



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 4/25 - 5/1

COVID-19 Updates

Pennsylvania Department of Health

Pa. has 1,208 new cases, bringing statewide total to 46,971 (2,878) are in health care workers in all 67 Pa. counties. [Learn more](#). You can view a breakdown of cases [here](#).

Gov. Wolf announced he will be using a staged process to reopen Pennsylvania beginning May 8, 2020. [View process here](#).

Gov. Wolf announced that nearly \$324 million in funding has been awarded to 31 Pa. hospitals through the Hospital Emergency Loan Program (HELP) to provide short-term financial relief. [Learn more](#)

Health care providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis on or after Feb. 4, 2020, can electronically request claims reimbursement. [Learn more](#)

Gov. Wolf announced cross-agency telehealth guidance for the COVID-19 disaster declaration. [View guidance](#)

Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services

Trump Administration Issues Second Round of Sweeping Changes to Support U.S. Healthcare System During COVID-19 Pandemic. [Read more](#)

New and Expanded Flexibilities for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) MLN Matters Article. [Read more](#)

PA DOH COVID-19 Update

Interim Guidelines for Collecting Clinical Specimens for COVID-19 Testing April 30, 2020

The following specimens are acceptable to submit for COVID-19 testing:

- A nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen,
- An oropharyngeal (OP) specimen, or
- A nasal mid-turbinate (NMT) swab, or
- An anterior nares specimen (NS), or
- Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW).

Consultation with the health department is required before testing at DOH. Please call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department. Commercial and in-house laboratory tests do not require consultation with the health department. Please follow those laboratory specimen collection instructions. Positive test results should be reported through the Pennsylvania electronic reporting system, PA-NEDSS.

Specimens for point-of-care tests should not be placed in media or saline prior to analysis.

[View Full PA DOH Update](#)

AAP News

AAP awarded \$6 million to expand telehealth during COVID-19 pandemic

April 30, 2020

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded the AAP \$6 million to increase children's access to telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Pandemic highlights health care inequities among at-risk pediatric populations

April 28, 2020

The pandemic's impact on at-risk groups has drawn concern from pediatricians as more data point to the need for health care providers to address barriers to healthy outcomes for vulnerable populations. [Read more](#)

AAP asks HHS for relief funds to help pediatricians stay open

April 17, 2020

In a letter, AAP President Sara H. Goza, MD, FAAP, asked HHS for "immediate, direct financial relief payments" for pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists "to keep practices open, pay staff, and procure needed supplies." [Read more](#)

COVID-19 News

Trump Administration Reportedly Not Extending COVID-19 Assistance To Medicaid Providers

April 30, 2020

[Read more from LA Times](#)

FURTHER READING

['Dire Situation' For Frontline Physicians Prompts Letter To Administration For Financial Relief](#)

Well-Child Visits Have Reportedly Declined During Pandemic

April 29, 2020

[Read more from NPR](#)

FURTHER READING

[Pediatricians Hope COVID-19 Helps Overcome Opposition To Vaccines](#)
[Telehealth Taking Center Stage In Many Practices Amid COVID-19 Crisis](#)

COVID-19 Pandemic Exposes Racial Disparities In US

April 29, 2020

[Read more from New York Times](#)

FURTHER READING

[Pandemic Highlights Health Care Inequities Among At-Risk Pediatric Populations](#)

From the National AAP

Pediatrics Collection on COVID-19 Offers Pediatricians the Latest Research

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has created many questions among families and caregivers, and information continues to evolve. The editorial team at Pediatrics

have compiled articles from American Academy of Pediatrics publications into a curated [collection of articles on COVID-19](#). This online collection will be updated frequently to reflect new articles published on this topic. Pediatrics articles and resources include:

- [Mitigating the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response on At Risk Children](#)
- [Vulnerable Youth and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [COVID-19 Pediatric Research Highlights](#)

New Clinical Guidance: [Breastfeeding Guidance Post Hospital Discharge for Mothers or Infants with Suspected or Confirmed SARS-Co V-2 Infection](#)



HealthyChildren

- Ask the Pediatrician: [During the COVID-19 pandemic, would it be safer to plan a homebirth rather than deliver my baby at a hospital?](#)
- Ask the Pediatrician: [Is it OK to call the pediatrician during the COVID-19 pandemic even if I'm not sure my child is sick?](#)
- [Preventing Tobacco Exposure During Stay-at-Home Orders](#)

Latest Free Webinars From AAP

Addressing Family Mental Health Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Offering tips for pediatricians for conversations to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on family mental health. (April 27, 2020)

[View Recording](#)

Child Abuse in the COVID-19 Era: Strategies for identifying children at risk for or currently experiencing abuse and neglect during the pandemic and ways to support families to keep children safe. (April 27, 2020).

[View Recording](#)

#PedsPutKids1st Story Campaign

A blue graphic with white text and a photo of a healthcare worker. The text reads: "#PedsPutKids1st During COVID-19", "It's definitely the closest thing that I've felt to being in a battle or on the front line of something. It's very intense.", and "Katherine O'Connor, M.D., FAAP, New York, N.Y.". The American Academy of Pediatrics logo is at the bottom left. The photo shows a healthcare worker in a yellow protective suit, face shield, and red headband.

#PedsPutKids1st During COVID-19

“
It's definitely the closest thing that I've felt to being in a battle or on the front line of something. It's very intense.
”

Katherine O'Connor, M.D., FAAP
New York, N.Y.

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The AAP is collecting 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. The AAP will share select stories in blogs, social media and other communications, with permission. To share your story, visit www.aap.org/COVIDstory.

[Read other stories here.](#)

Additional resources:

- An [AAP letter](#) outlining its priorities to Congress for children, families and pediatricians in future COVID-19 response legislation
- An AAP led [letter](#) with other medical organizations with their asks for COVID-19 relief for immigrant children and families
- A Facebook live [video](#) with Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.) and Deanna Behrens, MD, FAAP, sharing advice for families

Advocay Call-to-Action



Pediatricians Left Out of Last Week's HHS Provider Relief Fund Announcement

What can you do?

Contact your Member of Congress today and urge them to weigh in with HHS and the White House

- Go to federaladvocacy.aap.org
- Click on "Provide Needed Financial Support for Pediatricians Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis" under Key Issues

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.

UPCOMING

"Place Matters: The Story of the COVID-19 Epidemic"

Date of Activity: May 6, 2020

Agenda: 8:00 - 9:00 PM EDT with Presentations and Q & A

Presenters:

David Rubin, MD, MSCE- Attending Physician, Co-Director, PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Session Learning Objectives:

As a result of participation in this activity, participants will be able to:

- Describe the impact of social distancing, population density, and temperature on the transmission of SARS-CoV-2
- Identify potential projections for COVID-19 forecasting

- Identify local, state and federal strategies for re-opening communities

REGISTER HERE

RECORDED 4/29/20
"Coping with COVID and Autism"

Presenters:

Wendy Ross, MD, FAAP: Jefferson Health, Center for Autism & Neurodiversity

Session Learning Objectives:

As a result of participation in this activity, participants will be able to:

- Identify areas of stress during the COVID period for those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Articulate strategies to help reduce stress in those affected by ASD
- Delineate possibilities for at-home opportunities for growth during the COVID period

[View Recording](#)

RECORDED 4/22/20
"Supporting Mental Health During COVID19"

Justin Schreiber, DO, MPH, FAAP; Paula Powe, MD

[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](#)

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)



