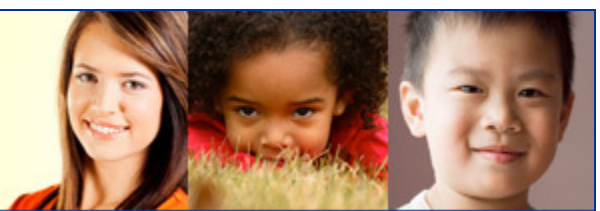




Georgia Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics
*Georgia's leading voice for children and the
pediatricians & subspecialists who care for them.*



Blast Communication

Sent to our Members via Email and Fax

Georgia AAP Update

June 26, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for Today, June 26th:

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.

Announcements

Georgia AAP Advocacy Brings \$2.4M for Medicaid Rate Increases in Final FY21 Budget, As Legislature Concludes

Yesterday the state legislature's Appropriations Committee wrapped up its work on the FY 2021 budget and pediatricians got some good news, in an otherwise VERY difficult budget year. Even though the budget contains \$2.2B in cuts forced by falling tax revenue due to the pandemic, budget writers added \$2.4M to increase Medicaid rates for selected code to Medicare '18 levels. (They are now paid at 2014 Medicare levels.) Getting funds in the budget for this increase was the key priority for the Chapter this session. In this budget with so many cuts, getting this "add" is a great accomplishment! We worked hard on this issue and we joined by our colleagues in primary care (FM, IM, OB-Gyn, and DO societies) and we thank them too. More details coming next week and on our webpage. Thanks to all of you who talked to your legislator this session. The session ends today.

More State Legislative News

At 2:00pm today, Governor Kemp signed the Hate Crimes bill, which finally passed after lengthy negotiations between the House and Senate. Long overdue, Georgia now joins 43 other states that already had a Hate Crimes bill on the books. More final budget news: Cuts to public and mental health, autism and substance abuse programs were reduced to more modest levels, and cuts to physician training programs were eliminated; however no new residency slots were funded. Also restored were grants to county health departments, and the extension of Medicaid benefits to post-partem mothers from two months to six months after giving birth. Click [here](#) for the AJC's summary.

Clinical

CDC Releases MMWR Pregnant Women and COVID-19

Hispanic and non-Hispanic black pregnant women appear to be disproportionately affected by SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy. Among reproductive-age women with SARS-CoV-2 infection, pregnancy was associated with hospitalization and increased risk for intensive care unit admission, and receipt of mechanical ventilation, but not with death. To view the full report click [here](#).

Demographic Trends of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC – for the latest data on hospitalization and mortality by age click [here](#).

Education

Georgia AAP Education Calendar

The Chapter's education programming continues, now all of it is virtual and **free** to our members. To register visit: <https://www.gaaap.org/upcoming-webinars/>. Join us for our upcoming virtual events! All are scheduled from 12:30 – 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted.

Webinar: Achieving Successful Healthcare Transitions Despite a Pandemic; June 30th

Practice Management

Did you Miss the Double Header for Practice Management?

Recording - "Telehealth & Pediatrics 201: Beyond the Basics" @6pm. – Faculty Susan J. Kressly, MD, FAAP and moderator Jonathan Goodin, MD talked all things telehealth.

Recording (AAP Login Required) ***"Ask the Experts: Applying for the CARES Provider Relief Fund as a Pediatrician"*** Join AAP experts to learn about the federal financial relief available to pediatricians through the CARES Provider Relief Fund. After an overview of the relief funds available to pediatricians, experts Suzanne Berman, MD FAAP and Jill Venskytis, CMM, HITCM-PP will discuss the application for the CARES Provider Relief Fund Medicaid and CHIP Targeted Allotment.

Ordering PPE Via GA DPH – The process through which Clinical Providers, such as pediatric practices, can obtain emergency resources for PPE from the national stockpile is working. Please note inventory is critically low and not all items will be available at any given time. If you receive a portion of your order, it will be considered filled. Please click [here](#) to download instructions.

Ordering PPE Through Amazon Business Account – Please see [this link](#) for the Amazon (Getting Started) guide. The approval process, through Amazon, is complex to ensure that only medical professionals have access to the PPE during COVID-19.

- Once you set up your business account, you should receive an approval via email. This may take up to 24-48 hours.
- Once set up your medical designation through the credentials link. You will get an email saying you are approved; however, it takes them up to 72 hours to get "verified".
- Once you are verified then your account should show the link for COVID 19.

Resources for Families

Remember the Census?

Be sure everyone is counted. A video to promote this very important issue has been released. Click [here](#) to view.

Contact Tracing Resources from DPH - Contact Tracing video has been released and you can share this video through your practice's social media channels – the link is <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact-tracing>. Additional DPH information focusing on COVID-19 and contact tracing is as follows:

- [What you need to know about: COVID-19 & Contract Tracing](#)
- [COVID-19: You've tested positive - What should I do?](#)
- [COVID-19: Contact Tracing - Box it in](#)
- [What you need to know about COVID-19](#)

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.

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