

# Children & Disasters

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**August 2010**

TO: AAP Disaster Preparedness Contact Network

FROM: Daniel B Fagbuyi, MD, FAAP, Member, Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council  
Laura Aird, MS, Manager, Disaster Preparedness

**RE: AAP DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE UPDATES**

Dear Colleagues:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) is pleased to provide you with information on its high priority activities. Additional information can be found in previous [Contact Network Newsletters](#). An article on DPAC activities titled [From Hurricanes to Pandemics: Council Plans for the Worst in Hopes of the Best Possible Results](#) was featured in the July 2010 issue of *AAP News*. For more information on the DPAC, including a list of members and liaisons, refer to [AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council](#).

DPAC Chairperson Steven E. Krug, MD, FAAP and AAP staff Cindy Pellegrini and Kristen Mizzi recently met with representatives from key federal agencies in Washington, DC to discuss specific areas of interest as detailed below:

- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to discuss a new HHS pediatric working group and opportunities for improving disaster readiness and response, particularly with regard to child care and school settings.
- American Red Cross to discuss psychological first aid training and relevant pediatric tools.
- Met with Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), to encourage leadership in development of pediatric countermeasures as well as enhancing pediatric care preparedness. Concerns regarding the aftermath of the Oil Spill were also discussed.
- US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to discuss progress in developing labels with pediatric indications for pralidoxime and midazolam for exposures to nerve agents.

**OIL SPILL**

The AAP has posted information and resources on the Oil Spill in the Gulf Coast on the [HealthyChildren Web site](#) and the [AAP Children & Disasters Web site](#). The AAP Council on Environmental Health and DPAC members prepared an [AAP Fact Sheet](#) for clinicians. AAP leaders remain concerned that the cumulative effects of hurricanes, storms, economic downturn, and the aftermath of the Oil Spill may be overwhelming to children and their families, especially those who have been traumatized by a previous emergency or disaster.

## **HAITI EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY**

The AAP continues its work to ensure that children's needs in Haiti are considered and taken care of in a strategic manner. An AAP team that included Gary Q Peck, MD, FAAP and Danielle Laraque, MD, FAAP conducted a follow-up visit to Haiti June 28 – July 3, 2010. The team visited facilities that care for children and conducted strategic planning with representatives from the Haitian Pediatric Society. The AAP completed a survey to compile member observations on the medical relief they provided in Haiti. About 326 members completed the survey, and results are being reviewed. For more information, see [AAP Haiti Response](#).

A late-breaking session has been scheduled to occur at the AAP 2010 National Conference and Exhibition (NCE). DPAC member Sarita Chung, MD, FAAP will present X1003 Pediatric Emergency Medicine – Haiti and Beyond on Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 7:00 to 8:00 am.

## **H1N1 FOLLOW-UP**

The AAP H1N1 After-Action activities have been completed. A report that highlights known challenges and some recommendations to support future preparedness is being prepared. An H1N1 Influenza Web page has been added to the AAP Children & Disasters Web site. This page includes information about AAP resources created during the pandemic and features a section titled Ideas, Lessons Learned, and Solutions to showcase tools or solutions utilized during the pandemic. To submit information about your tools or solutions, e-mail [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org). Also see [AAP H1N1 Resources for Health Professionals](#).

## **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES**

This year's Hurricane Season continues through November 30, 2010. See resources on [Hurricanes/Storms](#) or use [Disaster Preparedness for Pediatric Practices: An Online Tool](#) to help develop a written preparedness plan. The following resources are new this year: [Standards for Disaster Shelter Care for Children](#) and [Supplies for Infants/Toddlers in Mass Care Shelters](#).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service released its latest [Forecast for the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season](#) on August 5, 2010 reaffirming its May forecast of an active season. Those who live in coastal areas should ensure their family is prepared for a hurricane or other emergency.

## **NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS (NCCD)**

Legislation HR 5266 titled [The National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act of 2010](#) was introduced in May 2010 and passed by the House in July 2010. This bill aims to reauthorize and extend the NCCD beyond the end of its 2-year term and final report this coming fall.

The NCCD conducted a field visit in Miami in April 2010 and met with federal, state, local, and non-governmental representatives to discuss the impact of the evacuation of Haitian earthquake victims into Florida. The goals of the visit were to learn how the domestic response was handled and to determine whether there were lessons learned from the response that could apply to disasters in the US. The morning session examined coordination of medical care for children, while the afternoon session focused on the impact on schools. For more information, see [Minutes for the National Commission on Children and Disasters May 11, 2010 Meeting](#), or the [Field Visit Summary Report](#). The next NCCD meeting will be held August 23.

The NCCD is composed of 10 commissioners, including 3 pediatricians—Michael Anderson, MD, FAAP; Irwin Redlener, MD, FAAP; and David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP. Several AAP and DPAC members serve on NCCD sub-committees.

## **NEWS AND RESOURCES**

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Summary and Resources of the Pediatric Healthcare Response to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Stakeholder Meeting.**

The CDC recently released a summary of discussions and resources related to a meeting held in September 2010. The goal of the meeting, which was attended by AAP members representing a broad scope of specialties, was to bring together subject matter experts to develop tools and resources for use by the pediatric healthcare community in response to pandemic H1N1 influenza activity during the 2009 influenza season. For details, see the [Pediatric Healthcare Response to Pandemic Influenza CDC Meeting Summary](#).

### **HHS Awards \$390M for Hospital Preparedness**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded a total of \$390.5 million in hospital preparedness and emergency response grants to help hospitals improve medical surge capability for a public health emergency or natural disaster. All states, territories, and the metro areas of New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles County, and Washington, DC, will receive grants. The funds will be used by state and local governments to improve the readiness of hospitals and other health care facilities. The funds will also strengthen health care partnerships at the community level and hospital participation in statewide and regional exercise programs. The grant cycle aligns with the state fiscal year of July 1 – June 30. More information is available on the [HHS Web site](#).

### **Pediatric Patient Safety in the Emergency Department**

A new resource developed by the AAP and Joint Commission Resources, this CD-ROM and handbook features practical strategies and advice on how to create a safe, effective pediatric friendly emergency department. Available for purchase through the AAP Bookstore at [https://www.nfaap.org/netFORUM/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=aapbks\\_productdetail&key=53cd4867-fb1f-4985-b62a-e0741d9c6276](https://www.nfaap.org/netFORUM/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=aapbks_productdetail&key=53cd4867-fb1f-4985-b62a-e0741d9c6276).

## **KEY ARTICLES**

### **Emergency Preparedness and the Role of the Primary Care Physician**

The July 2010 issue of *Clinical Pediatrics* features the article [Natural Disasters and Mass-Casualty Events Affecting Children and Families: A Description of Emergency Preparedness and the Role of the Primary Care Physician](#). This article summarizes a study conducted to determine compliance of families with national recommendations for disaster preparedness. The data showed that families are generally not in compliance with national recommendations for preparedness. However, families who discussed preparedness with their primary care physician were more likely to be compliant. The article suggests that families can improve preparedness by 1) learning about community evacuation plans, 2) preparing a disaster supplies kit, 3) developing a family emergency response plan, and 4) maintaining the plan.

### **Special Issue on Pediatric Disaster Readiness**

The [September 2009 issue](#) of *Clinical Pediatric Emergency Medicine* features numerous articles on disaster preparedness and children. Topics include current challenges and future directions, preparation for terrorist threats and natural disasters, mental health concerns, lessons learned from disasters affecting children, the role of pediatric health providers, and protecting children during disasters. Free online access to this issue is available.

### **Special Section on Children and Disasters in *Child Development***

A special section, Disasters and Their Impact on Child Development, has been included in the [July/August 2010 issue](#) of *Child Development*. The goal of the special section is to provide an opportunity for researchers around the world to examine how disasters of nature and human design might affect children of different ages, experiences, cultures, and contexts, as well as how exposure to a disaster may alter developmental processes or developmental trajectories.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Call for Papers: Pediatric Issue, Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness**

The American Medical Association (AMA) is seeking manuscripts for a supplemental issue of its *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* (DMPHP) journal. DMPHP will publish a supplemental issue on the medical and public health management of pediatric populations as it relates to disasters in February 2011. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts reporting the results of original research, observational studies, systemic reviews, and scholarly commentaries. Manuscripts should be submitted by October 11, 2010 and will undergo rigorous editorial evaluation and peer review. Please follow the instructions for authors for manuscript preparation and submission at [www.dmphp.org](http://www.dmphp.org).

### **September is National Preparedness Month!**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities during September 2010, which marks the seventh annual National Preparedness Month (NPM) event.

The Academy has joined the NPM Coalition and suggests AAP members take one step during September to promote emergency readiness and disaster preparedness:

- Join the National Preparedness Month Coalition at <http://ready.adcouncil.org/>.
- Complete the "[Get Ready Preparedness Pledge](#)" of the American Public Health Association. Encourage families to do this, as well!
- Review preparedness Web sites to make sure that children's issues are addressed. Ask that a link to the AAP Children and Disasters Web site home page be added to these sites.
- Initiate a mechanism to promote communication during a disaster. Compile a list of key pediatric and community colleagues with their e-mail and cell phone numbers; determine responsibilities for who will contact whom in what circumstances; determine how routine messages can be distinguished from critical updates or "health alerts". Test the system.
- Conduct a training to help a child care facility prepare for an infectious disease outbreak or pandemic. For training suggestions, refer to [www.aap.org/disasters/pandemic-flu-cc.cfm](http://www.aap.org/disasters/pandemic-flu-cc.cfm).
- Review AAP policies such as *Disaster Planning for Schools and Medical Emergencies Occurring at School* and partner with school health professionals to develop a preparedness plan. See [www.aap.org/disasters/schools.cfm](http://www.aap.org/disasters/schools.cfm) for details.
- Connect with the network of [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units](#) (PEHSU) and determine what services are offered or needed in your community. The PEHSU are an untapped resource and a good source of medical information and advice on environmental conditions that influence children's health.
- Partner with Red Cross or other groups that coordinate shelter services when families are displaced during a disaster to ensure that there are appropriate standards, supplies, and food for children. See [www.aap.org/disasters/hurricanes-storms.cfm](http://www.aap.org/disasters/hurricanes-storms.cfm) for guidelines.
- Connect with disaster volunteer agencies in your state. For more information, refer to [www.childrensnational.org/EMSC/National\\_Activities/DisasterAgencies/Default.aspx](http://www.childrensnational.org/EMSC/National_Activities/DisasterAgencies/Default.aspx).
- Join the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals in Your State. For more information, see [www.phe.gov/esarvhp/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.phe.gov/esarvhp/Pages/default.aspx).
- Join the Medical Reserve Corps at [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov).
- Work with hospital leaders to identify a physician coordinator who can ensure that AAP preparedness recommendations are implemented. See [Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department](#).
- Encourage your community hospital to sign up to participate in National Disaster Medical System efforts. See [www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/Pages/default.aspx).
- Access the [EMSC Webcast](#), "State of All Hazards Preparedness for Children: Partnerships and Models for Merging Emergency Department and Disaster Preparedness Efforts Nationwide".
- Review the new [AAP DPAC Handout](#), which highlights relevant activities and resources.
- Get involved in AAP state preparedness activities; consider becoming a Chapter Disaster Preparedness Contact. For information, see [www.aap.org/disasters/state-initiatives.cfm](http://www.aap.org/disasters/state-initiatives.cfm).

### Register for the AAP NCE

Firm up your plans to attend the 2010 [AAP National Conference & Exhibition](#) (NCE). See the [Events Calendar](#) for information on disaster preparedness sessions.

### AAP CHILDREN & DISASTERS WEB SITE UPDATES

Recent updates to the AAP Children and Disasters Web site include:

- Created an H1N1 Influenza page that details AAP resources created in response to the H1N1 pandemic and shares information about ideas, solutions, and lessons learned by practitioners and those working in various health settings.
- Updated [AAP Information on the Oil Spill Affecting the Gulf Coast](#) page.
- New resources have been added to [Promoting Adjustment and Helping Children Cope](#).
- The [Biological Terrorism](#) and [Blast Terrorism](#) pages have been revised.
- The AAP News article [From Hurricanes to Pandemics: Council Plans for the Worst in Hopes of the Best Possible Results](#) has been added to the [AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council page](#).
- The [Flood Recovery page](#) was modified to include information about flash flooding and the page title was changed to Flash Floods/Flood Recovery.
- A [DPAC handout](#) was created to highlight disaster-related activities and resources.
- A revised [Checklist on Emergency Department Preparedness](#).

We appreciate your efforts to care and advocate for the needs of children! Please e-mail any comments to [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).