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.

New Releases

**Acute Flaccid Myelitis in Children**

Children in the United States continue to be diagnosed with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a rare but serious condition. AFM affects the nervous system, specifically the area of spinal cord called gray matter, which causes the muscles and reflexes in the body to become weak. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to investigate the possible causes of AFM related to viral infections, environmental toxins, and genetic disorders. The CDC created resources to help promote provider awareness and encourage case reporting:

- Increase in Acute Flaccid Myelitis — United States, 2018 MMWR, November 16, 2018
- Interim Considerations for Clinical Management of AFM Patients
- Clinician FAQs
- AFM Fact Sheet for Parents of Children with AFM

**New Report Details States’ Emergency Preparedness**

The 2019 Trust for America’s Health report, “Ready or Not: Protecting the Public’s Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism”, tracks public health emergency preparedness related to disasters and disease outbreaks in the United States. The report documents progress in the nation’s level of preparedness as well as geographical areas still in need of improvement. The report also identifies specific action-steps, that if taken, would improve a state’s overall level of emergency preparedness. The 2019 report finds that states have made progress in key areas, including public health funding and participation in coalitions. However, performance in other areas, such as flu vaccination, hospital patient safety, and paid time off for workers, has not improved.
New AAP Policy: Understanding Liability Risks and Protections for Pediatric Providers During Disasters

The AAP released a new policy statement and technical report titled, “Understanding Liability Risks and Protections for Pediatric Providers During Disasters”. These policies recognize the unique professional liability risks that can occur when pediatricians care for patients and families during a disaster, whether they are acting as volunteers or employees. The AAP recommends that pediatric leaders continue to promote the importance of preparedness for disasters at the federal, state, and local levels to ensure that children’s needs are adequately addressed and maximize medical liability protection for health care responders.

Educational/Training

2019 Preparedness Summit: The Evolving Threat Environment

Date: March 26–29, 2019
Location: St Louis, MO

The AAP will convene 5 sessions at the conference:

1. **Session Title:** Zika Takeaways: Innovations to Improve Emergency Readiness Teamwork  
   **Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019  
   **Time:** 1:30pm – 3:00pm

2. **Session Title:** Preparing for Pediatric Surge: Collaboration, Cooperation, and Coalitions—Solutions Within Reach!  
   **Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019  
   **Time:** 1:30pm – 3:00pm

3. **Poster Title:** Maryland Pediatric Disaster Preparedness - Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis  
   **Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019  
   **Time:** 12:30pm – 3:30pm

4. **Session Title:** 3 Stories: Adapting Exercises to Include Children and Improve Outcomes  
   **Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2019  
   **Time:** 3:30pm – 5:00pm

5. **Session Title:** Reunification Planning: Innovations to Guide Hospital, Emergency Management, and Public Health Collaborations  
   **Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2019  
   **Time:** 4:45pm – 5:30pm

Advanced Pediatric Emergency Medicine Assembly

Date: March 19–21, 2019
Location: Anaheim, CA

Register for the Assembly

AAP Legislative Conference

Date: April 7–9, 2019
Location: Washington, DC

Each year, the conference brings together pediatricians, residents and medical students from across the country who share a passion for child health advocacy. Participants attend skills-building workshops, hear from guest speakers, learn about policy priorities impacting children and pediatricians and go to Capitol Hill to urge Congress to support strong child health policies. For the 4th year, the conference will feature a Pediatric Subspecialty Advocacy Track with specific legislative and skills building workshops uniquely focused on the interests and needs of pediatric medical subspecialists and surgical specialists. Register now!
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 Web page for information on additional events.

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