



Maine Pediatrics

September 2023 - Newsletter: Highlights

- President's Message
- Spotlight: Maine Committee on School Health
- Save the Dates: Fall Education Series
- Advocacy/Legislation Update
- 'Did You Know?'
- 'In the News'
- Upcoming Maine AAP and Partner Programs



President's Message

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

While the true fall season is not yet upon us, the start of the 'school season' is in full swing! With social media posts of successful college drop offs and first days of kindergarten, I am reminded of how integrated the pediatric community is with the beginning of this season. From sports clearance forms to school immunizations to asthma action plans to IEP reviews, pediatricians are integrally involved in our patients' successful and healthy start to the school year. We are pleased to be launching our newest Committee on School Health, led by Alyssa Goodwin, MD. The goal of this committee will be to help providers, educators, school nurses and state leaders tackle issues and streamline processes. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group, let us know! Have a great start to the fall and school seasons! **Thanks for all you do!**

SPOTLIGHT: Maine Committee on School Health



GREAT NEWS! Maine AAP has launched a new committee - the Maine Committee on School Health (MECSH) . We define school health as an integration of wellness, safety, growth, learning, and development in the lives of school-aged children and adolescents within the context of their school, and with the coordinated alliance of the family and the medical home. The MECSH seeks to promote sound school health policies and practices that ensure the health and safety of school-aged children and adolescents through policy, education and advocacy.

If you are currently a school health advisor in Maine or want to become one, please fill out this very brief [survey](#) to ensure that you are part of our new listserv!

Fall Education Webinar Series

The series will be held on the following

Save
the
Date

six Thursdays at 7pm:
9/28, 10/5, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16

Topics and Speakers are being finalized and will be announced soon!

Advocacy/Legislation

Gun Safety Advocacy Event in DC - Thursday, October 19th

Planning to attend NCE in DC this October? March Fourth, a non-partisan organization aiming to federally ban assault weapons, is planning a lobbying event in DC where physicians meet with Senators and Representatives to discuss gun safety legislation that can save lives. This is a great advocacy opportunity for anyone already coming to NCE! [Learn more](#) OR [RSVP here!](#)

New Digital AAP Advocacy Guide

The Academy's new digital advocacy guide provides AAP members with information, tools, and resources to be effective child health advocates. The guide offers an in-depth look at different advocacy skills, from choosing an issue and crafting an effective advocacy message to communicating with lawmakers and using the media to amplify efforts. This resource is designed for advocates at all levels, with interactive tools and practical guidance. Visit the full guide at aap.org/AdvocacyGuide (AAP login required).

LD 231, "An Act to Support the Maine Pediatric and Behavioral Health Partnership Program" has been signed into law!!! Congratulations and thank you to all who worked on this initiative!

Wondering how a particular bill did in the Maine Legislature this session?

Check out the [Maine AAP bill tracker](#) and please [let us know](#) if you wish to be part of this vibrant, active committee. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Maine AAP is grateful to our amazing community of volunteers and supporters.

Donations are tax deductible and help fund the important work we do on behalf of Maine children and families. Your gift will help us ensure that Maine kids receive the best quality of care, and their doctors have access to up-to-date resources and guidelines.

Please consider making a gift today - [click here](#).

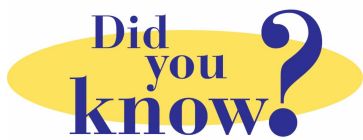
In the News

AAP's COVID Vaccination Disinformation Webinars: The AAP hosted a webinar series to share information on online immunization misinformation and tips on how to respond to it. In case you missed the live events, the recordings are available [here](#).

In April 2023, the AAP launched 6 educational videos for youth and families with spina bifida and highlight key timelines for health care transition from pediatric to adult-focused health care.

[Read more here.](#)

- Did you know that the Maine Department of Education and Maine schools follow the provisions of



the federal **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**, which aims to minimize the educational disruptions experienced by students experiencing housing instability?

- Did you know that every school district in Maine has a specific staff person dedicated to identifying and supporting homeless children and youth, called the McKinney-Vento Liaison?
- Did you know unaccompanied homeless youth can consent to their own medical care? This is very important to know so their needs can be met.

Read about it [here](#) and watch the short educational videos to learn more!

Upcoming Maine AAP Programs

Influenza Season Update & Introduction to Cell Culture Based Influenza Vaccine - Speaker: Dr. Andrew Rennekamp, Medical Science Liaison, CSL Seqirus. There is no charge to attend.

7:00PM, Thursday, September 21st [REGISTER HERE](#)

TREAT ME Learning Collaborative - Block Ten Asynchronous material is now available. **Sarah Bagley, MD, MS**, addresses "Use of Multiple Substances." Dr. Sarah Bagley is a primary care physician at Boston Medical Center. A graduate of the Georgetown University School of Medicine, the Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency at Brown University, and the Boston University Addiction Medicine Fellowship, her particular research interests are in the treatment of opioid use disorders in the adolescent and young adult population and the involvement of the family in addiction care. She sees patients in both General Internal Medicine and the Adolescent Center. She is the Medical Director of the CATALYST (Center for Addiction Treatment for Adolescents/Young adults who use Substances) Clinic – a clinical program to provide integrated medical and behavioral health care for adolescents and young adults who use substances – and an Attending on the inpatient Addiction Consult Service. [Click here to visit the collaborative website.](#)

The next session is our **Live Webinar Session, September 21st from 12PM-1PM.** [Click here for more information.](#)

Upcoming Partner Programs

September 6th, 13th, and 20th - 12PM - 1PM. Pediatric Psychiatry in the Primary Care Setting ECHO: Suicide Prevention in Healthcare 3-Session Series in September. [Learn more.](#)

September 18-19, 2023 - The Northeast Regional Telehealth Conference in Nashua, New Hampshire. [Learn more.](#)

September 19, 2023 - The Pediatric Environmental Health Grand Rounds presents: "The Role Clinicians Play in Protecting the Health of Private Well Owners." [Learn more.](#)

September 21-22, 2023 - Let's Go! National Obesity Conference. Virtual Event. [Learn more.](#)

September 22, 2023 - 11AM - 1PM - Shriners Children's Boston - The Abraham Thall & Sadye Stone Thall Virtual Education Symposium: Pediatric Reconstruction, Reintegration and Resiliency. [Learn more.](#)

September 28-29, 2023 - MAPP Fall Symposium: Advances in Understanding Trauma: Translating Neuroscience to Therapy. [Learn more.](#)

October 25-26, 2023 - MPCA Annual Conference - Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME. [Learn more.](#)

November 3-7, 2023 - Seattle, WA - The 2023 AAMC Learn, Serve and Lead Conference. [Learn more.](#)

Connect with us on Social Media!

The power to spread good messages, share new clinical info or pertinent articles is exponential when using social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. <https://linktr.ee/maineaap>

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