



Blast Communication

Georgia AAP Update

August 26, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for this week, August 24 - 28, 2020.

Announcements

New Chapter Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Established - Last Thursday, the Executive Committee of the Georgia Chapter voted to approve the creation of a new committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This committee will be charged with the task of addressing the issues involving bias and discrimination at both organizational and patient care levels. They will build on the important work already being done by national AAP in this area. If you would like to be considered for membership in this committee, please email kautry@gaaap.org.

U. S. Department of HHS Authorizes Pharmacists to Give Vaccines - Last week, the US Dept. of Health & Human Services issued an order that will permit pharmacists to give vaccines to children ages three years through 18 years if certain conditions are met. The Georgia Chapter has signed on to a letter from the Academy and AAP chapters to HHS Secretary Azar, calling on the Secretary to rescind this action and stressing the importance of children returning to pediatric practices for all needed preventive care.

Provider Relief Fund Update - Breaking news today: the deadline for applying for federal financial relief through the Medicaid and CHIP Provider Relief Fund portal has been extended to **September 13th**. Members are encouraged to visit the [HHS website](#) to apply for the Medicaid CHIP distribution.

In-office Testing for Covid-19: For questions about whether your office should be testing for Covid-19, whom to test, and proper PPE and cleaning procedures please refer to the recently released AAP testing guidance found [here](#).

Currently, we understand that CPT code U0002 (Severity Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS-COV]) and CPT 87635 ("Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique.") are allowable per Medicaid. CPT code 87426 (infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique of SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2) is not currently being accepted by Medicaid. For questions, email feskew@gaaap.org.

Cardiac Follow-up Recommendations for COVID-19 Positive Children - In last week's update, we noted that the American College of Cardiology published recommendations, "Returning To Play After Coronavirus Infection: Pediatric Cardiologists' Perspective", dated 7/14/2020. The article contains a suggested algorithm for approaching pediatric patients with a history of a COVID-19 infection who want to return to sports participation and physical activity. Information is rapidly evolving on return to sports, so stay tuned for further information. To view the article click [here](#).

Matthew Oster, MD an Atlanta pediatric cardiologist, is presenting a webinar on this topic tomorrow, August 27. Details in the Education section below.

Pediatrics on the Virtual Parkway: Halloween Edition! October 31st & November 1st - Plan now to "attend" our annual fall meeting on Halloween Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1, 2020. It will feature a combination of live, as well as recorded events, which you can view at your convenience. Click [here](#) for more information. Registration will open soon.

Census Deadline Now at September 30 - Please remind families to provide census information for their household which helps to ensure funding for Medicaid, CHIP, WIC, Head Start and other programs critical to the health and well-being of children.

In July, President Trump indicated that unauthorized immigrants should be excluded from the Census count. By law, the Census must count all persons living in the U.S., both citizens and non-citizens. You can reassure families that the Census will not ask about their citizenship status and Census information cannot be used to identify undocumented immigrants.

16th Annual Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities Training Program - Break the Cycle supports an interdisciplinary set of student-driven research projects that explore the environmental, economic, and social factors that adversely affect children's health. Students work with academic mentors from their universities to develop and submit a research proposal. If selected, they get to work with Break the Cycle faculty to complete and present their research results at an annual conference in Atlanta, Spring 2021. For more information, click [here](#).

Take a Selfie in Your PPE! - Would you like to be in the next Issue of The Georgia Pediatrician? We are asking members to share pictures wearing their PPE/masks. Would you like to participate? If so, take a picture and email it to Kasha Askew at kaskew@gaaap.org.

Resources for Pediatricians

Happy National Breastfeeding Month!

August is National Breastfeeding month. Click [here](#) for a list of ways to celebrate it developed by the Chapter Breastfeeding Committee. For more information, contact committee chair Dr. Tarayn Fairlie at Tarayn.G.Fairlie@kp.org or Claire Eden, IBCLC/Licensed, Chapter staff at ceden@gaaap.org.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month!

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Especially now, it's time to show your support and spread the word about the importance of vaccines on your website and via social media platforms. More information can be found [here](#).

Resources for Parents

The Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line - is operated by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities and provides free and confidential assistance to callers needing emotional support or resource information as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emotional Support Line is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals and others who have received training in crisis counseling. **Hours of operation: 8 am - 11 pm - Call 866.399.8938.** Click [here](#) for more information.

Education

COVID -19 and Return to Sports Webinar - Matthew Oster, MD, pediatric cardiologist at Sibley Heart Center Cardiology, will present a webinar on *COVID-19 and Return to Sports*, Thursday, August 27, 12:00-1:00 pm. Click [here](#) to register.

Virtual Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect - A virtual conference series on Child Abuse & Neglect will be held on Sept. 16 – Oct. 1, produced by Prevent Child Abuse Georgia and the Stephanie Blank Center at CHOA. To register click [here](#).

Sincerely,

Hugo Scornik, MD, FAAP
President

If you have any questions, please contact Noreen Dahill at the Georgia AAP ndahill@gaaap.org.

Thank you.

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