



COVID-19: Update & Resources

May 28, 2020

Dear NYS AAP - Chapter 2 Member,

It has been another couple of weeks in suspended animation as part of the economic pause. However, I am more confident than ever that there's light at the end of the tunnel as all regions except for New York City have met 7 out of the 7 criteria required for re-opening. You can follow New York State's regional metrics here:

<https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>.

Here are a few updates on what your local AAP Chapter, New York Chapter 2, is doing and planning. We have continued to be on the front lines of this pandemic, assisting pediatricians where we can and ensuring your voice is heard at the county, state and federal levels.

PPE FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS:

The Chapter has now distributed ~1,500 pieces of PPE to pediatric offices across the Chapter, from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn to Ronkonkoma and Riverhead in Suffolk. Chapter Officers have **PERSONALLY** delivered packages of N95 masks, surgical masks, gloves, goggles and face shields to pediatricians.

We have received another shipment of Personal Protective Equipment. If you require PPE for your practice, please contact Jessica Geslani at jgeslani@aap.org and we will match our supply with your needs.

Going to the offices of solo and small practice pediatricians has been incredibly inspiring. Several of these practices needed the equipment to remain financially viable. Others needed it because they were extremely high-risk for severe disease. These deliveries have been a great way to interact with so many of you and hear your concerns about how the Chapter can better assist you.



YOUR AAP CHAPTER IS WORKING ON SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS TO HELP PEDIATRICIANS AND CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITIES:

- As the next round of COVID-related economic relief heads to the United State Senate, the Chapter is putting together a comprehensive **survey to provide our state and federal legislators with data on the impact of the novel Coronavirus on pediatric practice**. When you receive the survey, please be sure to take a few minutes to complete it. The information collected will go directly toward informing policy for New York State.
- Thank you to New York Chapter 3 President, Dr. Lisa Handwerker. Dr. Handwerker and I met virtually with New York City Commissioner of Health, Dr. Oxiris Barbot MD MPH, to discuss surveillance for Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a Kawaski-like disease which appears related to Coronavirus infection. **Chapters 2 & 3 are seeking your input to enable us to plan COVID and MIS-C programs and resources for our members. Please complete our brief, 5 minute survey by June 2nd: [Click Here for the Pediatrician Survey on COVID 19 & MIS-C](#)**. In addition, *if you see a suspected case of MIS-C, please call the New York City Provider Access Line for the City Department of Health: 866-692-3641.*
- Tonight at 7pm the Chapter will host a **VIRTUAL TOWN HALL with Representative Tom Suozzi (NY-3)** to give pediatricians a chance to directly share stories of how COVID has impacted their practices and to ask questions about the federal legislative. We are limiting the event to 25 pediatricians with a preference for constituents of NY's 3rd Congressional District. We are actively arranging town halls with other representatives of the Chapter. Please be on the lookout for email invitations based on your Congressional District.
- The pandemic has created the need for **immediate, reliable information on billing practices so pediatricians are paid fairly and can stay afloat**. Multiple Chapter-wide emails from the NY Chapter 2 & 3 Pediatric Council, co-authored by Immediate Past-President, Dr. Steven Goldstein. and Chapter 3 VP, Dr. Jesse Hackell, provide critical payer updates for pediatricians. You can view the Pediatric Council's emails here: <http://ny2aap.org/covid-19-resources/>
- I used to post every major media appearance by a member of Chapter 2 in these emails. However, there are now too many to mention. **To date, Chapter members**

have APPEARED IN THE LOCAL OR NATIONAL MEDIA 21 TIMES! Just this week, Dr. Sara Siddiqui discussed the need for parents to bring children to the pediatrician for immunizations on News12 Long Island and WCBS Radio 880AM. As we all know, the role of informing the public during a pandemic is crucial, and the Chapter has played an outsized role informing the public about the pediatric aspects of COVID and reinforcing the need for timely immunizations. Here are the links:

1. <https://wcb880.radio.com/articles/news/parents-urged-to-keep-up-with-pediatric-visits-amid-crisis>
2. <http://longisland.news12.com/story/42116437/pediatricians-reminds-parents-to-keep-their-kids-up-to-date-on-vaccinations>

- There is no doubt that pediatricians are really struggling personally and professionally now. However, through our patients, we understand that the challenges for families living at the brink of the federal poverty level are more immediate. **Across our Chapter, demand for supplies from food banks has increased up to 700% and rates of food insecurity have increased by 7-10% in a month. The Chapter was awarded a grant from the community-based Aarti Foundation of New York to provide tangible food donations to four food banks located in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.** If you would like to get involved with purchasing, packaging or delivering the food to a bank in your local area, be on the lookout for an invitation email based on your AAP-provided address.

Finally, I want to remind you that we are all in this together, and your local AAP Chapter is working hard to make sure you are supported. You are vital to the children you care for and to the communities you serve.

As always, please feel free to reach out if New York Chapter 2 can be of assistance.

Sincerely,
Shetal Shah, MD, FAAP
President, NYS AAP - Chapter 2

The NYS AAP - CHAPTER 2 is YOUR Local AAP Chapter

The New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP) is comprised of three local AAP Chapters, NY Chapters 1, 2, and 3, who work together as a coalition.

Your Chapter, the NYS AAP - Chapter 2, has 1,600 members in 4 counties: Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk.

To learn more about Chapter 2, please view our [Member Value Flyer](#) which describes the value of Chapter membership.

CONTACT US - (We'd love to hear from you!)

President: Shetal Shah, MD, FAAP shetaldoc@hotmail.com

Vice President: Robert Lee, DO, FAAP rlee@aap.net

Secretary: Sanjivan Patel, MD, FAAP sapatel@wyckoffhospital.org

Treasurer: Pinchi Srinivasan, MD, FAAP niqdoc@gmail.com

Executive Director: Jessica Geslani jgeslani@aap.org

Director of Policy, Advocacy & External Relations: Elie Ward, MSW eward@aap.net

New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP) - Chapter 2
516-326-0310 | [Follow us on Twitter](#) | www.ny2aap.org

