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.

Announcements

New AAP Area of Pediatric Population Health

The AAP disaster preparedness initiatives are now housed administratively in an AAP Department of Healthy Resilient Children, Youth and Families, led by Debra Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP, Senior Vice-President. Within this department there are 4 areas: Strategic Partnerships for Child and Family Health; Child Safety, Health, and Wellness; Systems of Services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs; and a new area titled Pediatric Population Health. This new area serves as the home for AAP Disaster Preparedness and Recovery, Public Health Promotion, and Adolescent Health Promotion (a merge of the tobacco control and adolescent health efforts). Public Health Promotion also includes Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) activities, the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) program, epilepsy, telehealth care, and climate change work. This restructure provides opportunities for collaboration and connections with new stakeholder groups – natural disasters, environmental health, and climate change are related, and all impact children.

New Releases

CDC Updates Zika Travel Guidance for Pregnant Women and Couples

After a review of current data on the spread of Zika throughout the world, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its Zika travel guidance for pregnant women and couples who may want to become pregnant. To assist pregnant women and others in identifying geographic areas of risk, the CDC published an updated interactive World Map of Areas with Zika where users can search for location-specific Zika information and recommendations. The CDC also updated a few additional resources:

- Counseling Pregnant Travelers about Zika
- Counseling Travelers of Reproductive Age about Zika
- Pregnant? Read This Before You Travel
Mental Health and the Role of the Pediatrician in Disasters
The AAP Pediatric Disaster Preparedness and Response Topical Collection includes a chapter on Mental Health Issues. This chapter highlights the importance of pediatricians’ abilities to identify psychological symptoms, perform timely and effective triage of mental health complaints, initiate brief supportive interventions, and make appropriate referrals when necessary. Also see the AAP Promoting Adjustment and Helping Children Cope Resource page.

Preparing for Spring Flooding
The current floods in Nebraska and Iowa illustrate that it is not too early to expect flooding. Floods are one of the most common hazards in the US and account for approximately 30% of disasters worldwide. Pediatricians play a central role in preparing families to protect children when there is flooding. It is important to recognize the difference between a flood watch and a flood warning. A flood watch means that conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area. A flood warning means that flooding is either happening or will happen shortly. Flash floods are the number one cause of weather-related deaths in the US, so it’s important to discuss what a flash flood is and how to avoid risks. Pediatricians can direct families to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guide, “How To Prepare For A Flood” for additional information. Children should not help with clean-up efforts, and they should be the last to return to areas impacted by floods. Clinical recommendations regarding the return of children to areas impacted by flooding and/or hurricanes are available.

Educational/Training
EMS for Children Program in the Spotlight
The September 2018 issue of Clinical Pediatric Emergency Medicine (CPEM) highlights the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program. Numerous EMSC leaders contributed to the success of this compilation, describing the many activities and achievements of the EMSC program and the significant progress made over the last 3 decades. This issue of CPEM provides an overview of the larger network working in sync to improve emergency care for children across the United States.

Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange
Developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) aims to meet the information and technical assistance needs of regional ASPR staff, health care coalitions, health care entities, health care providers, emergency managers, public health practitioners, and others working in disaster medicine, health care system preparedness, and public health emergency preparedness. See the Pediatric Topic Collection, which contains resources on pediatric disaster planning.

Education/Training
Upcoming Webinar - Prehospital Care of Children: Review of Evidence-Based Guidelines
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019
Time: 1:00pm ET/12:00pm CT
Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day is taking place on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (IIC) is conducting a webinar to assist prehospital professionals to make patient care decisions based upon the best evidence available to improve patient outcomes. During this webinar, the presenters will review the prehospital pediatric evidence-based guidelines for the management of asthma, seizures, pain, and cardiac arrest. Register for this free webinar. See the AAP EMSC for Children Day Web page for additional information.
**NACCHO Annual Public Health Conference**  
**Date:** July 9–11, 2019  
**Location:** Orlando, FL  
The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) annual conference is the premier public health conference that offers an opportunity for local health department staff, partners, funders, and individuals invested in local public health to share the latest research, ideas, strategies and innovations. The theme, “Improving the Nation’s Health through Public and Private Partnerships,” will highlight the importance of cross-sector partnerships to improve health outcomes in communities throughout the country. Register now! Visit the AAP [Upcoming Events](http://www.aap.org/disasters) Web page for information on additional events.

**American Academy of Pediatrics 2019 National Conference**  
**Date:** October 25–29, 2019  
**Location:** New Orleans, LA  
The AAP 2019 National Conference registration opens April 24, 2019. Below are details about sessions and events that focus on disaster medicine:

1. **Session Title:** Schools and Disasters: Where to Begin, Where to End?  
   **Date:** Saturday, October 26, 2019  
   **Time:** 8:00am–4:45pm

2. **Session Title:** Disaster Preparedness for the PEM Physician  
   **Date:** Saturday, October 26, 2019  
   **Time:** 2:15pm–6:15pm

3. **Poster Title:** Katrina to Harvey: Leveraging Lessons about Hurricane Recovery to Promote Resiliency and Protect Children  
   **Date:** Sunday, October 27, 2019  
   **Time:** 8:30am–10:00am

4. **Session Title:** Emergency Preparedness and Recovery from Disasters in Children Birth to 5 years of Age: What Every Pediatrician Should Know  
   **Date:** Sunday, October 27, 2019  
   **Time:** 1:00pm–6:00pm

5. **Session Title:** Critical Care During a Disaster  
   **Date:** Monday, October 28, 2019  
   **Time:** 1:00pm–5:00pm

Visit the AAP [Upcoming Events](http://www.aap.org/disasters) Web page for information on additional events.

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, see [www.aap.org/disasters](http://www.aap.org/disasters) or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.