

Children and Disasters Newsletter

December 2018

Inside This Issue:

Key Resources	1
Comments Requested	4
Education/ Training	4

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

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](#).

Key Resources

[AAP Disaster Recovery Checklist](#)

If a disaster has hit your practice area, you might benefit from suggestions about what to do to improve the situation during the response and recovery period. The AAP DPAC and the AAP Section on Administration and Practice Management developed a new [Post-Disaster Considerations for Pediatricians in Practice](#) resource to support recovery after an emergency or a disaster. The information in this resource supplements the suggestions in the AAP [Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#).

[Detention of Immigrant Children](#)

According to the 2017 AAP policy statement, "[Detention of Immigrant Children](#)", immigrant children seeking safe haven in the United States, whether arriving unaccompanied or in family units, face a complicated evaluation and legal process from the point of arrival through permanent resettlement in communities. This policy statement provides specific recommendations regarding post-release services once a child is released into communities across the country, including a coordinated system that facilitates access to a medical home and consistent access to education, child care, interpretation services, and legal services. Pediatricians have an opportunity to advocate for systems that mitigate trauma and protect the health and well-being of vulnerable immigrant children. Many of the same principles described in this policy statement can also be applied to [reunifying unaccompanied minors](#) and separated or missing children with their parents or legal guardians in the aftermath of a disaster.

[Tear Gas Used Against Children at the US Border](#)

In response to reports of tear gas being used on children and families seeking asylum at the border, the Academy released a [press statement](#) recommending that all children and families seeking safe haven are treated with dignity and respect to protect their health and well-being.

Acute Flaccid Myelitis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has noted a spike in cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in 31 states this year, most of which have been in children. This rare but serious disease is characterized by sudden muscle weakness. In November 2018, the CDC held a webinar titled, "[Acute Flaccid Myelitis \(AFM\): What Health Care Providers Need to Know](#)". During this webinar, subject matter experts from the CDC encouraged clinicians to report cases, understand the process for reporting, and to keep themselves up-to-date by participating in any available learning opportunities. The presenters also covered specimen collection and testing, and what CDC is doing for its AFM investigation.

For information, see the AAP [Acute Flaccid Myelitis in Children](#) Web page and the November 2018, *AAP News* article, "[CDC: 90 confirmed cases of AFM in 27 states](#)". The AAP also released a [Web page for parents](#).

FEMA Releases 2018 National Preparedness Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the [2018 National Preparedness Report](#) in November 2018. This report summarizes the nation's progress toward becoming a more secure and resilient nation. The document highlights lessons learned from previous responses, along with findings from select preparedness activities. The events and activities captured in the report allow responders and emergency managers to understand capabilities, identify shortfalls, and build capacity in preparation for future incidents. The 2018 report also identifies gains made in preparedness and identifies where challenges remain. These findings provide insights into preparedness and informs decisions about future program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions.

The Effects of Armed Conflict on Children

Children are increasingly exposed to armed conflict, which directly and indirectly affects their physical, mental, and behavioral health. This conflict can affect every organ system, and its impact can persist throughout the life course. In addition, children are disproportionately impacted by morbidity and mortality associated with armed conflict. The AAP and child health professionals have critical roles to play in the global response to the impact of armed conflict on children. See the November 2018 AAP [policy statement](#) and [technical report](#) titled, "The Effects of Armed Conflict on Children", for more information. The AAP also has a [resource page](#) focused on promoting adjustment and helping children cope.

Violence Prevention in Practice

The CDC created a comprehensive source for violence prevention to educate and empower communities to stop violence before it happens. The new [Violence Prevention in Practice](#) resource was developed to help states and communities take advantage of the best available evidence to prevent violence. This resource walks practitioners through each phase of building a comprehensive violence prevention effort. It should be used alongside CDC Division of Violence Prevention [technical packages](#), that are guides to change norms, environments, and behaviors to reduce or eliminate violence in communities.

FEMA Children and Disasters Newsletter

The FEMA Children and Disasters Newsletter highlights work being done across the country on youth preparedness and provides details on relevant research as well as resources for those implementing youth preparedness programs. The newsletter also features specific programs that seek to prepare youth for and help them respond to disasters. [Sign up](#) to receive these updates or to access your subscriber preferences.

New Red Book Online Outbreaks Section

A new [Outbreaks section](#) has been added to *Red Book Online* for members and subscribers, providing up-to-date information and resource links on current infectious disease outbreaks affecting the pediatric population. This critical resource is overseen by members of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases. This page provides pediatric health care professionals with a quick resource to get up-to-speed on current outbreaks and how they affect children, along with links to explore further. The page will mainly cover outbreaks that have been identified in multiple US states and affect the pediatric population.

Archived ASPR TRACIE Webinar - Hospital-Based Incident Command Systems: Real Experiences and Practical Applications

In November 2018, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) hosted a webinar with speakers from large health care organizations who experienced a recent emergency and activated their hospital incident command systems. The speakers provided a brief overview of the situation, described how they activated their incident command system, shared lessons learned, and discussed how they have incorporated these lessons into their current systems and plans. The [presentation and recording](#) for this webinar are available online. The title page of the presentation includes a link to the recording. You will need to enter your name and email address prior to accessing the recording.

Influenza Prevention and Control

Influenza activity has been low in the United States, but localized outbreaks have been reported to the CDC. Important resources for clinicians and child care providers are highlighted below:

Clinicians

- [AAP Policy Statement - Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2018-2019](#)
- [Archived Webinar - 2018-2019 Recommendations for Influenza Prevention and Treatment in Children](#)
- [PediaLink Course - Influenza Update - Prevention, Treatment, and Management of Influenza](#)
- [What's the Latest with the Flu](#)

Child Care Providers

- [Animated Video - Why It's Important to Get an Influenza Vaccine Every Year](#)
- [December 11th Webinar - Get Ready for Seasonal & Pandemic Flu: Strategies for Head Start & Child Care](#)
- [What's the Latest with the Flu](#) (most recent message November 2018)

In recognition of National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW), save the date for the CDC webinar [#HowIRecommend Flu Vaccine: How to Make Recommendations that Matter to Patients](#) on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, from 1:00-2:00pm ET, and learn more about how to make a strong vaccine recommendation and strategies to address questions from patients. The webinar will feature representatives from the CDC National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and practicing professionals.

Pediatric Considerations Before, During and After Radiological/Nuclear Emergencies

The AAP released an updated [policy statement](#) and [technical report](#) titled, “Pediatric Considerations Before, During and After Radiological/Nuclear Emergencies”. The statements include new information learned from the Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant emergencies, as well as details on the risks of living close to nuclear power plants. Radiation is a concern for children because they are likely to absorb more radiation in relation to their body size. Also, children can ingest radioactive material when they crawl or pick up contaminated objects and put them or their hands in their mouths. The AAP policy states that preparedness planning for radiologic/nuclear events is the same as preparing for all emergency events. Being prepared includes designating a meeting place, ensuring an on-hand supply of needed medications and food such as formula, and building an emergency supply kit (nonperishable foods, water, flashlight, medical supplies). It is also important to collect copies of prescriptions and important documents such as driver’s license, social security numbers, proof of residence, insurance policies, and immunization records. The AAP also recommends that families have a plan for where to take shelter; learn about the emergency plans for school, child care, and work; and make plans for pets. The statement also provides health care providers with information on how and when to administer potassium iodide to children and families. These statements were published in the December 2018 issue of [Pediatrics](#).

Comments Requested

Proposed Revisions Related to Pediatric Emergency Equipment

In February and March 2018, The Joint Commission posted a field review on draft requirements addressing pediatric equipment and supplies applicable to freestanding emergency departments and organizations that provide episodic, urgent, or immediate care. The proposed elements of performance required organizations to have all of the equipment and supplies listed in the “[Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department](#)”. Based on feedback from the field, The Joint Commission determined that requiring all of this equipment for these settings could be costly. As a result of this feedback and subsequent discussions with professional associations, The Joint Commission has [revised the proposed language](#). The revised requirement is designed so that the organization determines the types of pediatric equipment and supplies it needs for its emergency department based on the pediatric population served and available community resources. The proposed revised elements of performance will apply only to hospitals, critical access hospitals, and ambulatory care organizations that provide emergency services to pediatric patients. If you are interested in [reviewing and commenting](#) on the proposed requirements, please do so by **December 10, 2018**.

Education/Training

2019 Preparedness Summit: The Evolving Threat Environment

Date: March 26-29, 2019

Location: St Louis, MO

The [2019 Preparedness Summit](#) will feature experts from the health care and emergency management fields in addition to public health preparedness professionals to address the gaps between these representatives to facilitate collaborations when planning for emerging threats. Save \$100 by [registering](#) before February 8, 2019.

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