



Blast Communication

Sent to our Members via Email and Fax

Georgia AAP Update

May 5, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for Tuesday, May 5th:

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 Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Offers Tuition Assistance to Essential Workers

Medical personnel, first responders, childcare personnel, grocery store personnel, and others that meet eligibility criteria can receive **tuition assistance** from DECAL to pay for childcare over the next three months. Find out [here](#) if you are eligible!

Pediatrics by the Sea Canceled

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the nation and our state, we have reluctantly canceled Pediatrics by the Sea, which was to be held on June 17-20, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Amelia Island, Fla. Visit our website for more information, www.gaaap.org.

AAP Voting for Sections & Councils

Your vote counts! Please remember to log on to the AAP website to access the E-Voting System to cast your vote for our 2020 Section/Council representatives

Metro Atlanta May Market Days

The Atlanta Motor Speedway and Atlanta Community Food Bank will hold FREE Friday May market days to offer families 30 to 40 pounds of food. Click [here](#) for details.

Advocacy

Urging Georgia Medicaid & Legislature to Assist Practices

The Georgia AAP is working to ensure financial help for our members' practices. First, we have joined several other medical associations in asking Georgia Medicaid (Dept. of Community Health) to implement **advance payments to Medicaid providers**, patterned after federal CMS provisions for Medicare providers. To date, DCH is still considering the matter.

Secondly, as part of the primary care coalition (with FP, IM, OB-Gyn, & DO societies) we have asked the General Assembly that the state Medicaid payments for **E/M codes be updated to 2018 Medicare levels** in the FY21 budget. This will be taken up when the legislature reconvenes to finish the session, which it suspended on March 13, and this is expected in late May or mid-June.

Clinical Guidance

Access to COVID-19 Testing is Expanding Across the State

Access to COVID-19 testing is expanding across the state with popup and rotating sites being designated as needed. Children 12 and under can be tested at Georgia Department of Public Health sites if testing criteria are met. An appointment must be made to test along with notification of the need for pediatric testing and associated age. Testing sites and appointments can be made by accessing this link (<https://dph.georgia.gov/locations/covid-19-testing-site>). Additional testing and contact information can be found by accessing the following document.

<https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/covid-19testing-directpatientlinespdf/download>.

Education

Georgia AAP Upcoming Webinars

The Chapter's education programming continues, now all of it virtual and will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 unless noted otherwise. To register for webinar visit:

<https://www.gaaap.org/upcoming-webinars/>

- Breastfeeding Fundamentals for Pediatricians/Pediatric Practices, May 7th 12:15-1:15 pm
- EPIC Immunization 2020 Update: Vaccine Hesitancy, May 12th
- EPIC Immunization 2020 Update: Coding for Childhood Immunizations, May 21st
- Adverse Childhood Experiences & Trauma in Pediatrics Friday, May 29th
- A Look at Georgia Newborn Screening: Update on Pilots & More, June 2nd
- HPV Vaccination Update: New Challenges, New Inspiration, June 3rd
- Public Health Resources in Education & Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, June 9th

Practice Management & Operations

DPH & PPE: 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.

Step 1: Visit ReadyOp at <https://ga.readyop.com/fs/4cMi/8d3e> to order via the online form.

Submit your form by 12 PM on the following days:

- Saturdays for Tuesday deliveries
- Mondays for Thursday deliveries
- Wednesday for Saturday deliveries

Step 2: Requests will be reviewed, allocated, and assigned.

Step 3: Request will be reviewed, allocated, and assigned:

- Filled Resources will be sent to the 5 zones on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays.
- Districts will be notified of what is moving to the zones for their area to share with their facilities
- Items will then be dispersed to the districts for partners Step 4: Please call 404-852-0250 for any resource request follow-up questions.

Telehealth

Free Telehealth Platform for Rural Areas

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center at Mercer University School of Medicine and the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth (GPT) is offering six months of free telehealth services to improve access to care for those living in rural areas. Please click [here](#) for details.

Chapter Telehealth Committee Now Meeting Weekly

If you have telehealth questions, send them to Fozia Khan Eskew at [feskw@gaaap.org](mailto:feskew@gaaap.org). Please put **Telehealth Question** in the subject line. The Committee is planning another Telehealth Town Hall webinar soon, this one a "201" version aimed at more experienced users.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact Noreen Dahill at ndahill@gaaap.org. If you have questions regarding Telehealth, please contact Fozia Eskew at [feskw@gaaap.org](mailto:feskew@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.