



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 4/18 - 4/24

COVID-19 Updates

Pennsylvania Department of Health

PA has 1,369 new cases, bringing statewide total to 37,053 in all 67 PA counties. [Learn more](#). You can view a breakdown of cases [here](#).

The total deaths in PA is 1,421 - 201 less than yesterday because probable deaths have been removed. PA Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said that one reason for the change is because, in some cases, it won't be possible to confirm that a suspected death was indeed caused by the COVID-19.

A statewide crisis hotline is available at 1-855-284-2494. [Learn more](#).

Gov. Wolf outlined his plan for a phased and regional reopening. [Learn more](#). The full plan is available [here](#).

Governors Form Regional Collaboratives on COVID-19 Response and Recovery

April 21, 2020

Governors across the country continue to lead the response to COVID-19 and are now examining the conditions necessary to restart their states' economic activity. In [an announcement from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont](#), advisors from each state's task force were listed, and include 3 pediatricians—Dr Richard Besser (New Jersey), Dr Rachel Levine (Pennsylvania) and Dr Nicole Alexander-Scott (Rhode Island).

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

HHS announced additional allocations of CARES Act provider relief fund.

\$100 billion is being distributed by the Administration to healthcare providers, including hospitals battling this disease. [Learn more](#)

HHS created a COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit for health care decision makers.

This collection provides a curated set of resources and tools for decision-makers managing healthcare workforce challenges in response to the COVID-19 emergency. [View toolkit](#)

CHIP program modified to protect children during COVID-19 crisis.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) announced that it is making temporary changes to Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to keep families enrolled in CHIP for the duration of the public health emergency and to ease

access to medical services for children being screened or receiving treatment for COVID-19. [Learn more](#)

Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services

Trump Administration Releases COVID-19 Telehealth Toolkit to Accelerate State Use of Telehealth in Medicaid and CHIP

Toolkit will help states identify and address barriers to telehealth coverage during emergency

The new [toolkit](#) intends to help states accelerate adoption of broader telehealth coverage policies in the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

CMS Issues Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19

The new CMS guidelines recommend a gradual transition and encourage health care providers to coordinate with local and state public health officials, and to review the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, facility readiness, and testing capacity when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care.

[View the new recommendation](#)

AAP News

American Board of Pediatrics to award MOC points for COVID-19 response

April 22, 2020 -- In June, the ABP will award Maintenance of Certification points for COVID-19-related learning and improvement to all pediatricians maintaining certification.

[Read more](#)

What to know about federal laws to combat coronavirus and what's next

April 22, 2020 -- As the new laws are implemented, the Academy will work to ensure policies impacting children, families and pediatricians are executed effectively across the states and without delay.

[Read more](#)

FDA notes limitations of COVID-19 antibody tests; OKs first at-home diagnostic test

April 21, 2020 -- The Food and Drug Administration is reminding health care providers that they should not expect serological (antibody) tests for coronavirus disease 2019 to definitively diagnose or exclude SARS-CoV-2 infection.

[Read more](#)

U.N. urges action to mitigate risks of pandemic on children's rights, safety, development

April 21, 2020 -- Children are not the face of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, but they risk being among its biggest victims, according to a policy brief from the United Nations.

[Read more](#)

Brief outlines benefits of using lung ultrasound in children with COVID-19

April 21, 2020 -- Lung ultrasound might be a reasonable method to detect lung abnormalities in children with mild/severe coronavirus disease 2019, according to the research brief.

[Read more](#)

AAP issues guidance to ensure continued care for children during pandemic

April 14, 2020 -- The AAP has issued new guidance to ensure children continue to receive ambulatory services during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.



Healthy Children- Resources for Families

- Working and Learning from Home During the COVID-19 Outbreak
- Positive Parenting & COVID-19: 10 Tips to Help Keep the Calm at Home
- Getting Children Outside While Social Distancing
- Tips for Coping with a New Baby During COVID-19
- Simple Ways to Entertain & Boost Your Baby's Development at Home
- Teens & COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities During the Outbreak
- COVID-19: Information for Families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
- Co-Parenting Through COVID-19: Putting Your Children First
- Cloth Face Coverings for Children During COVID-19
- Breastfeeding During COVID-19 Pandemic
- Caring for Children in Foster Care During COVID-19
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, would it be safer to plan a home birth rather than deliver my baby at the hospital?

COVID-19 News

During Pandemic, Providers Face Pay Cuts, Practices Face Closures, Surveys Reveal

April 22, 2020

[Modern Healthcare](#) reports "a quarter of frontline healthcare providers and nearly half of primary care physicians expect pay cuts this month as COVID-19 strains their organizations, according to a new survey." Additionally, "more than a quarter of primary care physician practices said they will likely have to close within the next four weeks because of staffing shortages, low patient volumes and less cash on hand, according to a new Primary Care Collaborative survey of more than 2,600 clinicians."

More Information

New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals not eligible for regular unemployment compensation or extended benefits, including those who have exhausted all rights to such benefits. [More information](#)

[How to get a stimulus check if you didn't file taxes.](#)

[Worker's health and safety and rights during COVID-19](#)

Breastfeeding Support Groups Via Zoom

Lifecycle WomanCare has been hosting their Breastfeeding Support Groups via Zoom during the pandemic. They are extending the availability to interested nursing moms across the state. They host two different groups every week. Meetings are free and open to the public. Send an email tongraham@lifecyclewomancare.org to learn more.

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

Delaware County COVID-19 Business Grant Program

Delaware County Economic Development Oversight Board is administering the Delco Strong Small Business Support Grant Program to provide small businesses located in Delaware County

with financial relief due to business disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic shut down.

The Delaware County COVID-19 Business Grant program is a LIMITED fund of \$1,750,000. Submission of an application is not a guarantee of funding. Applications will NOT be accepted before or after the application window.

Funding for this program is being provided by the [Delaware County Redevelopment Authority](#) and the [Delaware Valley Regional Economic Development](#) Fund.

[Learn more](#)

From the National AAP

The AAP has a [web page on AAP.org](#) where you can find the latest clinical guidance, webinars, recommendations from CDC, information for parents and other resources. For questions or comments related to the pandemic, email COVID-19@aap.org.

Additional resources:

- AAP News: [Coronavirus disease outbreak coverage](#)
- AAP Red Book Online: [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infections](#)

Coronavirus Update: A Letter from the AAP President

This pandemic has hit our profession hard, which is why the AAP reached out to the Department of Health and Human Services to request immediate relief grants to ensure pediatric offices are able to stay open. Our [letter to HHS](#) outlines the details, but we are asking for immediate financial relief through no-strings federal grants to general pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists or pediatric surgical specialists. Read the full letter to members from Dr. Goza [here](#).

Pediatricians Show Their Mettle as Coronavirus Sweeps the Nation

Eight pediatricians share eight stories. COVID-19 has changed lives and livelihoods of pediatricians as it has swept across the U.S. We spoke with AAP members who are navigating through uncertainty and challenges on the front lines, in public health, mental health and telehealth to help their patients and colleagues. Read their stories in [AAP News](#).

Share Your COVID-19 Story with AAP

AAP is collecting additional stories of member pediatricians during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that we can lift up and thank the heroes among us, advocate for the needs of on-the-ground physicians, and share the experiences of other pediatricians with our community of members. AAP will share select stories in blogs, social media and other communications, with permission. To share your story, visit www.aap.org/COVIDstory.

Advocay Call-to-Action

Sign on!

Health Professionals Call for Federal Coordination on Medical Supplies and Comprehensive Testing

[Sign-on to this letter organized by PennPIRG to raise our voices to get nurses and doctors the tools they need to save lives.](#)

Webinars



New Weekly Pediatric Community Forum

Due to the growing need for up-to-date information and communication, PA AAP is now offering a modified version of our "Let's Talk" webinar series to our members. This series will take place weekly and serve as a forum for community pediatric providers. We want to provide an opportunity to hear

what others are experiencing and to share ideas for managing the impact of COVID-19.

Webinars will take place every Wednesday from 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET.

RECORDED 4/22/20

"Supporting Mental Health During COVID19"

Presenters:

Justin Schreiber, DO, MPH, FAAP

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC

Presbyterian-Shadyside, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Paula Powe, MD

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, UPMC
Medical Director, Matilda H. Theiss Child Development Center on Early Childhood Behavioral Health, UPMC

[View Recording](#)

RECORDED 4/15/2020

"Breastfeeding and Lactation Support During COVID"

Meg Kawan, MD, MPH, IBCLC, FAAP

[View recording](#)

RECORDED 4/8/2020

"Infection Control in the Time of COVID"

Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP

[View Recording](#)

RECORDED 3/25/20

"Implementing Telemedicine in Pediatric Practice"

Kristin Ray, MD, FAAP; Bonnie Offit, MD, FAAP; Chip Hart

[Recording](#)

[Telemedicine Q&A Handout](#)

PA AAP P2P Telemedicine Mentorship Program

Need help getting set up with telemedicine in your office? PA AAP is now offering a telemedicine mentorship program.

Our telemedicine mentor program offers free 1:1 support for implementing telehealth in your practice -- from selecting a platform, using the platform, and even billing and coding support. COVID-19 and the public health imperative of social distancing has made telemedicine a pediatric practice necessity. We're in this together so don't hesitate to reach out. PA AAP has identified telemedicine mentors who are knowledgeable and available to share practical guidance and answer your questions.

SIGN UP HERE

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.

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

