report to the President and Congress](#). The report finds that while there has been progress, children are [still at risk](#). It is important to note that 32 states now require minimum emergency planning standards at schools and child care, which is 3 more than last year. In this report, Save the Children references progress and outlines areas that it believes still require action from the federal government.

A [video](#) was released that shares stories from young survivors of Hurricane Katrina, the Oklahoma tornadoes and Hurricane Sandy. Also see a compelling Save the Children [video](#) on the importance of having a family reunification plan and creating an [Emergency Contact Card](#).

#### **Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Future Strategies Report**

Established under the National Preparedness and Response Science Board (NPRSB), the ASPR Future Strategies Working Group identified future strategies that can best support successful achievement of the ASPR and HHS mission for preparedness, response and recovery. In the report, Strategy 4 is "Continue to prioritize preparedness strategies that address multiple hazards or synergistically meet both health security and other high-priority societal needs. This includes working with partners to mobilize efforts to stabilize and strengthen foundational systems core to national security, including emergency and trauma services and public health systems". Under this strategy, a bullet is included that states "Greater emphasis on tapping into, partnering with, and supporting efforts to improve day-to-day emergency or preventive care of at-risk populations (e.g., children, seniors, immigrant populations)."

Members of the AAP can take actions to support implementation of these recommendations, such as:

1. Becoming aware of the [National Health Security Strategy and Implementation Plan](#).
2. [Participating](#) in disaster planning, response, and recovery efforts.
3. Working collaboratively with local hospitals, public health agencies, and other agencies that serve children, to effectively meet children's needs in the context of disaster. Review the AAP [Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit](#) and details about the [National Pediatric Readiness Project](#).
4. Educating children and families in emergency and disaster preparedness and promoting [resiliency](#) at individual, family, and community levels.

#### **International Infectious Disease Emergencies and Domestic Implications for the Public Health and Health Care Sectors—Workshop in Brief**

During the [2015 Preparedness Summit](#), the Institute of Medicine Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events held a session to discuss international public health emergencies and the corresponding impact on state and local public health and health care systems. This document highlights the workshop discussions. One of the workshop takeaways was the importance of achieving coordinated and integrated global monitoring and awareness.

### **[New Data Visualization Tool](#)**

The FEMA launched a new data visualization tool that enables users to see when and where disaster declarations have occurred across the country. Through an interactive platform, users can view the history of disaster declarations by hazard type or year and the financial support provided to states, tribes and territories, and access public datasets for further research and analysis.

### **[Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness](#)**

Developed by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), the "Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness" course provides information for anyone who might be involved in planning for or addressing the needs of children in a disaster. Special emergency management issues are addressed such as pediatric decontamination, triage, and reunification. Although not a clinical class, the course covers some clinical aspects strictly from a resource management/allocation perspective. 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. Continuing education credits are available.

### **[Preparedness Toolkit](#)**

The FEMA Preparedness Toolkit is an online portal that provides tools to aid in implementing the six areas of the National Preparedness System. The National Preparedness System outlines a process for members of the community to move forward with preparedness activities and achieve the [National Preparedness Goal](#). The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies. The six National Preparedness System areas are:

1. [Identifying & Assessing Risk](#);
2. [Estimating Capability Requirements](#);
3. [Building & Sustaining Capabilities](#);
4. [Planning to Deliver Capabilities](#);
5. [Validating Capabilities](#); and
6. [Reviewing & Updating](#).

### **[Section on Integrative Medicine Newsletter – Column on "The Well Physician"](#)**

The AAP [Section on Integrative Medicine](#) newsletter now features a new column titled "The Well Physician". The column will help pediatricians stay aware of emerging research in physician health and wellness, identify skills that can be applied to address burnout, and initiate changes that can lead to wellness. Maintaining wellness in a disaster is especially important for physicians. See suggestions in the [AAP News article](#).

### **[Technical Resources Assistance Center and Information Exchange \(TRACIE\)](#)**

The HHS ASPR Technical Resources Assistance Center and Information Exchange (TRACIE) launched in June 2015. The ASPR TRACIE is a health care emergency preparedness information gateway that provides access to information and promising practices, identifies and addresses knowledge gaps, and offers responses to requests for technical assistance. The goal is to fill the gaps in health care preparedness capabilities by providing a way to share best practices and resources in the event of a health care emergency. This is designed for anyone looking to learn more about disaster, medical, health care, and public health preparedness.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **New Department of Homeland Security Psychosocial Social Disaster Resilience Group**

Jeffrey Stiefel, PhD, US Department of Homeland Security, hosts Pediatric/Children's Disaster Resilience Group conference calls. These calls allow colleagues interested in disaster preparedness for children to share new resources or information. Starting on August 11, 2015, from 11:00am ET to 12:30pm ET, Dr Stiefel will also be hosting Psychosocial Social Disaster Resilience Group conference calls. The calls will include presentations from group members and others who are working to improve psychosocial disaster resilience, as well as climate change psychosocial health concerns. Although this second call series is not pediatric-specific, AAP members are encouraged to present and participate to ensure children's issues are addressed. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

### **Follow @AAPGlobalHealth on Twitter**

The AAP has a new Twitter handle dedicated to highlighting global child health news and activities. The handle shares original content about the AAP's work, news from partners and campaigns, and messages spotlighting members' international efforts. Join the conversation by following [@AAPGlobalHealth](https://twitter.com/AAPGlobalHealth).

**Call for Abstracts**

The theme for the 44th annual American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works meeting will be "Emergency! Preparing for Disasters and Confronting the Unexpected in Conservation". The meeting will take place on May 13-17, 2016, in Montreal, Canada. [Abstracts](#) are being requested that address in a broad-based way the impact of past, present, and future disasters on the protection of cultural property. In addition, papers that address confronting the unexpected in conservation whether it occurs during the treatment of an artifact or during a natural disaster are requested. Abstracts are due September 14, 2015. Poster abstracts can be submitted by October 1, 2015.

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