

Children & Disasters

Anthrax

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Fall 2013

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 2013 DPAC Meeting Minutes](#) or [AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council](#).

ANTHRAX

A final draft of the clinical report, titled "Pediatric Anthrax Clinical Guidance" was circulated for review by all AAP committees, councils, and sections as well as key federal agencies and external associations/organizations. The clinical report was edited and has been submitted for final AAP review and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) clearance. The clinical report will be used to guide clinicians in management of anthrax in neonates, infants, children, adolescents, and young adults up to the age of 21 following a bioterror exposure. To optimally manage children during an anthrax bioterror event, the readily available and bidirectional flow of information between public health officials and pediatric health care providers, and clear recommendations and consistent messaging to the public from public health officials and health care providers will be extremely important.

PEDIATRIC BEREAVEMENT LECTURESHIP

Since the launch of the [Pediatric Bereavement Lectureship Program](#) in 2012, three lectureships have been conducted and were extremely successful:

- Boston University School of Medicine in Massachusetts - March 7-8, 2013.
- Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago in Illinois - April 9-11, 2013.
- Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health in Indiana - April 22-24, 2013. This program's [Grand Rounds](#) presentation by David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP, expert speaker for the Pediatric Bereavement Lectureship Program, was archived online.

The following three lectureships are upcoming:

- University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa - September 9-10, 2013.
- Miami Children's Hospital in Miami, Florida - September 19-20, 2013.
- Children of Alabama/University of Alabama at Birmingham, Alabama - September 25-28, 2013.

CLINICAL GUIDANCE FOR USING SMALLPOX VACCINE IN A POST-EVENT VACCINATION PROGRAM

The CDC, with assistance from the AAP, prepared a draft document titled, "Clinical Guidance for Using Smallpox Vaccine in a Post-Event Vaccination Program". The guidance was circulated for review by select AAP committees, councils, and sections, as well as key federal agencies and external associations. A revised draft is being developed. For more information, contact Tracy Eier, Special Assignment Assistant, at teier@aap.org or 847-434-4742.

COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL NETWORKS SURVEY PROJECT

The AAP has received funding to support implementation of a Collaborative Regional Networks Survey Project. This effort is a collaborative effort between the Academy and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. The purpose of the project is to identify and gather information about formal and informal coalitions or networks among agencies and organizations that collaborate in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters or public health emergencies. If you are aware of such a coalition or network, please e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org. Include in your message:

- The name of the network (if known).
- The purpose of the network (if known).
- The area that the network serves.
- The contact information of an individual who could provide additional details about the collaboration or network.

2013 HURRICANE SEASON

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) predicts an above-average hurricane season. This season is expected to produce 13-19 named storms, of which 6-9 are expected to become hurricanes and 3-5 to become major hurricanes. The AAP [Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Storms](#) Web page includes the most up to date resources. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages citizens to assemble an [emergency kit](#) and develop a [family communications plan](#).

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

This September marks the tenth annual National Preparedness Month; the theme is "You can be the Hero". National Preparedness Month is sponsored by the FEMA Ready Campaign, and the AAP is a member of the National Preparedness Coalition. The goal of this effort is to enable citizens to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential 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](#).

Take one step to recognize National Preparedness Month!

- Educate peers on how to customize disaster planning to meet children's needs.
- Form an AAP Chapter committee.
- Develop relationships with state and local public health departments and emergency planners.
- Form a pediatric advisory committee with public health leaders.
- Link with existing preparedness efforts.
- Partner with a children's or community hospital to improve emergency and disaster readiness.
- Advocate for effective use of statewide vaccine registries.
- Connect with state volunteer agencies such as the [Medical Reserve Corps](#) or the [Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals](#) (ESAR-VHP).
- Collaborate with child care programs or schools to help develop a coordinated disaster plan.
- Participate in local public health meetings.
- Get the seasonal influenza vaccine!

For more information, please visit the AAP [National Preparedness Month](#) Web page.

INFLUENZA

The AAP has updated its policy statement, "[Recommendations for the Prevention and Treatment of Influenza in Children](#)", and highlights important considerations in an *AAP News* [article](#). Updates include:

- The influenza vaccine composition this season.
- Quadrivalent influenza vaccines are licensed and available.
- Multiple formulations of influenza vaccine are available this season.
- Annual universal influenza immunization is indicated for all children and adolescents 6 months of age and older.
- Egg-allergic children should be vaccinated.
- Antiviral medications continue to be important in the control of influenza.

The AAP receives support from the CDC in the form of a cooperative agreement to implement the "Public Health Program to Enhance the Health and Development of Infants and Children". The current AAP disaster preparedness initiatives focus on seasonal influenza prevention and control. Projects in progress include:

- An AAP News article "[Children with Special Health Care Needs Especially Vulnerable to Flu](#)".
- A Web page within the AAP www.healthychildren.org Web site titled "[Preventing the Flu: Resources for Parents & Child Care Providers](#)".
- Influenza Prevention and Control Health and Safety Fact Sheet for child care programs.
- A template letter that child care providers can give to parents to encourage seasonal influenza immunization.
- "Seasonal Influenza Prevention and Control: Strategies for Head Start and Child Care Programs" Webinar on August 22, 2013.
- Draft chapter on Influenza Prevention and Control for Child Care Providers that will be added to an updated version of the Head Start Emergency Preparedness manual.
- [Caring for Our Children Standards](#) highlighted in August 2013 related to influenza.
 - [Standard 7.3.3.1 Influenza Immunizations for Children and Caregivers/Teachers](#)
 - [Standard 7.3.3.3 Influenza Prevention Education](#)
- Coordination of the "[Protecting Children at Highest Risk for Influenza Complications](#)" CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call/Webinar, scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2013, 2:00 ET/1:00pm CT. Dial in at 888-233-9077, passcode 3873879.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

[Pediatric Ethics Subcommittee of the Pediatric Advisory Committee Public Meeting](#) **September 9-10, 2013**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) convened a public meeting of the Pediatric Ethics Subcommittee of the Pediatric Advisory Committee. The purpose of this Subcommittee is to advise and make recommendations to the Pediatric Advisory Committee on pediatric ethical issues. Dr Fagbuyi presented at this meeting.

[Transfer Processes – An Opportunity for Improving Pediatric Emergency Care](#) **September 12, 2013**

This webcast reviews the importance of organized transfer processes in ensuring access to pediatric specialty care. The program is hosted by the Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau, taking place from 3:00pm to 4:30pm ET. Registration is required for this event. A certificate of continuing education will be available for attendance at the live presentation only.

[National Biodefense Science Board \(NBSB\) Public Meeting](#) **September 12, 2013**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is convening the next meeting of the NBSB, which is open to the public. The NBSB provides expert advice and guidance to the Secretary on scientific, technical, and other matters of special interest to HHS regarding current and future chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological agents, whether naturally occurring, accidental, or deliberate.

Twitter Chat to Share Important Preparedness Information

September 21, 2013

To promote National Preparedness Month, Tom Frieden, MD, MPH, CDC Director, will host a Twitter Chat. Dr Frieden will be joined by CDC experts Ali Khan, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response; Chris Portier, PhD, Director, National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances; and Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP, a developmental pediatrician and medical officer at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. Participate by following Dr Frieden on Twitter (@DrFriedenCDC) and using the hashtag #CDCchat.

[American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition](#)

October 26-29, 2013

This year, the AAP National Conference and Exhibition will be held in Orlando, Florida. [Advance Registration](#) is available through September 13, 2013. Below are details about the sessions and events that focus on disaster medicine:

- **Saturday, October 26, 2013**
H1016 Section on Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees Program: Discover the Magic of Medicine: Inspiration from Pediatric Leaders Keynote Address
Presenter: Steven E. Krug, MD, FAAP
Time: 8:20am-8:50am
- **Saturday, October 26, 2013**
I1038 Communication Challenge: What's a Pediatrician to Do/Say?
Presenters: MAJ Daniel B. Fagbuyi, MD, FAAP, Wendy Swanson, MD, FAAP
Time: 8:30am-10:00am
- **Saturday, October 26, 2013**
Section on Emergency Medicine (SOEM) Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee Meeting
Presenter: Marie Lozon, MD, FAAP
Time: 12:30pm-1:00pm
A link to all SOEM sessions and meetings can be found [here](#).
- **Monday, October 28, 2013**
P3066 Aurora, Newtown, Boston and Beyond: Violence and Its Impact on Children
Presenter: David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP
Time: 11:30am-11:50am
This plenary session presentation offers information on the impact of violence on America's youth, resources for pediatricians treating children to exposed violence, and opportunities for discussion on strategies for advocacy initiatives.
- **Monday, October 28, 2013**
F3102 Supporting the Grieving Child and Family
Presenter: David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP
Time: 3:00pm-3:45pm
This session will provide attendees with an overview of the AAP clinical report, "[Supporting the Family After the Death of a Child](#)". This session will also review information regarding children's understanding of death (reactions of young children and adolescents), approaches to talking with children about death, and common reactions of children to death. The faculty will provide strategies for identifying and addressing guilt, anticipating and addressing grief triggers, and misconceptions and literal misinterpretations related to the death of a child.
- **Tuesday, October 29, 2013**
X4060 Preparing for the Worst: How to Practice and Survive After a Disaster
Presenter: Scott Needle, MD, FAAP
Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm
This session will help pediatricians better prepare for disaster and its aftermath. Attendees will learn why disaster preparedness is important for all pediatricians, how to prepare and mitigate risk, and what issues might arise during prolonged recovery from disaster. The session will focus on improving pediatricians' abilities to provide medical services, promote mental health, serve the greater public health, and continue business operations. A revised and updated disaster preparedness checklist for pediatric office practices will be highlighted.

- **Tuesday, October 29, 2013**

- **F4084 A Tale of Two Cities: New York After Hurricane Sandy**

Presenter: Edward Conway, MD, FAAP

Time: 4:00pm-5:45pm

With a seemingly increasing number of natural disasters occurring across the country, it has never been more important for hospitals and communities to develop policies and procedures that assure close coordination between pediatricians and adult providers in order to most efficiently utilize medical resources. This session will give examples of community responsiveness and will focus on lessons learned in regards to advancing preparedness including the need for communication among facilities and all pediatric and adult providers.

[20th Pediatric Critical Care Colloquium](#)

November 2-5, 2013

This 3-day multidisciplinary, interactive program will provide a comprehensive review of late breaking issues affecting pediatric critical care. The daily sessions will explore the latest in modern models of care delivery, safety/quality and outcomes, disaster planning, palliative care, and much more. This meeting is presented by Children's National Medical Center.

[Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions Webinar](#)

The archived version of the June 30, 2013, Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions Webinar, hosted by the National Healthcare Preparedness Program, is now available. The goal of the Webinar was to provide information and identify resources that Coalition partners can use to strengthen the pediatric component within each of their Program's healthcare capabilities.

KEY RESOURCES

[Real Stories of Preparedness in Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#)

The CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, AAP, and Family Voices have partnered to recognize the unique experiences of families and health providers during emergency situations. This partnership has resulted in a collection of family stories that highlight emergency preparedness in children and youth with special health care needs. Those interested in working to create family stories can email Dr Peacock (ghn3@cdc.gov) using subject line "Emergency Preparedness for CYSHCN."

[National Report Card on Protecting Children During Disasters](#)

For the sixth year in a row, Save the Children has commissioned a state-by-state assessment of US preparation and safety standards for children in child care facilities and in schools. The National Report Card on Protecting Children During Disasters grades all 50 states and the District of Columbia on four basic disaster preparedness and safety standards for children in child care and schools. To meet these critical benchmarks, states must require all regulated child care settings to have written plans for evacuation and relocation, for family reunification following an emergency, as well as a specific plan to assist children with disabilities and those children with access and functional needs.

[Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#)

In June 2013, the Obama Administration released the Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans. The guides incorporate lessons learned from the shootings in Newtown and Oak Creek as well as the tornadoes in Oklahoma.

[Progress Report on Executive Actions to Help Reduce Gun Violence](#)

A progress report was released by the Obama Administration that showed completion or progress on executive actions to help reduce gun violence. Progress on strengthening the existing background check system, empowering law enforcement, making schools safer, encouraging responsible gun ownership, ending the freeze on gun violence research, preserving the rights of health providers to protect their patients and communities, and improving access to mental health care was reported.

[School Safety Planning: Why Fortification Is Not the Answer](#)

Following the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, 183 organizations and more than 200 experts in school safety, researchers and practitioners, came together to create a [position statement](#) on how best to address school violence. This article examines why intensifying security in schools should be reconsidered. An article featured in *AAP News* "[Sandy Hook Pediatricians Share Grief, Advice, Hope 6 Months after Tragedy](#)", tells the stories of pediatricians who lived in the area of the shooting at Sandy Hook school. The article also references what the AAP Connecticut Chapter has accomplished since the shooting.

[Mortality From a Tornado Outbreak, Alabama, April 27, 2011](#)

This report studies the deaths from the tornado outbreak in Alabama on April 27, 2011, and identifies measures to prevent future tornado-related fatalities. Methods for collecting information, results of the study, and conclusions are discussed. The study concludes that providing community shelters for those without safe rooms or basements, promoting peer warnings, and encouraging a comprehensive personal or family preparedness plan are of utmost importance to preventing tornado-related deaths in future events.

[Nationwide Response Issues After an Improvised Nuclear Device Attack: Medical and Public Health Considerations for Neighboring Jurisdictions - Workshop Summary](#)

On January 23-24, 2013, in partnership with the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Institute of Medicine Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events hosted a workshop that focused on key response requirements faced by local and regional public health and health care systems in response to an Improvised Nuclear Device detonation. This document summarizes the workshop.

[A Multi-Systems Approach to Pediatric Trauma](#)

This is a free virtual online course for all healthcare providers that discusses a multi-systems approach to pediatric trauma. Each module presents a different facet of the multi-systems approach and how they interface and interact together to medically treat the pediatric trauma patient.

[States Align to Make it Easier for Doctors to Communicate After Disasters](#)

An article from American Medical News, published in July 2013, describes how a secure, HIPAA-compliant email system ([Direct](#)), allowed for physicians, hospitals, and other health professionals in one state to send emails with attachments to hospitals and health professionals in any of the other states participating in the program. This allows for physicians to access critical patient health information, when those fleeing a disaster area can't see their regular physician or go to their usual hospital.

[Crisis Standards of Care: A Toolkit for Indicators and Triggers](#)

This report examines indicators and triggers that guide the implementation of crisis standards of care and provides a discussion toolkit to help stakeholders establish indicators and triggers for their own communities. Although not pediatric specific, the crisis standards of care recommendations can be used for any population. A crisis standard of care is a guideline that is developed before a disaster strikes to help health care providers decide how to provide the best possible medical care when there are not enough resources to give all patients the level of care they would receive under normal circumstances.

[AAP HealthyChildren.org Web Site Provides Text-to-Speech Technology](#)

HealthyChildren.org has added text-to-speech technology to all of its article pages, making the site more accessible to those with visual impairments, reading difficulties, or learning disabilities, as well as those whose native language is different from that of the Web site.

[Office of Emergency Care Research](#)

The Office of Emergency Care Research (OECR) elected Jeremy Brown, MD, to be the first permanent director. The OECR is housed in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of General Medical Sciences. This office focuses on basic, clinical and translational emergency care research and training across NIH. It coordinates, catalyzes and communicates about NIH funding opportunities in emergency care research and fosters the training of future researchers in this field.

OPPORTUNITIES

The DPAC has developed a 3-year AAP Strategic Plan for Disaster Preparedness, with one of the goals being "increase pediatric resident exposure and knowledge about disaster preparedness and response". The AAP is currently looking for information on resident education tools for disaster preparedness. If you are interested in participating on a pediatric resident disaster preparedness working group, or have information to share, please e-mail DisasterReady@app.org.

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