



Maine Pediatrics

November 2025 | Newsletter Highlights

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Maine AAP President's Message Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

The leaves are falling fast, and we set the clocks back this weekend! As we move into that 'hunker-down' time of year in Maine, I wanted to share with you all the good work Maine AAP is doing. I first want to highlight our [Strategic Priorities Plan](#) we developed late last summer, and are making excellent progress on our goals! We are tackling **provider wellness and professional sustainability** through advocacy around payment reform and discussing pipeline projects to engage and inspire high school students toward careers in pediatrics; **educating our membership** through multiple modalities with our Trauma Informed Care collaborative, recent School Health Summit and upcoming series; and working with our child psychiatry partners to **promote the healthy mental development** of our patients. This is just a snapshot of work being done by so many of our members, all focused on advocating for the children and families of Maine. Please take a few minutes to review [this slide deck](#) for a snapshot of the great work happening through our nine committees. Please consider joining one if the work speaks to your passion- we'd love to engage you in our work!

We continue to work collaboratively with the National AAP and other chapters to highlight advocacy work across the AAP. **Hopefully you receive the AAP News** which highlights efforts such as the [Vaccine Confidence Campaign](#) which is a wonderful example of collaboration and shared resources we can use every day as we care for our communities.

As November arrives, and Thanksgiving is on the horizon, please remember to screen families for food insecurity at this difficult time (resources below). Maine is one of 23 states that sued the Agriculture Department last week to make billions of dollars in contingency funds available to help feed the most vulnerable families. We can do our part to connect families to local services and food banks to help support their needs.

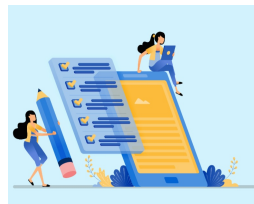
Finally, as you consider year-end philanthropic support, I hope you consider Maine AAP in your thoughts- as a non-profit, every dollar we receive goes to support the

myriad of projects we do to advocate for our pediatric care team providers, and the children and families of Maine.

Please accept our sincere thanks for the work you do every day on behalf of our patients and families.

2025 School Health Summit Highlight

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2025 School Health Summit in partnership with the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Association of School Nurses! There were many engaging presentations and great exhibitors! We all appreciated time to connect with colleagues from across the state who are working hard to keep our students healthy!



Take our School Health Communication Survey

Maine AAP School Health Committee created a survey to better understand the current state of interdisciplinary communication between School-Based Health Centers, Athletic Trainers, School Nurses, School Health Advisors, and Primary Care Providers. By completing this survey, you can help us better serve our school health workers in Maine. We appreciate your feedback!

Take Survey

In the News!

The Maine CDC's Maine Immunization Program (MIP) announced that ordering for the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine is now open. In alignment with a [Health Advisory Notice \(HAN\)](#) issued September 23, 2025, and the [Standing Order](#) issued September 12, 2025, which reflect recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), MIP will supply the

updated COVID-19 vaccine to all children 6 months through 18 years.

[Read more to learn about Moderna's offerings](#). Moderna is in Maine AAP Health Allies program!

Updated AAP Coding Fact Sheet: Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care

Developed by the AAP in collaboration with the National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health/Got Transition, this [updated tip sheet](#) outlines codes that can be used for a variety of pediatric to adult centered health care transition services. Codes listed relate to preventive medicine services, health risk assessment, chronic care management, complex chronic care management, remote physiological monitoring treatment management, and transitional care management, among others, along with code descriptions and payment rates.

New Patient-Centered Humility Toolkit

Sexual and reproductive health conversations with adolescent patients can be difficult to approach for pediatricians. This new toolkit from AAP offers guidance to make these interactions more open and respectful. It includes sample prompts and developmentally appropriate responses to support meaningful, patient-centered care. [Download the toolkit here](#).

RSV Parent Webinar Available On Demand

In the most recent HealthyChildren.org webinar, AAP experts, Jennifer Shu, MD, FAAP, and Anita Chandra-Puri, MD, FAAP, explain what parents need to know about respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), including how to tell RSV from a cold and ways to help expectant and new parents protect their newborns. [Watch and share the recorded session](#) anytime on the AAP YouTube channel. This webinar was supported by Sanofi.

New 2026 Open Enrollment Outreach Toolkit

Each year, the CoverMe.gov team publishes [this Toolkit](#) to promote Open Enrollment, which runs from November 1 through January 15. The Toolkit includes flyers, posters, screen savers (for digital signs/monitors), newsletter content, and social media posts that can be downloaded and used by your organization.

Food Access Resources to Share with Patients and Families during the Government Shutdown

As you may know, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has instructed state agencies to pause the distribution of November SNAP and WIC benefits until further notice due to the ongoing federal government shutdown. This lapse is expected to leave tens of millions of people without the food and nutrition benefits they rely on, including the **55,000 Maine children that receive SNAP and 18,500 babies and parents who receive WIC. Without SNAP and WIC benefits, many families will be in desperate need of food assistance.**

Here's how you can help:

- Connect patients & families with local resources, including food banks/pantries and community kitchens. [Use this food bank locator](#).
- Remind families that **ALL** Maine students are legally entitled to **free breakfast and lunch at school**.
- If you work in a school, remind families about your **school's food cubby or pantry**. If your school doesn't have a cubby or pantry yet, consider creating one so that students can take home shelf-stable goods. This can help to take some pressure off food banks that are under strain. [Check out these best practices for starting and maintaining a school food pantry](#).
- Screen for food insecurity. Help to de-stigmatize food insecurity and encourage families to seek support. Professional resources [here](#).

Looking for additional ways to support and advocate for hungry Mainers

during this time? Check out [How You Can Help During the Government Shutdown](#) from Full Plates Full Potential!

Did you know...

2.5% of children tested for lead in the US have a level greater than or equal to 3.5 ug/dl, though there is no safe level of lead in the body? And, that 30% of Maine homes are built before 1950 - when lead paint was heavily used? All families with young kids can test their homes for dust. Connect your families with a free lead dust kit today whether they have a lead level >3.5 ug/L or not. Lead poisoning can be prevented. Families can sign up for a free home lead dust kit [here](#). If you would like to review data on lead testing and poisoning in the state of Maine or in your county, you can do so on the Maine Tracking Network found [here](#).

Be There for ME Provides Judgement Free Resources for Families Seeking Help including childcare, transportation, housing, food, stress management, and substance abuse. The parent-friendly website was developed to offer judgment-free support options in multiple languages. [Read more and/or view the toolkit and print out an info sheet to post.](#)

Gifts to Maine AAP directly benefit members and trainees by helping to support attendance at educational and legislative conferences!

Please consider making a donation today - [click here!](#)



Connect with Maine AAP on Social Media!

We recently joined BlueSky!
@maineaap.bsky.social, you can also follow us on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, where we continue to share pro-pediatric health messages, new clinical info and pertinent articles.
<https://linktr.ee/maineaap>

Upcoming Partner Programs

November 4th | 3:30-4:30PM: MCDC Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs monthly webinar learning series - **Katie Beckett Program: Helping Families Access MaineCare for Children with Disabilities.** [Register Here.](#)

November 7th | 11:30AM-12:30PM: Governor Mills Monthly Opioid Response Seminar Series: **2024 Annual Report of the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).** [Register Here.](#)

November 20th | 12-1PM: RMOMS Network Maternal Mental Health Webinar Series. [Register Here.](#)

December 2nd | 12-1PM: **Maine Health Virtual Public Health Grand Rounds** Fall 2025 Series Center for Health Improvement (Chi) with Dr. Tom Frieden, President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives. [Register Here.](#)

2025-2026 Training Season Schedule for the Center for Tobacco Independence.

[Learn more.](#)

Maine AAP | 30 Association Drive Box 190 | Manchester, ME 04351 US

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