



# CHILDREN AND DISASTERS NEWSLETTER

## Inside this issue:

New Projects	1
Project Announcements	1
FYI's	2
Spread the Word!	3

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 [DPAC About Us](#) Web page. Also see the [AAP DPAC Strategic Plan for Disaster Preparedness 2016-2020](#).

### New Projects

#### ➤ AAP Partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Baylor College of Medicine

The AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives staff and select AAP members will continue to collaborate with the CDC to implement the following projects:

1. Improving the Pediatric Community's Readiness for Seasonal/Pandemic Influenza
2. Pediatric Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
3. Zika Response Project

The AAP will work with the Baylor College of Medicine to integrate AAP emergency medicine and disaster preparedness activities into [Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center](#) initiatives. The AAP will also strive to increase pediatrician involvement in state Emergency Medical Services for Children activities.

### Project Announcements

#### ➤ Who's on First? Handoff Strategies in the Children's Hospital Webinar

The AAP is hosting another webinar in the *Children's Hospitals and Preparedness* series, "Who's on First? Handoff Strategies in the Children's Hospital", on Thursday, June 29, 2017, at 1:00pm ET/12:00pm CT. In this webinar, Toni Gross, MD, MPH, FAAP, AAP Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine; Jennifer Jewell, MD, FAAP, AAP Committee on Hospital Care; Paul Mullan, MD, MPH, FAAP, AAP Section on Emergency Medicine; and Dana Ramirez, MD, FAAP, Section on Emergency Medicine, will present on the AAP clinical report "[Standardization of Inpatient Handoff Communications](#)", an AAP policy statement, "[Handoffs: Transitions of Care for Children in the Emergency Department](#)", and the 'Handoff Evaluation Tool' and the 'Briefing Checklist Tool'.

#### ➤ AAP Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program Funding

The CATCH Call for Proposals is [open](#)! The AAP is partnering with CATCH to support pediatricians to conduct community-based projects that advance child health and well-being through disaster preparedness. Funded projects may focus on planning or implementation activities that promote improved emergency and disaster readiness. The AAP, with support from the CDC, will fund two planning or implementation grants and two grants for residents this cycle. The deadline for applications to be received is July 31, 2017.

Suggestions for activities that pediatricians can take to improve preparedness and protect children are available in the AAP [Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit](#), the AAP policy "[Ensuring the Health of Children in Disasters](#)", and the AAP [Children and Disasters Web site](#). Ideas can also be found in the AAP community-based initiatives [database](#), which shows all projects funded since 1989!

➤ **AAP State Preparedness Funding Application**

The AAP is offering another new funding opportunity! Up to \$20,000 will be available through an application process to a select number of AAP Chapters, states, or regions to implement state-level activities designed to improve pediatric infectious disease and natural disaster/emergency preparedness. This funding can assist in embedding pediatric preparedness within existing state preparedness efforts. This funding can be used for encouraging pediatric and public health collaborations, blending resources, and leveraging expertise, among other things. Ultimately, these funds should support efforts to address children's needs in a disaster or emergency. Efforts should be made to foster links with federally-funded state-level preparedness activities as well as disaster-related and other health care coalitions. Partnering with community groups that already support children (e.g., child care, schools) is another option. To receive an application, email [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

➤ **2017 Pediatric and Public Health Virtual Tabletop Exercise Resources**

In February 2017, the AAP and the CDC conducted a Pediatric and Public Health Virtual Tabletop Exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to improve pediatric preparedness through increased communications and decision-making among pediatricians and public health professionals relevant to a public health emergency related to an infectious disease threat. For more information regarding the exercise, or to learn about strategies you can use when conducting exercises and drills, please visit the [Pediatric Tabletop Exercises](#) Web page.

➤ **Ready Wrigley Preparedness for Flu Season**

The CDC [Ready Wrigley activity book](#) series aims to build capacity in children's preparedness by inspiring youth readiness and promoting individual resilience. The books are designed for children 2 to 8 years of age. Each book is reviewed and endorsed by the AAP. To date, *Ready Wrigley* activity books have been developed for a variety of disaster-related topics, including earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter weather. The AAP worked with the CDC to develop and endorse a new [Ready Wrigley activity book](#) on [influenza](#). If you would like to request complimentary print copies of the influenza-focused book or the disaster-related books (up to 200 copies per location) while supplies last, email [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

### FYI's

➤ **Disaster Health Education Symposium: Advancing the State of the Art**

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health and the Uniformed Services University School of Medicine will host the [Disaster Health Education Symposium: Advancing the State of the Art](#) on September 7, 2017, in Bethesda, Maryland. This symposium will provide a forum with a specific focus on education and training in disaster medicine and public health. The symposium will:

1. Highlight approaches, science, and practice for education and training in disaster medicine and public health.
2. Present a forum for collaboration and networking among disaster medicine and public health professionals.
3. Explore the implications of the latest practice and research for disaster medicine and public health learning and performance.
4. Identify key areas for future research.

The symposium will include an oral and poster abstract competition. Submissions are due by **June 30, 2017**. Please visit the [abstract submission Web site](#) for more details. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Victoria Klimczak at 240-833-4438 or [victoria.klimczak.ctr@usuhs.edu](mailto:victoria.klimczak.ctr@usuhs.edu).

### Weekly Report

- The CDC has recently released new Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports about Zika virus. The first, [Pregnancy Outcomes Following Zika Virus Infection during Pregnancy in the U.S. Territories, January 15, 2016 – April 25, 2017](#) provides new information on the cases of pregnant women with possible Zika virus infection who gave birth in the US territories. Analysis showed that 5% of infants had birth defects that may be associated with Zika virus infection, with a higher percentage of abnormalities seen in first trimester infections. Of these infants, only 59%

were tested for Zika virus, 52% were reported to have head imaging, and 79% were reported to have hearing screening conducted at birth. Actions need to be taken to ensure that all infants born to women with Zika virus are tested and cared for as recommended in [CDC guidance](#). Another report was also released, [Measures Taken to Prevent Zika virus Infection during Pregnancy among Women with a Recent Live Birth — Puerto Rico, 2016](#) describes reported behaviors and experiences to prevent Zika virus infection during pregnancy among women in Puerto Rico. Overall, 98% of women reported doing at least one thing to avoid mosquito bites. About 46% reported using insect repellent daily, and 12% reported wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants daily. About 33% reported either not having sex or consistently using condoms to avoid sexual transmission of the virus during pregnancy. A high number of women (90%) reported they were counseled by their health care provider about Zika, and 77% of women reported being tested for Zika virus in the first or second trimester of pregnancy.

- See more about the AAP Zika virus prevention efforts and resources for pediatricians and parents at [www.aap.org/zika](http://www.aap.org/zika) and [www.healthychildren.org/zikavirus](http://www.healthychildren.org/zikavirus).

### Spread the Word!

- **Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Alert**  
President Donald Trump has released his fiscal year 2018 budget proposal, which eliminated funding for the EMSC program. The Academy issued a [statement](#) opposing the overall budget proposal and [joined](#) with several other organizations to speak out against the president's recommendation to defund EMSC. For more than 30 years, the EMSC program has improved the quality, capability and outcomes of pediatric emergency care, including in pre-hospital EMS systems and hospital emergency departments. The president's budget would mean devastating consequences for this progress.

**Take Action and Contact your members of Congress:** To contact your members of Congress and urge them to support full funding for the EMSC program, go to [federaladvocacy.aap.org](http://federaladvocacy.aap.org) and click on "[Fully Fund the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program](#)" in the Advocacy Action Center. There, you will find a template email to guide your outreach. You can find your representative and senators by going to [House.gov](http://House.gov) and "Find Your Representative" and [Senate.gov](http://Senate.gov) and "Find Your Senators." The Washington, DC Office contact information will be on these Web sites.

Please email [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org) or visit [www.aap.org/disasters](http://www.aap.org/disasters) if you have any questions or want more information about AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives.