



Blast Communication

Sent to our Members via Email and Fax

Georgia AAP Update

May 8, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for Friday, May 8:

NOTE: If you are reading this message as a blast fax, visit us on the web at www.gaaap.org to view the message on-line to enable links. All previous blasts are archived on our website.

Advocacy

AAP National Elections to open May 26

AAP candidates for president-elect, Moira Szilagyi, MD, Los Angeles; and Dr. Mobeen Rathore, MD, Jacksonville, will have a national webinar on May 19 and will also participate in the Chapter Chat on May 20. The link to bio/statements for all candidates can be found [here](#). Also, an election for our District Vice-Chair will be held. Candidates are Robert Wiskind, MD, Atlanta, and Michael Ramsey, MD, Dothan, Ala. Online voting will begin May 26 and conclude June 9.

Clinical Guidance

DPH Testing for Pediatric Patients Is Available

The Dept of Public Health has many testing sites around the state with the capacity to test pediatric patients. Follow these steps:

1. go to www.dph.ga.gov.
2. Scroll down to “Find Covid-19 Testing.”
3. Since all tests require a prior appointment, click on “Call for COVID Testing” and find the location in your county. These numbers will link to local county health department telephone numbers.
4. Call this number and make an appointment for a test. (Either the physician can do this or the parents.) Make sure you tell them it is for a pediatric patient, so they can have the proper equipment and personnel available.
5. The health department staff will set the appointment for the patient and direct the patient to the nearest site that can do their test.

Additional Notes:

1. There is also a listing of “GA Testing Sites” on the website but this list won’t contain all DPH sites, since some are “pop-up” sites and may be temporary. That is why the call is the critical first step.
2. The National Guard and private labs have also set up testing sites. It is not recommended by DPH to use these sites for specimen collection for pediatric patients.

AAP Statement on New Data Showing Declines in Childhood Immunizations (Click [here](#) to view graph)

“Today the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention published [new data](#) that documents what pediatricians around the nation have been reporting for weeks: many, many children have missed receiving important immunizations to protect them against diseases like measles, meningitis and whooping cough. Click [here](#) to view the news release from Sally Goza, MD, FAAP, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Opportunity to Connect and Learn about COVID-19 and Children with Medical Complexity

The American Academy of Pediatrics in partnership with Boston University has launched a new ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) project, titled “COVID-19 and Children with Medical Complexity (CMC) ECHO.” This tele-mentoring program leverages video conferencing technology to increase clinician knowledge and support in caring for CMC during the COVID-19 pandemic by connecting clinicians with experts in infectious disease, emergency preparedness, primary care, subspecialty care, and family-centered care. This platform provides a space for participants to discuss topics that impact children with medical complexity during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as telehealth, home care supports, mental/behavioral health needs, health care financing, emergency planning, special education considerations, and more. The AAP COVID-19 and CMC ECHO will meet twice per month on a reoccurring date/time; flexible opportunities to participate are also available. If you are interested in participating, please contact aapecho@aap.org or complete the [project application](#) by May 11.

Novel Presentation of Pediatric COVID-19 as Multisystem Inflammatory Disease

Clinicians in Europe and the UK have recently shared [reports](#) of children presenting with an unusual manifestation of COVID-19, including varying features of toxic shock syndrome (TSS) and atypical Kawasaki disease (KD), including reported myocarditis and/or coronary aneurysms. Typical presenting symptoms have included fever, tachycardia and abdominal pain, along with KD/TSS symptoms. Physicians in New York also reported an unusual cluster of such cases this past week in hospitals and PICUs.

Of note, patients may have varying test results. Some may test positive by COVID-19 PCR. Others have had a negative COVID-19 PCR yet demonstrate evidence of infection by COVID-19 IgG antibody test, suggesting a post-infectious syndrome. While still rare, providers should be aware of existence of this unusual syndrome and consider it in children with these symptoms. A case definition is being rapidly developed for international release. Children's will provide further information in upcoming updates. [Read more from the UK.](#)

Education

Identifying and Caring for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Course for Pediatric Clinicians (A

Developed by the AAP. Units within the course are eligible for CME and MOC Part 2 points

Link: <https://shop.aap.org/identifying-and-caring-for-children-with-autism-spectrum-disorder-a-course-for-pediatric-clinicians/>

AAP Webinars on Mental Health Issues During COVID-19 Pandemic

May 7 is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. AAP experts have continued producing and expanding a [series of webinars](#) on COVID-19 for members, including some on mental health issues and physician wellness.

- [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.
- [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.
- [Resilience in Stressful Times and Connecting During Times of Trauma](#): In this session, experts share strategies to support physician resilience while social distancing and caring for patients with COVID-19.

Physician Wellness

Taking Care of Ourselves During Infectious Disease Outbreaks

This [fact sheet](#) explains social distancing, quarantine, and isolation in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. It discusses feelings and thoughts that may arise during this time and suggests ways to cope and support oneself during such an experience.

SAMSHA Disaster Mobile App

In a disaster, it's essential that behavioral health responders have the resources they need—when and where they need them. The free [SAMSHA Disaster App](#) offers first responders immediate access for any type of traumatic event at every phase of response, including pre-deployment preparation, on-the-ground assistance and post-deployment resources.

Practice Management & Operations

Critical Health Care Supplies to Those on the Frontlines

Many Georgia companies have joined the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic by providing critical health care supplies to those on the frontlines of this fight: health care workers, first responders and law enforcement, food service industry employees, logistics workers, and reopening small businesses.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development has been working to share this information with purchasing managers in state agencies, local governments, school systems, and higher education organizations to assess demand for the most needed critical supplies. To view the latest version of the list of Georgia Suppliers List, click [here](#)

Resources for Families

Emory Global Health Institute (EGHI) COVID-19 Children's eBook Competition Winners

EGHI invited interested writers and illustrators (or aspiring writers and illustrators!) to write and illustrate a children's eBook aimed at providing age-appropriate information for children ages 6-9 on the COVID-19 pandemic. The eBook submission guidelines required books to include age-appropriate, factual information on COVID-19, reassure the reader they are safe and that it is ok to feel upset, and describe actions taken by medical professionals and others.

The books are available on the [Emory Global Health Institute website](#). We hope you will share them with your children, friends and networks. Our goal is to share these delightful and informative books with as many children as possible.

Atlanta Motor Speedway & Atlanta Community Food Bank will Hold Free Market Days

The Atlanta Motor Speedway and Atlanta Community Food Bank will hold FREE market days in May giving families 30 to 40 pounds of food each Friday. May 15, and May 22 are the dates. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Telehealth

Send Us Your Telehealth Questions!

If you have telehealth questions, send them to Fozia Khan Eskew at feskew@gaaap.org. Please put Telehealth Question in the subject line.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact Noreen Dahill at ndahill@gaaap.org. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Terri McFadden, MD, FAAP

President

This message is also posted on the Georgia AAP listserv for our Pediatric nurses and practice managers.