Can you believe that it’s already mid August? – We are pleased to share the following updates with you!

**DisasterCast Videos!**
The council presents the second DisasterCast which features Eric Dziuban, MD, DTM, CPH, FAAP, interviewing expert member Carl Baum, MD, FAAP, FACMT, about “Chemical and Biological Incidents”. Upcoming topics will cover “Hurricane Preparedness” and “The Expanding Risk of Wildfires”. Ideas for Disaster topics can be sent to DisasterReady@aap.org. The Council on Children and Disasters (COCD) Executive Committee will release additional videos throughout the next year.

**Attend Council Education Subcommittee Meetings**
This committee meets virtually the second Thursday of every month, and each meeting includes either discussion of an article through Journal Club or an interview with an expert who shares information on their career or involvement in disaster medicine. The August 12, 2021, meeting featured a Fireside Chat with Natasha Gill, MD, MPH, FAAP, and David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP. A recording of the session will be posted here by September 1, 2021! The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 9, 2021. Staff will share details and an appointment for each of these meetings. If you are unable to attend, simply decline the appointment. Please note that there is no requirement to attend, so you do not need to inform staff whether you are or are not attending. Email DisasterReady@aap.org with questions.

**Information for Parents: Extreme Heat and Keeping Kids Safe When Temperatures Soar**
The COCD is updating materials on the AAP website for parents, HealthyChildren.org (which is available in English and Spanish). Several council members including Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHCM, FAAP, helped to update this material on extreme heat. HealthyChildren.org is also a great place to find resources for families on COVID-19 topics, See all available COVID-19 articles on HealthyChildren.org online!

In terms of information for clinicians, the AAP Children and Disasters website is being transformed. If you need a resource or information, please reach out to us at DisasterReady@aap.org. We appreciate your patience throughout this process!

[View COCD Collaboration Website >>]
Member Spotlight
Learn more about your colleagues!

Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHCM, FAAP, is the senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean for graduate studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Specialty trained in pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada, Dr Davies consults in infectious diseases at the Children’s Hospital and Medical Center of Omaha. Dele is a current member of the National Biodefense Science Board for the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and cochairs its Readiness and Resilience Working Group. Dr Davies is also a member of the Council on Children and Disasters, and he oversees the Council Communication’s Subcommittee. Read more about Dele >>

Maya Talal Soufan, MBBS, is a new member of the COCD and a fresh medical graduate from AlFaisal University, College of Medicine. Maya will be applying to this year’s match cycle in pediatrics and is looking forward to what the journey will hold for her. For now, she is working as a teaching assistant in the medical school. Her passion for pediatrics grew during her clerkship years, particularly in child advocacy. This encouraged her to join the AAP to be able to advocate for children. Maya is also interested in ensuring health equity for children from the aspect of natural disaster management and support and to ensure children have a stable and secure environment in such unexpected circumstances. Hence, she recently joined the COCD Educational Subcommittee. Maya is interested in pursuing a fellowship in neonatology, and in her leisure time, she enjoys having coffee and spending time with her 8-year-old cat.

More Information on our Members >>
Getting Involved

National Preparedness Month is in September!

National Preparedness Month is observed each September to raise awareness about the need to prepare for disasters and emergencies. The 2021 theme provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is “Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.” Weekly themes, social media and graphics, and videos are available. As a pediatrician interested in disaster preparedness, consider what you might do – just 1 thing – during September to advocate for children during disaster planning and response. One idea is to share the AAP News Parent Plus article “Talk with Kids about Plans Before a Disaster Strikes”.

Workshop on How to Use a New Resource to Monitor People in a Radiation Emergency

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced the release of a new online tool titled CRC SimPLER. This resource will assist state and local emergency and public health planners to set up community reception centers (CRCs) to monitor people following a large-scale radiation emergency. CRC SimPLER allows planners to estimate their capacity to respond based on currently available resources. Planners can also decide how to allocate additional resources effectively to optimize their response goals. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the National Alliance for Radiation Readiness (of which the AAP is a member) will host a virtual workshop on Monday, August 23, 2021, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm ET. Participants will have opportunities to explore features of the tool and individuals are encouraged to e-mail scenarios they would like to work through during the session to simpler@cdc.gov. Registration is required by August 23rd at 9:00 am ET.

Upcoming Conferences

- **Register for the AAP National Conference and Exhibition.** This conference will include both virtual and in-person presentations. The Council on Children and Disasters educational session will be held live on Monday, October 11, 2021, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm ET in Philadelphia, PA. For a copy of the program, e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.

- **Attend the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference** November 30 to December 2, 2021, in Orlando, Florida. There will be 5 tracks, including a track on pediatrics! More information can be found online.
August: The Next AAP Town Hall: COVID-19 Hot Topics
The next virtual town hall that links members with leading experts to discuss emerging issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic will be held TODAY at 7:00 pm CDT and will cover topics including the COVID-19 variant, vaccinations, back-to-school, and other pressing subjects. Join this informative session where you will hear from leading experts and connect with your peers. Register here. Previous town halls are available for viewing here.

September: National Preparedness Month and planned launch of the Applying Lessons Learned During Disaster and Pandemic Recovery ECHO. More information can be found here!

September 9, 2021 at 12:00 pm CDT: The COCD Council Education Subcommittee meeting and Journal Club!

October: AAP National Conference and Exhibition - Council Educational Session in Philadelphia, PA: Monday, October 11, at 8:00 am to 12:00 pm ET.

Webinars and Resources

- COVID and AAP Advocacy: See the latest version of the AAP Advocacy Report which summarizes AAP’s recent federal and state advocacy activities during COVID-19 all in one place.

- Updated Interim Guidance: See the recently updated versions of AAP COVID-19 Interim guidance, particularly Guidance for Safe Schools, Face Masks, Post-COVID-19 Conditions in Children and Adolescents, and Treatment of RSV.

Council Leadership
See the full list of Council Executive Committee members.

- Steven E. Krug, MD, FAAP, Chairperson
- Sarita Chung, MD, FAAP, Vice Chairperson

Communications Subcommittee

- H. Dele Davies, MD, MHCM, MS, FAAP, Subcommittee Chairperson (Executive Committee)
- Nadia Sabri, MD, FAAP, DipABLM, Chairperson (Council-at-Large)

Education Subcommittee

- Joelle Simpson, MD, MPH, FAAP, Subcommittee Chairperson (Executive Committee)
- Natasha Gill, MD, FAAP, Co-Chairperson (Council-at-Large)
- Amyna Hussain, MD, FAAP, Co-Chairperson (Council-at-Large)

Membership Subcommittee

- Eric Dziuban, MD, DTM, CPH, FAAP, Subcommittee Chairperson (Executive Committee)
- Carl Baum, MD, FAAP, FACMT, Subcommittee Co-Chairperson (Executive Committee)
Tell us what you think. This newsletter has been created for your benefit! If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email DisasterReady@aap.org.

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