Blast Communication

Georgia AAP Update
September 16, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for this week, September 14 - 18, 2020.

Announcements

**Flu Vaccine Bidirectional Borrowing** - After advocacy from Georgia AAP, we are pleased to report that VFC has agreed to allow borrowing between VFC and private flu vaccines for this current flu season. Per the [VFC Newsletter](#) released yesterday, “In an effort to ensure access to influenza vaccination for all pediatric patients, GA VFC will allow bidirectional borrowing of influenza vaccines between your private and VFC vaccine supply for the 2020-2021 flu season only. **Detailed guidance to follow.**” Until final guidance is published, we are recommending that practices call their VFC representative prior to instituting any flu vaccine borrowing. If borrowing from your private insurance flu vaccine stock, practices will need to confirm with VFC that sufficient VFC vaccine is being shipped to pay your private stock back. We will publish here when final guidance is available.

**New Committee Chairs Appointed** - Welcome and congratulations to Dr. Mitch Rodriguez, Macon, who is the new Chair of the Fetus and Newborn Committee. He succeeds Dr. Jatinder Bhatia, Augusta, who recently retired. Also, Dr. Iyabode Beysolow, Atlanta, has been named Chair of the EPIC Immunization Advisory Committee. We look forward to their active engagement in work advancing the mission and goals of the Chapter.

**Are You Interested in Becoming a Potential Vaccination Site for COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccination?**

As the Georgia Immunization Program (GIP) prepares for the availability and distribution of the Novel COVID-19 vaccine, they would like to learn more about your interest in becoming a potential vaccination site for the vaccine. In order to be considered a vaccination site, you will have to complete a [survey](#). If interested, please review the [Extended Offer Letter](#) and [FAQ](#) for further instructions. As always, GIP thanks you for your continued partnership!

**2020-2021 Policy for RSV Season Announced** - The Chapter recently sent out the most current AAP policy statement and technical support guidance for Palivizumab (Synagis®) prophylaxis among infants and young children at increased risk for hospitalization for Respiratory Syncytial Virus infection. Click [here](#) for this blast communication sent September 15.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FALL MEETING!**

Pediatrics on the Virtual Parkway: Halloween Edition . . . is now open for business! 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.

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[Subscribe](#) to our email list.
Newly Updated & Revised! Toolkit for School Re-Entry and Children’s Health in the Time of COVID-19 - This is an updated version of our previous Chapter toolkit. It has been revised to address questions generated from the webinar as well as new/interim guidelines that have been issued since its initial release. In this revision – FAQs have been expanded to provide updates and address additional concerns around face covering/masking, contact tracing, testing and clearance for schools, vaccine development, and additional information for parents and schools. Click here for access.

Do You Qualify for Loan Repayment? - The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce (GBHCW) is now accepting applications for its service-cancelable loan repayment programs for the 2021 cycle. These programs pay debt incurred toward completion of educational degrees for physicians, dentists, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses who are practicing full-time in underserved, rural counties in Georgia. Click here for more information.

Key Deadline Arrives for E-Cigarette Regulation Efforts - Last Wednesday marked the court-ordered deadline for e-cigarette manufacturers to apply to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to keep their products on the market. Under the order, any e-cigarette product that has not submitted an application is considered illegal and is subject to immediate federal enforcement action to remove the product from the market. FDA now has one year to review the applications and determine whether each product is appropriate for the protection of public health.

Let Us Know What You’re Thinking and What’s Going on in Your World - Join the Chapter Blog! The Chapter's blog provides you with regular articles on pediatric, medical, and health policy news. Go to the blog at www.gapeeds.blogspot.com - in the upper right corner you’ll see a place to enter your email address to “follow” the blog. That is all required! Then, every business day around 11:00 am-1:00 pm you’ll get an email with all the stories posted to the blog that day.

Resources for Pediatricians

New resource! - Share the Rx to Vote & Fill Out the Census with patients’ families. Pediatricians have an important role to play in ensuring children have a voice this election and are counted in the 2020 census. Print out this “prescription” to share with families in your practice, encouraging them to register to vote and complete the census. Spanish version here.

AAP Get Out the Vote Campaign
The AAP has launched their Vote Kids campaign with resources for November 3 which you can access here. Social media graphics and voter registration resources are included as well as a QR code that can be affixed to a name badge or added as a phone background.

Resources for Parents

USDA Extends Summer Meal Programs for Kids Through December 31, 2020
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will extend several waivers through December 31, 2020 which allows summer meal program operators to continue serving free meals to all children into the fall months, or until available funds are depleted.
This extension includes:

- Allowing Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) meals to be served in all areas and at no cost;
- Permitting meals to be served outside of the typically-required group settings and meal times;
- Waiving meal pattern requirements as necessary; and
- Allowing parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children.

Click here for more information on USDA Food Program Waivers.

**Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Deadline To Apply Friday, September 18th** - P-EBT is a newly available benefit available for children who were receiving free or reduced price lunch at school in March 2020. The benefit is $256 per eligible child. Children who are already receiving SNAP automatically received the benefit without applying. Eligible children who are not on SNAP must apply for P-EBT by September 18, 2020 to receive the benefit. For more information click here.

**Fulton County Resources**
This document provides a list with links for financial, mental health, and nutritional services as well as other available resources in the Fulton County area. View here.

**Education**

"HPV Vaccinations-Getting Back on Track" - Is a webinar partnership between the American Cancer Society and the Chapter offered on September 30, 11:30 am-12:30 pm. It is the first in a series of three webinars aimed toward improvement of HPV immunization rates. Click here for information/registration.

**Free Webinar: The Ethics of Hunger. Nourishing Communities in Need.**
This webinar will be hosted by the National Dairy Council and Dairy Alliance on September 30, 1:00-2:30 pm ET. The COVID-19 pandemic has put food insecurity in the spotlight. Join nationally recognized leaders, Clancy Harrison, MS, RDN, FAND, Jerod Matthews, and Jean Ragalie-Carr, RDN, LDN, FAND as they shed light on the impact of COVID-19 and the surrounding social justice issues of hunger in America. Register here.

**AAP Virtual Course "Harnessing the Power of Traditional and Social Media in Health Care"** - Provides virtual instruction on best practices for social media platforms, content curation, storytelling, blog writing, podcasting, video creation, writing for print publications and participating in television interviews, 11/14-11/15. More information can be found here.

Sincerely,

Hugo Scornik, MD, FAAP
President

If you have any questions, 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.