



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.

[Remote benefit issuance waiver](#)

[Physical presence waiver](#)

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 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)

Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics | 484-446-3000