



# Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## Resources and Update 3/23 - 3/27

### COVID-19 Updates

#### **Pa. Department of Health has reported 1,687 COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania.**

As of March 26, 2020 -- Get Pa. Department of Health COVID-19 updates [Learn more](#).

#### **CDC offers COVID\_19 guidance to rural communities**

March 23, 2020 -- Clinicians should work with their health departments to facilitate testing, and rural hospitals are urged to review pandemic response plans. [Learn more](#)

#### **Young people play vital role in stopping spread of COVID-19**

March 19, 2020 -- Children and young adults may not be as likely to get severely ill or die from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as older adults, but experts say they have an important role in stopping its spread and keeping those who are most vulnerable from getting sick. [Learn more](#)

#### **The CDC has updated the priorities for testing patients with suspected COVID-19 infection.**

March 24, 2020 -- This guidance prioritizes health care professionals and first responders to receive testing. It also recommends more aggressive testing (even for milder cases) in communities where there are more COVID-19 hospitalizations. [Learn more](#)

### COVID-19 Waivers and Suspensions

#### **Pennsylvania to Allow Retired Health Care Professionals to Bolster COVID-19 Response**

03/25/2020

The Pennsylvania is acting to enable retired health care professionals to assist with the COVID-19 response by waiving certain licensing regulations. These new regulation suspensions increase the number of available and qualified health care practitioners in Pennsylvania by allowing retired practitioners to re-enter their field more easily...

[Read the Press Release](#)

[Read the waiver document](#)

#### **Pennsylvania Expands Access to Pharmacy Services**

03/22/2020

The Wolf administration is removing barriers for pharmacies to provide services for

Pennsylvanians in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Governor Wolf has granted a request from the Pennsylvania Department of State to suspend certain pharmacy regulations to enable more flexible and available services during the coronavirus emergency.

[Read the Press Release](#)

[Read the suspension document](#)

### **Some License Requirements for Qualified Physicians Assistants Are Suspended During Coronavirus Emergency**

03/22/2020

In order to allow physician assistants practicing under the state Board of Osteopathic Medicine to more easily and effectively assist with emergency response efforts to COVID-19, Governor Wolf granted the Department of State's request to suspend requirements pertaining to written agreements and several other items.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Pennsylvania Waives Some Nurse Licensing Requirements to Aid Coronavirus Response**

03/21/2020

The Department of State has waived certain administrative requirements for nurses, including temporarily extending license expiration dates and waiving associated fees during the coronavirus emergency.

[Read the Press Release](#)

[Read the waiver document](#)

### **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Waivers**

The PA WIC State Director has confirmed that waivers are in place for PA. Some regional offices may be experiencing some delays in getting the news and/or processing. In the meantime it was suggested that anyone who is having trouble with the waivers should reach out to Dave Toth at [datoth@pa.gov](mailto:datoth@pa.gov).

[Remote benefit issuance waiver](#)

[Physical presence waiver](#)

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## **Telemedicine**

**AAP Guidance:** [Telehealth Payer Policy in Response to COVID-19](#), which outlines policy changes aiming to alleviate barriers to telehealth care. AAP also offers a [webinar](#) on telehealth and guidance on [structuring your practice](#) during the pandemic.

### **AAP Telehealth and COVID-19 Webinar Posted 3/25/20**

This [webinar](#) by Sue Kressly, MD, FAAP offers guidance on how to launch telehealth into practice during COVID-19.

### **PA AAP Webinar Let's Talk "Implementing Telemedicine in Pediatric Practice" Posted 3/25/20**

In this [webinar](#), our panel addresses telehealth basics including how to get started using telehealth in your practice, technology considerations necessary for implementing a telehealth platform, and what you need to know in order to get paid for telehealth visits (billing and coding specifications).

Presenters:

Kristin Ray, MD: Director of Health Systems Improvements, Children's Community Pediatrics, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Bonnie Offit, MD, FAAP: Clinical Advisor in Digital Health, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, General Pediatrician, CHOP Care Network

Chip Hart: Director of Primary Care Collaborative Pediatric Solutions, Primary Care

[Recording](#)  
[Telemedicine Q&A Handout](#)

### Telemedicine Platforms

[Here](#) you will find a document providing a comparison of a few telehealth platforms developed by Dr. David Wolfson, Medical Director - Children's Community Pediatrics, Pittsburgh, PA. We will keep this list updated as the information continues to evolve.

## Webinars

### UPCOMING

**Is COVID-19 elevating your concerns around the food security of the patients you see?**



**"EPIC: Food Insecurity. Pediatric practice - food pantry collaboration"**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020 from 7:30 to 8:30 PM EST**

**Presenters:**

Dr. Sharon Cowden, MD, FAAP

Jeanne W. Smith, RD, LDN

[Register Here](#)

### RECORDING 3/26/20

#### **The Business Impact of COVID-19 on Pediatric Practices- Webinar #1**

Join PMI's Paulie Vanchiere and PCC's Chip Hart as they discuss financial and operational issues Pediatric practices are facing as COVID-19 continues to evolve. This webinar will provide tangible action items every Pediatric practice needs to consider over the coming days, weeks, and months.

[View recording](#)

## More Resources



HealthyChildren.org has new articles with advice on [formula shortages](#) and information for families of [children with special health care needs](#).



PA AAP Breastfeeding Program, EPIC BEST (Educating Physicians in their Communities: Breastfeeding Education Support and Training) developed a list of breastfeeding resources during COVID-19 which can be accessed [here](#).



PA AAP's Early Childhood Education Linkage System (ECELS) has launched [Guidance for Pennsylvania Child Care Providers Caring for Children of Essential Personnel During COVID-19](#).

Please visit our website at [www.paaap.org](http://www.paaap.org) for more resources and information on COVID-19 for Pennsylvania pediatric providers. We are doing our best to maintain up-to-date information as it becomes available.

**PA AAP (COVID-19)**

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