

# Children and Disasters Newsletter

January 2019

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## American Academy of Pediatrics

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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 Resources

#### **Pediatric Disaster Preparedness and Response Topical Collection 2019**

The AAP [Pediatric Disaster Preparedness and Response Topical Collection](#) is an update of select material from the 2005 Pediatric Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness Resource [manual](#). The Topical Collection aims to inform and guide pediatricians as well as planners, responders, care providers, and volunteers to be better prepared to deal with children affected by disasters. This revision is more succinct to improve and increase accessibility to critical pediatric preparedness information. Included in Topical Collection Part One are the following chapters:

1. [How Children are Different](#)
2. [Disaster Planning for Pediatricians](#)
3. [Preparedness Planning in Specific Practice Settings](#)
4. [Mental Health Issues](#)
5. [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#)
6. [Pediatric Preparedness Exercises](#)

#### **The Role of Pediatricians in Global Health**

Ninety percent of the world's children live in low-and middle-income countries where barriers to health contribute to childhood illnesses and death. Disaster response can be severely impacted, as well. The December 2018 AAP policy statement, "[The Role of Pediatricians in Global Health](#)", defines the role of the pediatrician in global health and provides a specific set of recommendations directed to all pediatricians, emphasizing the importance of global health as an integral function of the profession of pediatrics.

## Call to Action

### **New Year's Resolution: Prepare an Office Disaster Supply Kit**

In a disaster, state and federal authorities may not be able to deliver assistance until days later. Start the new year off by assembling the fundamental [supplies](#) needed to ensure self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours. Pediatricians should prepare an Office Disaster Supply Kit containing the supplies and equipment needed to provide basic medical care in virtually any location. Consider preparedness and evacuation supplies, shelter-in-place and immediate recovery supplies, and emergency supplies. See the AAP [Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#) for details. Additional information can also be found in [Chapter 3](#) of the AAP Topical Collection. Pediatricians can also encourage families to develop their own personal disaster supply kits by directing them to the AAP [Family Readiness Kit](#).

## Key Resources

### **Winter Weather**

Winter has arrived. Children exposed to [extreme cold](#) can quickly develop a dangerously low body temperature. Pediatricians can encourage families to take steps to prevent children from experiencing cold extremes and their consequences. The AAP Web page, "[Extreme Temperatures: Heat and Cold](#)", includes strategies that can be shared with families, including the importance of proper cold-weather gear and safe indoor heating sources. Also see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Ready Wrigley* book, "[Ready Wrigley Prepares for Winter Weather](#)". This book, intended for children 2 to 8 years of age, includes tips, activities, and stories to help the families prepare for winter weather.

### **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

### **How to Make Strong Influenza Vaccination Recommendations (Archived CDC Webinar)**

Health care professionals are the most trusted source of health information for patients. This [archived webinar](#) from the CDC provides tips on how to make stronger and more effective influenza vaccination recommendations. By reviewing this webinar, participants will be in better position to answer important questions from patients.

### [Advanced Pediatric Emergency Medicine Assembly](#)

**Date:** March 19–21, 2019

**Location:** Anaheim, CA

[Register for the Assembly](#)

### [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. The AAP will convene 5 sessions at the conference:

1. **Quick Hit Presentation:** Reunification Planning: Innovations to Guide Hospital, Emergency Management, and Public Health Collaborations
1. **Learning Session:** Zika Takeaways: Innovations to Improve Emergency Readiness Teamwork
2. **Learning Session:** 3 Stories: Adapting Exercises to Include Children and Improve Outcomes
3. **Learning Session:** Preparing for Pediatric Surge: Collaboration, Cooperation, and Coalitions-Solutions Within Reach!
4. **Poster Presentation:** Maryland Pediatric Disaster Preparedness - Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

### [AAP Legislative Conference](#)

**Date:** April 7–9, 2019

**Location:** Washington, DC

Each year, this important 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.aap.org/disasters) or e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).