

Children and Disasters Newsletter

May 2019

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American Academy of Pediatrics

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The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is a strong supporter of the Emergency Medical Services for Children program at the Health Resources & Services Administration. The AAP and the [Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center \(EMSC IIC\)](#) are pleased to provide you with information on the 45th annual [National Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Week](#) and related topics. The EMS week will be observed May 19-25, 2019, with a special day devoted to children on May 22nd. The [National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians \(NAEMT\)](#) partners with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) to lead annual EMS Week activities.

The 2019 EMS Week theme is "Beyond the Call". According to the NAEMT Web [site](#), this week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line."

This year, the National EMS Week theme days are:

- Monday - EMS Education Day
- Tuesday - Safety Tuesday
- Wednesday - EMS for Children Day
- Thursday - Stop the Bleed Day
- Friday - EMS Recognition Day

As mentioned, May 22, 2019, is designated as EMS for Children Day. The purpose of the annual EMSC Day is to highlight the distinct aspects of caring for children and to raise awareness of the need to improve and expand specialized emergency care for children in the prehospital and acute care settings. The AAP has an EMSC Day Web [page](#) with strategies on how pediatricians can get involved. Additional ideas for pediatricians to increase their involvement in disaster preparedness and response initiatives can be found on the AAP [Resources for Chapters page](#).

Resources for parents can be found on the AAP [Healthychildren.org](#) Web site:

- [When to Call Emergency Medical Services](#)
- [10 Things for Parents to Know Before Heading to the ER](#)
- [What to Expect When You Call 911](#)
- [Four Steps to Prepare Your Family for Disasters](#)

EMS Week Highlights/Topics

National Pediatric Readiness Project and QI Collaborative

The [National Pediatric Readiness Project](#) is a quality improvement initiative to ensure that all hospital emergency departments in the US have the essential materials, training, and resources in place to provide effective emergency care to children. A national assessment of emergency department's readiness to care for children was completed in 2013. See information regarding the [assessment, state-specific response rates, and national results](#). A follow-up project coordinated by the EMSC EIIC is the [Pediatric Readiness Quality Collaborative](#), which aims to improve pediatric readiness of community emergency departments with interventions developed to address gaps in care. The PRQC has over 120 emergency departments across 16 states actively engaged in this quality improvement interventions. The objective of these interventions is to improve pediatric readiness scores by 10 points by December 2019 in these participating facilities.

AAP Policy: Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department

The AAP, ACEP, and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), published updated joint guidelines in the November 2018 issue of *Pediatrics* titled, "[Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department](#)". This policy recommends ways that health care providers can make sure every injured or critically ill child receives the best care possible. This is a revision of a 2009 AAP policy statement that highlights recent advances in pediatric emergency care that can be incorporated into all hospital emergency departments that care for children. This policy statement recommends that all hospital emergency departments have the appropriate resources (medications, equipment, policies, and education) and capable staff to provide effective emergency care for children.

Resources

Disaster Preparedness Advocacy Action Guide for AAP Chapters

The AAP has released a [Disaster Preparedness Advocacy Action Guide for AAP Chapters](#). This guide provides ideas for how pediatricians, child advocates, and AAP chapters can get more involved in pediatric disaster preparedness.

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](#)

Disaster-Specific AAP Policy and Publications

The AAP maintains a comprehensive list of [AAP Policies and Publications](#) that cover disaster preparedness and response topics. This Web page includes resources on adjustment and coping, general preparedness, hospital/emergency care, infectious diseases, natural disasters, preparedness in schools, and terrorism/agents.

Four Steps to Prepare Your Family for Disasters

The "Four Steps to Prepare Your Family for Disasters" handout was recently updated, as part of a series of patient education handouts from [The Injury Prevention Program](#) (TIPP). This handout is published on the [Pediatric Patient Education](#) Web site, which is the AAP's online subscription resource for health care professionals. To access this handout, a subscription to *Pediatric Patient Education* is required, however, pediatricians and parents may have access if an institution or practice has a site license. Here is a direct link to the handout, which allows the material to be accessed by the public:

<https://patiented.solutions.aap.org/handout.aspx?gbsid=166214>.

Education/Training

2019 Preparedness Summit: The Evolving Threat Environment

The AAP convened 5 sessions at the 2019 Preparedness Summit that took place in March 2019. Please see pictures below of some of the speakers for the sessions!



Deanna Dahl-Grove, MD, FAAP, presenting the session titled “Preparing for Pediatric Surge: Collaboration, Cooperation, and Coalitions—Solutions Within Reach!”



Sarita Chung, MD, FAAP, presenting during a plenary session titled “The Emerging Threat Environment: Building Regional Disaster Response Systems.” This is the first time that a pediatrician has participated in a plenary session at this conference!

[Upcoming Webinar - Prehospital Care of Children: Review of Evidence-Based Guidelines](#)

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Location: 1:00pm ET/12:00pm CT

The EMSC IIC is conducting a webinar to assist prehospital professionals to make patient care decisions based upon the best evidence available to improve patient outcomes. During this webinar, the presenters will review the prehospital pediatric evidence-based guidelines for the management of asthma, seizures, pain, and cardiac arrest. [Register for this free webinar.](#)

Visit the AAP [Upcoming Events](#) Web page for information on additional events.

[National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference](#)

If you are interested in submitting an abstract for the [National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference](#) (NHPC) taking place on December 3-5, 2019, in Houston, TX, abstracts need to be submitted by **Wednesday, May 15, 2019**. Please let AAP staff know about any abstracts that relate to pediatric topics by sending an e-mail to DisasterReady@aap.org.

Questions?

For more information about the EMSC IIC, contact Terry Fisher at Terry.Fisher@bcm.edu. For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, see the AAP Children and Disasters Web site at www.aap.org or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.