



Disaster Preparedness Resources

Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) appointed a Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) to maintain the AAP strategic plan for disaster preparedness and mobilize efforts related to pediatric preparedness planning and recovery. The DPAC recommends that children's issues be addressed early in the development of preparedness programs and activities and encourages community planners to include pediatric experts in all levels of disaster planning. The DPAC includes 6 AAP member experts and liaisons from 5 key federal agencies: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

AAP Children and Disasters Web Site

The DPAC provides oversight for the AAP Children and Disasters Web site at www.aap.org/disasters, a comprehensive resource for health professionals, policymakers, child care and school representatives, and others. Topics include adjustment and coping, bioterrorism, decontamination, Ebola, extreme temperatures, earthquakes, influenza/pandemics, natural disasters, tabletop exercise, Zika virus, disaster preparedness for pediatric practices and hospitals, and talking to children about disasters. An events calendar is also available.

Promoting Adjustment and Helping Children Cope

After a disaster, children may have difficulty coping and develop a range of symptoms, including anxiety, bereavement, or depression. The Web page (www.aap.org/disasters/adjustment) includes resources and recommendations for pediatricians, children, and families to help them understand and cope with loss.

Policy Statements/Clinical Reports

The AAP DPAC has developed several disaster preparedness and response policies, including:

- AAP Clinical Report - Providing Psychosocial Support to Children and Families in the Aftermath of Disasters and Crises <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/09/08/peds.2015-2861>
- AAP Policy Statement - Ensuring the Health of Children in Disasters <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/10/13/peds.2015-3112>
- AAP Policy Statement - Medical Countermeasures for Children Exposed to Public Health Emergencies, Disaster, or Acts of Terrorism <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/137/2/e20154273>
- AAP Clinical Report - Supporting the Grieving Child and Family <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/08/25/peds.2016-2147>

Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit (www.aap.org/disasters/resourcekit)

The AAP created a Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit, developed in response to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. This resource encourages collaboration between pediatricians, public health leaders, and other pediatric care providers to assess what exists in their communities or states, and help determine what still needs to be done before an emergency or disaster. Web pages were created to highlight information in the kit, including:

- Including Pediatric Care Providers in State-Level Decision-Making
- Promoting Strategic Communications and Systematic Messaging
- Prioritizing Within and Among High-Risk Groups
- Developing State Action Plans
- Establishing Pediatric Advisory Councils or Children's Preparedness Coalitions

Family Readiness Kit

The AAP Family Readiness Kit was developed to help families get disaster-ready. This kit 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 included. For more information, see https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/disasters_family_readiness_kit.pdf.

Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices

Based on concepts and information from the AAP Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit, the AAP created the Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices. The checklist includes action steps and information for pediatricians on preparing for disasters, including the development of an office Disaster Supply Kit, creation of a plan for vaccine storage, and professional self-care strategies, see www.aap.org/disasters/checklist.

Pediatric and Public Health Tabletop Exercises

The AAP and CDC collaborated to conduct two exercises. The 2016 Pediatric and Public Health Tabletop Exercise brought together state teams in 5 states within federal Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas). This was an in-person meeting. In 2017, the AAP/CDC conducted a similar tabletop exercise in 4 states within federal Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska). The 2017 Pediatric and Public Health Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) connected exercise facilitators (at CDC offices in Atlanta) with state teams that met in state-specific locations using virtual meeting technology. The purpose of the tabletop exercises was to improve pediatric preparedness through increased communications and decision-making among pediatricians and public health professionals relevant to a public health emergency related to an infectious disease threat. Also see www.aap.org/disasters/tabletop. The AAP is preparing a "Ready-to-go Resource Kit" to assist coalitions, hospitals, and other entities to conduct a pediatric exercise or add pediatric content to an existing exercise. If you have tabletop planning resources that you think might help others, send an e-mail to the AAP at DisasterReady@aap.org.

CDC Children's Preparedness Unit (CPU)

Established in 2011, the CPU serves as the agency's go-to source for children's needs in public health emergencies. The team includes pediatricians, behavioral scientists, child psychologists, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, and a dedicated health communications team focused on pediatric preparedness. For more information, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/about-us.html>.

Zika Response

The AAP, with leadership from its AAP DPAC and Committee on Infectious Diseases (COID)/Section on Infectious Diseases (SOID), has worked strategically to coordinate the AAP response to the Zika virus outbreak. The AAP leaders and staff have worked closely with the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC), CDC CPU, and the CDC National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), select organizations that the CDC funds for Zika prevention and response, as well as select membership and partner organizations since January 2016 on the joint development of guidance, articles, and resources for clinicians. An AAP/CDC "Forum on the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Management of Zika Virus Infection Among Infants" was held in August 2017. Interim clinical guidance has been developed (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6641a1.htm?s_cid=mm6641a1_w). The AAP has an *AAP Webinar Series on Zika Virus Syndrome*. The next webinar will highlight the updated guidance on December 13, 2017, at 4:00pm ET (www.aap.org/disasters/upcomingevents). Psychosocial support videos and handouts were developed and are available at www.aap.org/zika. Additional resources can be found on the AAP Zika virus key information for pediatrics Web page (www.aap.org/zikakey). The AAP also produces resources for families, including an awareness campaign for the public, specifically pregnant women who may travel to high risk areas. Family resources are available at www.HealthyChildren.org/ZikaVirus.

For additional information on the American Academy of Pediatrics disaster preparedness initiatives, see www.aap.org/disasters or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.