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**

**Illinois EMSC Recognizes Steven Krug, MD, FAAP, for Excellence in Pediatric Care**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program honored Steven Krug, MD, FAAP, with a special Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to pediatric emergency medical care. This award was presented to Dr Krug at the AAP offices in May 2019. The Ron W. Lee, MD – Excellence in Pediatric Care Awards are given annually by the IDPH and the Illinois EMSC to recognize those dedicated to pediatric emergency care and childhood injury prevention initiatives. See the IDPH Press Release for additional details.

Dr Krug is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the prior chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine at the Ann & Robert H Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. Dr Krug has held several leadership roles within the AAP, presently serving as the Chairperson of the AAP DPAC and as the Academy’s Specialty Advisor to the American Medical Association Resource-based Relative Value Scale Update Committee. He has been actively involved as a leader within the EMSC program for more than 30 years, presently serving on the Advisory Boards for the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center and the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center.

First, Dr Krug is pictured with his award, and next Dr Krug is with AAP President-Elect Sara H Goza, MD, FAAP; and AAP Board of Directors members Dennis M Cooley, MD, FAAP; and Richard H Tuck, MD, FAAP.
New Releases

AAP Voices Blog on Pediatric Readiness
Joelle Simpson, MD, MPH, FAAP, authored a new AAP Voices blog titled, “Pediatric Readiness for the Everyday Emergency and Disasters”. This blog emphasizes that it is critically important for all hospital emergency departments to have the appropriate resources, including staff with specific skills, training, and education, to provide effective pediatric emergency care. AAP Voices is the official blog of the AAP, where AAP member pediatricians and others share their perspectives on a wide variety of topics relating to children's health and wellness. This blog was released during Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week, and includes recommendations related to the AAP policy Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department.

New Article Evaluates Effectiveness of AAP/CDC Virtual Tabletop Exercise
In 2017, the AAP collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct a Pediatric and Public Health Virtual Tabletop Exercise. This exercise connected members of the AAP DPAC and other facilitators (at CDC offices in Atlanta) with state teams within federal Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska) that met in state-specific locations using virtual meeting technology. Each team included pediatric and public health representatives. Based on the evaluation results of this virtual exercise, an article was published in Public Health Reports titled, “Extending the Reach of Pediatric Emergency Preparedness: A Virtual Tabletop Exercise Targeting Children’s Needs”. This article summarized the effectiveness of a virtual tabletop exercise in improving preparedness capabilities specific to children's needs among pediatricians and public health practitioners. Also see the article titled “Addressing Children's Needs in Disasters: A Regional Pediatric Tabletop Exercise”, which is the published article related to the in-person 2016 exercise that preceded the virtual exercise.

Also see the AAP Pediatric and Public Health Tabletop Exercise Web page and Chapter 6 of the Pediatric Disaster Preparedness and Response Topical Collection titled, “ Pediatric Preparedness Exercises”.

Hurricane Season
Hurricane season began on June 1, 2019, and extends through November 30, 2019, with the peak season occurring from mid-August to late October. The AAP Hurricane Preparedness Web page includes up to date information and resources. Also see the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predictions for the 2019 hurricane season. Use potential hurricanes or storms to initiate preparedness conversations with families and encourage families to prepare for disasters. See www.healthychildren.org (search for “disaster”) for resources to share with families. Also see the AAP Family Readiness Kit. This kit was developed to help families get disaster-ready and includes general guidelines for readiness that can be used in most situations. Simple steps to help families build a kit, make a plan, be informed, and get involved are referenced. Pediatricians can share copies of this kit during routine office visits as a way to encourage families to plan for emergencies.

Additional resources for clinicians include:
- Archived AAP Webinar - Hurricanes and Storms: From Preparedness to Recovery, Strategies for a Brighter Future - PowerPoint Slides
- AAP Post-Disaster Considerations for Pediatricians in Practice Handout
- AAP Topical Collection Chapter 2: Disaster Planning for Pediatricians
- CDC Information: Prepare Your Health for Hurricane Season

Floods, Drowning Prevention
During a time of frequent storms and hurricanes, floods and flash floods are a serious concern. See AAP resources for clinicians: Flash Floods/Flood Recovery. Drowning is preventable and it is the number 1 cause of death among children aged 1-4 and is a leading cause of death among teens. The AAP and others shared resources and personal stories to help raise awareness during Drowning Prevention Day on May 23, 2019.
- Drowning Prevention Social Media Toolkit
- AAP Drowning Prevention
- Infant Water Safety: Protect Your New Baby from Drowning
Extreme Temperatures, Protect Children and Prevent Child Deaths in Hot Cars

As summer arrives, attention to heat extremes is advised, as higher temperatures can produce several health effects in children. See AAP information for clinicians on extreme temperatures. Children can die when left in a closed car or truck, even when the windows are cracked or when the outside temperature is not that high. To help protect children from this preventable tragedy, please check out the resources below.

- Prevent Child Deaths in Hot Cars Healthychildren.org Web Page
- Prevent Heatstroke Deaths in Cars, Kids are Vulnerable National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Web page
- Heatstroke Deaths of Children in Vehicles Data Golden Gate University

Gun Safety Summit: Education, Research, Advocacy Needed to Reduce Deaths

The AAP, in partnership with the de Beaumont Foundation, convened the “Summit on Gun Injury Prevention: Mobilizing for Action to Protect Children and Youth” in May 2019 at the AAP headquarters office in Itasca, IL. This summit brought together 74 experts from health care, public health, law enforcement, business, education, faith and community, who also represented a range of experience with guns and gun ownership. During the 2-day summit, participants discussed keeping guns out of the hands of people at risk of injuring themselves or others, encouraging safe storage of guns, implementing programs that can prevent gun injuries, and building community resilience. Experts at the summit worked together to identify potential steps to move forward. See a recent AAP News article for additional details.

Education/Training

Title: Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) Grand Rounds Webinar
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019
Time: 1:00pm ET/12:00pm CT
Presenters: Kevin Chatham-Stephens, MD, FAAP; Robert Geller, MD, FAAP
The unique needs of children mandate specialized and appropriate planning for disasters and environmental risks. Children are uniquely susceptible before, during, and after disasters, and special considerations need to be made by health professionals and others when planning for these disasters. Oftentimes, environmental risks or disasters present their own unique set of challenges. During this webinar, learn about what the PEHSUs and the CDC Children’s Preparedness Unit do to address children’s needs during these special situations. Academy resources and ways to connect with pediatricians or pediatric experts in your area will be highlighted. Email DisasterReady@aap.org to receive registration 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! The AAP and CDC will convene a session titled “Strengthening Pediatric Public Health Systems and Services through Partnerships”. This session will take place on Thursday, July 11, 2019, from 9:15am–10:45am ET. More details can be found here.

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