



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 4/4 - 4/10

COVID-19 Updates

Pennsylvania Department of Health

Pa. has 1,989 new cases, bringing statewide total to 18,228 in all 67 Pa. counties. [Learn more](#) -- Of total cases, 850 are in health care workers and 1,068 are in long-term care/personal care facilities.

Approximately 45% of hospital beds, 37% of ICU beds, and 70% of ventilators are still available in Pa.

Pennsylvania Department of Health Alert issued 4/03/2020 calls for universal masking of healthcare workers and staff in congregate care settings. [Read full health alert](#)

Gov. Wolf Signs Order to Provide Targeted Distribution of COVID-19 PPE and Supplies to Hospitals. [Read order](#)

Gov. Wolf extends school closure for remainder of academic year. [Learn more](#)

AAP News

Federal officials: Pediatric practices will receive funding through CARES Act

April 09, 2020 -- Pediatric practices and children's hospitals facing financial crisis can expect to see financial relief in the second round of federal emergency funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, said Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services chief Seema Verma at a White House press briefing Tuesday. [Read more](#)

Waivers and Suspensions

American Board of Pediatrics Will Recognize Board-Certified Pediatricians for COVID-19 Pandemic Contributions Through the MOC Program

[Read full press release](#)

Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Graduate Medical Trainees During COVID-19 Emergency

ISSUED 04/07/2020

The Department of State and State Board of Medicine have requested, and the Governor has granted, a temporary waiver allowing a facility's resident program director to determine which GMTs have gained the skills and fulfilled the requirements necessary to advance in their postgraduate year (PGY) training in the

absence of the USMLE. [Read more](#)

Temporary Waiver of License Reactivation Requirements for Additional Health Care Practitioners During Coronavirus Emergency

ISSUED 04/07/2020

The department has since identified additional health care practitioner types for whom temporary waivers of certain regulations would allow them to more easily reactivate their retired or expired licenses and provide assistance during the pandemic. These additional boards and practitioners/licenses include occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and licensed dietitian-nutritionists (LDNs).

[Read more](#)

[See Also: Reactivation for additional retirees: Temporary waivers cover more professions ISSUED: 03/30/2020](#)

[See Also: Pennsylvania to Allow Retired Health Care Professionals to Bolster COVID-19 Response ISSUED 03/25/2020](#)

SERVPA- the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's online registry for medical and non-medical volunteers

Waiver of Temporary Permit Rule for Respiratory Therapists During Coronavirus Emergency

ISSUED 04/02/2020

The Department of State requested, and Governor Wolf granted, a temporary waiver of the requirement that applicants for a temporary respiratory therapist permit be within 30 days of their anticipated graduation date. Instead, for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, students in respiratory care education programs who wish to apply for a temporary permit must be within 90 days of their anticipated graduation date. Those impending graduates who already applied for a full license, but cannot take their exam because of the closure of test centers, may now apply for a temporary permit. [Read more](#)

Pennsylvania Provides Short Term Licensure for Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Licensed in Other States During Coronavirus Emergency

ISSUED 03/30/2020

In order to increase the number of health care practitioners available to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and to ensure continuity of patient care and services, Governor Wolf has granted the Department of State's request to allow osteopathic physicians or surgeons from other states or Canada to be issued a "short term camp license" in Pennsylvania as a means of temporary licensure.

[Read the waiver document](#)

Reactivation for additional retirees: Temporary waivers cover more professions

ISSUED: 03/30/2020

Governor Wolf granted the Department of State's request to temporarily waive regulations and costs for reactivation of an inactive license for additional professions and licensing boards.

[Read more](#)

Pennsylvania Statewide Support & Referral Helpline for COVID-19

The Department of Human Services (DHS) today announced the launch of a statewide Support & Referral Helpline, staffed by skilled and compassionate staff who will be available 24/7 to assist Pennsylvanians struggling with anxiety and other challenging emotions due to the COVID-19 emergency, and refer them to community-based resources that can further help to meet individual needs.

The toll-free, round-the-clock support line is officially operational. The number to call is 855-284-2494. For TTY, dial 724-631-5600.

Many other resources also remain available to Pennsylvanians in need of support, including:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-TALK (8255)
- Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio: 888-628-9454
- Crisis Text Line: Text "PA" to 741-741
- Veteran Crisis Line: 800-273-TALK (8255)
- Disaster Distress Helpline: 800-985-5990
- Get Help Now Hotline (for substance use disorders): 800-662-4357
- Pennsylvania Sexual Assault Helpline: 888-772-7227
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 800-799-7233

Visit the PA Department of Health's dedicated [Coronavirus web page](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19.

PA AAP P2P Telemedicine Mentorship Program

Need help getting set up with telemedicine in your office? PA AAP is now offering a telemedicine mentorship program.

Our telemedicine mentor program offers free 1:1 support for implementing telehealth in your practice -- from selecting a platform, using the platform, and even billing and coding support. COVID-19 and the public health imperative of social distancing has made telemedicine a pediatric practice necessity. We're in this together so don't hesitate to reach out. PA AAP has identified telemedicine mentors who are knowledgeable and available to share practical guidance and answer your questions.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Webinars



New Weekly Pediatric Community Forum

Due to the growing need for up-to-date information and communication, PA AAP is now offering a modified version of our "Let's Talk" webinar series to our members. This series will take place weekly and serve as a forum for community pediatric providers. We want to provide an opportunity to hear what others are experiencing and to share ideas for managing the impact of COVID-19.

Webinars will take place every Wednesday from 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET. Webinar information and registrations will be announced weekly upon availability.

UPCOMING

Join Dr. Margaret Fisher for COVID-19 Q&A on 4/13 12-12:30 PM

Dr. Margaret Fisher, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Medical Director of the The Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center and AAP District III Chair and Representative to the National Board of Directors, offers members an opportunity to ask COVID-19 questions during an open Q&A session on Monday, April 13th from 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM.

[Register for the Q&A](#)

RECORDED 4/8/2020

"Infection Control in the Time of COVID"

In this webinar Dr. Margaret Fisher discusses recommendations on infection control and workflow guidance and describes current testing, treatment and PPE practices for COVID-19.

Presenter:

Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP
Chair, Department of Pediatrics and Medical Director,
The Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center
AAP District III Chair and Representative to the National Board of Directors

[View Recording](#)

RECORDED 3/25/20**PA AAP Webinar Let's Talk "Implementing Telemedicine in Pediatric Practice"**

In this [webinar](#), our panel addresses telehealth basics including how to get started using telehealth in your practice, technology considerations necessary for implementing a telehealth platform, and what you need to know in order to get paid for telehealth visits (billing and coding specifications).

Presenters:

Kristin Ray, MD: Director of Health Systems Improvements, Children's Community Pediatrics, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Bonnie Offit, MD, FAAP: Clinical Advisor in Digital Health, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, General Pediatrician, CHOP Care Network

Chip Hart: Director of Primary Care Collaborative Pediatric Solutions, Primary Care Collaborative Pediatric EHR Solutions

[Recording](#)

[Telemedicine Q&A Handout](#)

More Resources

From the National AAP

AAP has a [web page on AAP.org](#) where you can find the latest clinical guidance, information for parents and other resources. This page will be updated daily as new information is available. For questions or comments related to the pandemic, email COVID-19@aap.org.

AAP experts have recorded webinars on COVID-19:

• [Coding During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#): Navigate rapidly evolving ICD-10-CM and CPT coding for telemedicine, telehealth, and COVID-19 diagnoses and procedures during this unprecedented time.

- [Telehealth and COVID-19](#)
- [Caring for Children with Complex Medical Conditions During COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic – Clinical Guidance for Pediatric Practices](#)

Lactation Education Resources for Lactation Supporters During COVID-19

- Lactation supporters - from peer support providers to IBCLCs - may provide lactation care during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more](#)

The Jefferson Center for Autism and Neurodiversity Offers Valuable Resources to Support Children with Autism During COVID-19

Visual stories help patients with Autism understand and prepare for activities that they may come in contact with on a day-to-day basis.

- [COVID-19](#): A visual guide that explains coronavirus, prevention strategies such as hand washing and coping with the stress of social distancing.
- [Primary Care](#): All about why we go to the doctor, what to expect at a doctor's visit and how to follow the doctor's advice.

Please visit our website at www.paaap.org for more resources and information on COVID-19 for Pennsylvania pediatric providers. We are doing our best to maintain up-to-date information as it becomes available.

PA AAP (COVID-19)

Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics | 484-446-3000

