



# 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

### ➤ **Zika Experts Forum**

On August 30-31, 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the AAP co-organized the Forum on the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Management of Zika Virus Infection among Infants. Members of the AAP, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, representatives from health departments, federal agencies, and allied organizations participated in the forum. The forum was an opportunity to convene experts to review emerging evidence and collect individual input regarding the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of infants with possible congenital Zika virus infection. The objectives of the forum were to:

- Review emerging data to inform the evaluation and care of infants with possible congenital Zika infection;
- Identify strategies to use prenatal ultrasound and amniocentesis to inform the diagnosis and clinical management of infants with congenital Zika syndrome;
- Identify strategies that optimize communication between providers caring for an infant with congenital Zika exposure; and
- Explore strategies to enhance coordination of care and transfer of health information from obstetric providers to the pediatrician at the systems-level for infants with possible congenital Zika exposure.



### ➤ **Hurricane Harvey**

The AAP monitored national-level calls with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and reached out to the Texas AAP Chapter/Texas Pediatric Society to support a coordinated response focused on addressing children's needs. As flood waters recede in Houston and other communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey, the AAP offers guidance on ensuring children remain safe during efforts to clear flood-impacted areas. The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units, with support of the AAP, have developed [specific recommendations](#) regarding the return of children to flood-impacted areas. The AAP works through the federal government agencies (e.g., the FEMA and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response [ASPR]) at the national level.

A typical question after a disaster is whether pediatricians can volunteer to provide health services in disaster-impacted areas. Resources are available from [ASPR TRACIE](#). Opportunities for physicians to help out in a disaster require pre-certification through the Disaster Medical Assistance Team, [Medical Reserve Corps](#), or [Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals](#) opportunities in advance of a disaster.

The press release on the AAP response to Hurricane Harvey by AAP President Fernando Stein, MD, FAAP, can be found [here](#).

Please see details below regarding the Spotlight Session taking place at [the AAP National Conference & Exhibition](#).

**Title:** Hurricane Response: What to Expect when You're Not Expecting a Disaster

**Date/Time:** Saturday, September 16, 2017, 12:30pm – 1:30pm

**Location:** McCormick Place West, W179

**Description:** Even those who are most prepared will have difficulty responding in a disaster. Recent hurricanes in Texas, Puerto Rico, and Florida remind us that disasters can quickly impact many areas and people. There is a process that generally occurs after a disaster; there are immediate needs with outpouring of help from many areas followed by a very long recovery phase. During this 1-hour non-CME event, members of the AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council will review common issues that occur in a disaster and ways that pediatricians can manage their own needs, as well as the needs of the families and children they serve. Audience participation will be encouraged, and participants will be invited to reflect on their experiences. Members can talk about acute issues in maintaining an office and a home while tending to their own self-care and wellness. Ideas for supporting colleagues and helping adult caregivers to talk with children about hurricanes and other disasters will be covered. This Spotlight Session will allow members to come together with their colleagues, share their experiences and insights, and discuss how to support others impacted by disasters.

#### ➤ **National Preparedness Month**

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma serves to remind us that disaster preparedness is critical. September is [National Preparedness Month](#), an annual campaign to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Each year, the AAP participates in National Preparedness Month by sharing important information and resources specific to preparing for the care of children during an emergency or disaster. The AAP will follow the FEMA theme: "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can." During National Preparedness Month, consider sharing information about the [Save the Children Prep Step Campaign](#). This song and dance teaches kids the basics of emergency preparedness. Also, consider participating in [National Preparathon Day](#) on September 15, 2017. Ideas for participation can be found on the AAP National Preparedness Month [Web page](#).

#### ➤ **Webinar - Beyond the Basics: The Impact of Zika Virus on Vision and Hearing**

The AAP hosted another webinar in the AAP Webinar Series on Zika Virus Syndrome titled "[Beyond the Basics: The Impact of Zika Virus on Vision and Hearing](#)". During this webinar, Meg Fisher, MD, FAAP; Lisa Hunter, PhD; Mariana Leal, MD, PhD; Lilian Muniz, MD; and Marcia Tartarella, MD, PhD, FAAP, presented new research and details on the vision and hearing findings seen in infants with Congenital Zika Virus Syndrome.

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

The following abstracts listed below were accepted to be presented at the 2017 National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference taking place November 28-30, 2017, in San Diego, CA. Registration details for the conference are available [here](#).

**Title:** Responding to Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases: Lessons Learned from the AAP and CDC Partnership

**Presenters:** Eric Dziuban, MD, DTM, FAAP, and Meg Fisher, MD, FAAP

**Title:** Virtual Coalition Building: Utilizing Technology to Foster Preparedness Collaborations

**Presenters:** David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP, and Rebecca Leeb, PhD

**Title:** Pediatric Disaster Response Planning in Louisiana

**Presenters:** John Vanchiere, MD, PhD, FAAP, Louisiana Chapter President, and Ashely Politz, Louisiana Chapter Executive Director

**Title:** Medical Countermeasures for Children in Radiation and Nuclear Disasters: Current Capabilities and Key Gaps

**Presenters:** Aaron Gardner, MD, MS, FAAP, and Eric Dziuban, MD, DTM, CPH, FAAP

➤ **Save the Date Webinar - Are You Ready? The CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule, Exercises and Drills**

The AAP is hosting another webinar in the Children's Hospitals and Preparedness series that will focus on the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) emergency preparedness rule, which will take effect in November 2017. The webinar will take place October 24, 2017 at 2:00pmET/1:00pmCT, and will highlight what children's hospitals need to know about the rule as well as information on pediatric-focused exercises and drills.

➤ **Annual AAP Influenza Policy Statement**

The newly published AAP policy statement, "[Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2017-2018](#)", is available online. This statement updates the recommendations for routine use of the seasonal influenza vaccine and antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza in children. The report recommends that pediatricians offer the influenza vaccine to all children 6 months of age and older, as soon as the vaccine becomes available, to complete the immunization process and provide protection before the flu season starts. See the [press release](#) for additional information. 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.

For more information, see [www.aap.org/disasters](http://www.aap.org/disasters) or contact the American Academy of Pediatrics at [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).