PA Updates

PA saw 4,683 new cases since last Friday, bringing the total case count to 127,633 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 PA counties. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. here.

Governor Tom Wolf announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Health has released a request for applications for the PA Primary Care Loan Repayment Program. This program provides funding to recruit and retain primary care providers working in areas where there are shortages of healthcare practitioners. Learn more

The Pa. Department of Health announced it will pilot a COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app. The app, called COVID Alert PA, is expected to be available by early September. Learn more

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced it is authorizing pharmacists to administer childhood vaccines to individuals ages 3 to 18 during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Learn more

Read the AAP's Response: "The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) opposes U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) actions on childhood vaccines"

Updates from AAP

- The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children’s Hospital Association provides a weekly report that compiles state-by-state data on COVID-19 cases in children. Learn more

- **AAP Updated Clinical Guidance**
  - **Return to School Considerations**: AAP guidance developed in support of collaborative decision-making among school districts and local and state public health departments about when it is safe to open schools.
  - **Updated AAP School Reopening Guidance Calls For Layers Of Protection, Flexibility**

- **Critical Update**
  - **Preparing for Flu Season**: Pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists all play a role in ensuring that children receive influenza vaccine. This is particularly important during the pandemic, given the overlapping symptoms between COVID-19 and influenza.
Reminders:

Provider Relief Fund Update: Reminder deadline fast approaching on AUGUST 28TH! View the AAP’s information and resources on the Provider Relief Fund here. If you have any questions or issues, please contact us at COVID-19@aap.org.

- Payments for Providers Who Had a Change in Ownership. HHS has announced that starting the week of August 10, providers who experienced change in ownership challenges may submit their revenue information, along with documentation proving a change in ownership, by August 28 for consideration for a Provider Relief Fund payment.

- Second Chance for Certain Medicare Providers. Starting the week of August 10, HHS will allow Medicare providers who missed the opportunity to apply for additional funding from the $20 billion portion of the $50 billion Phase 1 Medicare General Distribution. Providers will have until August 28, 2020, to complete an application to be considered for the balance of their additional funding up to 2 percent of their annual patient revenues.

- Relief Fund Payments for New Providers. HHS is currently working to address relief payments to new providers in 2020 along with those that have yet to receive any funding for a variety of reasons, including the fact that they may only bill commercially, or do not directly bill for the services they provide under the Medicare and Medicaid programs and thus have not receive any funding yet. HHS has advised that future announcements will be provided as additional information becomes available. The full press release from HHS regarding the information above can be found here.

Learn more here.

Webinars

UPCOMING
"Supporting Intimate Partner Violence Survivors and Their Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic"
Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 from 8:00 - 9:00 PM EDT with Presentations and Q & A

Presenters:

Maya Ragavan, MD, MPH, MS- Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
General Academic Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD- Professor of Pediatrics, Public Health, and Clinical and Translational Science; Division Director, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine; Medical Director, Community and Population Health, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, University of Pittsburgh and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Rebecca Garcia, MS- RIL Team Coordinator, Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Session Learning Objectives:
As a result of participation in this activity, participants will be able to-
- Describe how COVID-19 is impacting intimate partner violence (IPV) survivors
and their children
- Discuss tips for supporting IPV survivors within pediatric practices, centered on the use of universal education and resource provision
- Review community-based resources and discuss the role of IPV advocates in supporting families who have experienced IPV

Recorded 8/12/20
“Developing a COVID-19 Vaccine at Warp Speed”
Paul A Offit, MD, FAAP
View Recording

Recorded 7/22/20
“Considerations for the Reopening of Schools”
Rachel Levine, MD, FAAP, David Rubin, MD, MSCE
View Recording

Recorded 7/15/20
“Telehealth & Pediatrics 201: Beyond the Basics”
Susan J. Kressly, MD, FAAP
View Recording

Recorded 6/24/20
“Strengthening Vaccine Confidence and Acceptance in the Pediatric Provider Office”
Sarah Mbaeyi, MD, MPH
Medical officer, Office of Vaccine Policy, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC
View Recording

You can find the full list of recorded webinars 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.