



CHILDREN AND DISASTERS NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

Project Announcements

1

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

Project Announcements

➤ **Hurricane Relief Efforts**

The AAP continues its efforts to collaborate with the Florida and Texas AAP chapters to assess and address hurricane recovery needs of AAP members and the families they serve.

In a message to AAP members from Karen Remley, MD, MBA, MPH, FAAP, AAP CEO/Executive Vice President, it was noted that the AAP is in contact with leaders from the Puerto Rico AAP chapter, relief organizations, and first-responders working on the island to understand pediatrician needs as they care for children in the wake of Hurricane Maria. The AAP has also been in frequent contact with federal agencies and non-governmental organizations whose core mission is providing on-the-ground disaster response and relief. Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the AAP has been able to connect the relief organization Americares with pediatricians in the AAP Puerto Rico chapter to begin fulfilling their lists of needed supplies. In addition to expert guidance, the AAP is ready to assist with financial support for the children and pediatricians in any state/territory impacted by the hurricanes. Please consider a making a donation to the AAP Friends of Children fund [here](#).

The AAP sent a [letter](#) to FEMA to seek urgent action to provide relief, supplies, and aid specifically for children, and the AAP leadership has appointed a work group to discuss hurricane recovery at an infrastructure level. Protocols for transportation of patients from Puerto Rico to hospitals within the US is an issue that the AAP is discussing with federal response agencies. The AAP also sent a [letter](#) to Congress requesting an emergency aid package for Puerto Rico.

➤ **New Article: Deception in Schools - When Crisis Preparedness Efforts Go Too Far**

An article was recently published in *JAMA Pediatrics* titled "[Deception in Schools-When Crisis Preparedness Efforts Go Too Far](#)". The article argues that deception in live crisis drills is both harmful and unethical, using examples from past events. The AAP would like to recognize DPAC member David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP, for his efforts in collaborating with others to develop and secure publication of this article.

➤ **DPAC Member to Discuss Zika Virus at the Tennessee State Pediatric Conference**

The [Tennessee State Pediatric Conference](#) will take place in Franklin, TN, on Friday, October 6, 2017, and Saturday, October 7, 2017. The conference will cover a variety of topics focused on infectious diseases. Meg Fisher, MD, FAAP, will present a session titled "Zika Virus: What We Know So Far" on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 8:00am-9:00am CT.

➤ **How to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

The AAP encourages pediatricians, families, and communities to work together to protect children against carbon monoxide poisoning, especially in times of a crisis or disaster. The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning increases after disasters when gasoline- or diesel-powered generators may be more frequently used to supply power. Although carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal to anyone, children, pregnant women, and older adults as well as persons with chronic illness are particularly vulnerable. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes this hazard and offers [Clinical Guidance for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning After a Disaster](#). Additional resources follow:

- [Hurricane Harvey—Clinical Guidance for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning \(CDC\)](#)
- [How to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning \(AAP for Pediatricians\)](#)
- [Protecting Children from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning \(AAP for Parents\)](#)

➤ **Save the Date - Children's Hospitals and Preparedness Webinar**

Title: Are You Ready? The CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule, Exercises, and Drills

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT

Call-in Details: 888-337-8199

Passcode: 506173

Registration Required via this registration link: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/ouvb878ca68c&eom>

In 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers regulation went into effect. Participating facilities are required to demonstrate compliance with the rule by November 2017. The purpose of the rule is to establish requirements to ensure adequate planning for both natural and man-made disasters, and coordination with federal, state, tribal, regional and local emergency preparedness systems. The regulation outlines four core elements of risk assessment and emergency planning, communication planning, establishment of policies and procedures, and training and testing. The expert speakers on this webinar will describe the key elements of the new regulation and share examples of activities that children's hospitals can undertake to address the exercise requirements of this rule. For more information or to submit questions in advance of the webinar, e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org. Also see information on other activities on the AAP [Upcoming Events resource page](#).

➤ **Influenza Prevention and Control**

The AAP policy "[Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2017-2018](#)" offers updated recommendations for routine use of seasonal influenza vaccine and antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza in children. An overview of the expanded recommendations is included in [AAP News](#).

The AAP will collaborate with the [CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) to conduct a webinar on November 7, 2017 at 2:00pm ET, that will address clinical guidance and offer recommendations for influenza prevention and treatment in children. Please save this date and time in your calendar. Additional information will be provided at a later date. The CDC recently released two influenza-focused letters for health care providers. The [first letter](#) focuses on updates for the 2017-2018 influenza season and asks health care providers for assistance in ensuring patients receive influenza vaccines. The [second letter](#) is for health care providers of pregnant women. This letter outlines the importance of vaccinating pregnant women and the role that health care providers can play. The AAP had an opportunity to review and provide comments that were incorporated into each letter. The letters are signed by Dr Remley.

For additional influenza prevention and control information, see the October 2017 AAP [What's the Latest with the Flu message](#).

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.