



CDC Issues Interim Guidance to EMS for COVID-19

Emergency medical services (EMS) play a vital role in responding to requests for assistance, triaging patients, and providing emergency medical treatment and transport for ill persons. However, unlike patient care in the controlled environment of a healthcare facility, care and transports by EMS present unique challenges because of the nature of the setting, enclosed space during transport, frequent need for rapid medical decision-making, interventions with limited information, and a varying range of patient acuity and jurisdictional healthcare resources.

When preparing for and responding to patients with confirmed or possible 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, close coordination and effective communications are important among 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)—commonly known as 911 call centers, the EMS system, healthcare facilities, and the public health system. Each PSAP and EMS system should seek the involvement of an EMS medical director to provide appropriate medical oversight. For the purposes of this guidance, “EMS clinician” means prehospital EMS and medical first responders. When 2019-nCoV is suspected in a patient needing emergency transport, prehospital care providers and healthcare facilities should be notified in advance that they may be caring for, transporting, or receiving a patient who may have 2019-nCoV infection.



The complete guidance can be found at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html)

SAMSHA Rural Health Emergency Services Training

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will make 25 awards with a total investment of \$5 million to recruit and train emergency medical services (EMS) personnel in rural areas.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to ensure EMS personnel are trained on mental and substance use disorders and care for people with such disorders in emergency situations. Applicants can also apply to use the funds to buy equipment.

- **25 awards up to \$200,000 a year for up to 4 years**
- **Application Due Date:** Monday, March 30, 2020
- <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/fg-20-005>

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Save the Dates! Bookmark and visit the EIIIC [Events page](#) for a list of upcoming events and activities pertinent to the EMSC community.

EMSC Town Halls Occur Quarterly: Block your calendar now!

Please save the 3-4pm ET hour on the second Wednesday of the second month of each quarter.

*Except February's call will be on February 19, 2020.

- **2020 Annual EMS Today Conference** – Tampa FL, March 4-6, 2020. [Registration is now open.](#)
- **Cultural Implications of Screening of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Webinar) with Nanfi Lubogo, CT FAN**– will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 4-5pm ET – registration link to come.
- **EMS on the Hill Days** provides opportunity for attendees to educate all members of Congress and their staff on the emergent, urgent and preventive patient care EMS provides to all in need every day. In 2020, it is scheduled for March 24 & 25. Contact info@naemt.org for more information.
- **2020 Preparedness Summit** theme is "Fixing Our Fault Lines: Addressing Systemic Vulnerabilities". March 31-April 1 in Dallas, TX. [Registration](#) and [hotel information](#) for the 2020 Preparedness Summit is available.
- **National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC)** 2020 meetings are tentatively April 14-16 and August 18-20, 2020 in Washington DC, with audioconferencing available. See [NEMSAC webpage](#) for more information. *Registration required for attendance.*
- **National Rural Health EMS and Care Conference** brings in participants from across the country. Invited attendees include rural EMS directors, medical directors and officers, rural healthcare providers, state EMS officials, state rural health officials, hospital administrators, federal agency officials, and other EMS partners. The 2020 conference will be held **April 22-23** in Columbus, OH. [Registration is open.](#)
- **EMSC Town Halls Occur Quarterly:** Block your calendar now! Please save the 3-4:30pm ET hour every three months on the second Wednesday of the month. Next webinar is **May 13th, 2020.**
- **NASEMSO Annual Meeting** – Planned this year for June 15-18, 202 in Reno, NV. [Abstracts are being accepted](#) and due May 15, 2020. See the Schedule at a Glance [here](#).

Resources Available

Be sure to watch for items of interest to the EMSC Community including national projects, webinars, and opportunities to support EMS for Children on the [EIIIC Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#). We use these channels to announce items on short notice.

Join the ASPR Webinar for Guidance, Resources and Lessons Learned to Help Develop a Pediatric Surge Annex

The 2019-2023 ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) requires healthcare coalitions (HCCs) to develop a coalition-level pediatric annex that complements their base medical surge/trauma mass casualty response plans. This annex would improve regional capacity and capabilities to manage a surge of pediatric patients. This webinar supplements the "Pediatric Annex Planning" workshop convened at the 2019 National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference, and features national experts discussing guidance, resources, and lessons learned to help HCCs develop a pediatric surge annex.

The webinar will take place Wednesday, February 26, from 1:30-3:00 PM ET. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Get Ready! ENA, EMSC, ACEP and AAP jointly Announce PedsReady

ASSESSMENT 2020

National Pediatric Readiness Project
Ensuring Emergency Care for All Children

GET PedsReady

The unique needs of children and their families are often left out of hospital disaster plans. To integrate pediatric disaster preparedness into your ED, download the EMSC Disaster Preparedness Checklist: <https://tinyurl.com/PedsReadyDisasterPreparedness>

Prepare now to be PedsReady before taking the assessment starting in June 2020. pedsready.org

The National Pediatric Readiness Project is a multi-phase quality improvement initiative to ensure that all U.S. emergency departments have the essential guidelines and resources in place to provide effective emergency care to children.

The unique needs of children and their families are often left out of hospital disaster plans. Integrate pediatric disaster preparedness into your ED by downloading the [All-Hazard Disaster Preparedness Checklist](#).

Prepare now to be PedsReady before taking the assessment starting June 2020 at pedsready.org.

Supported by:



Supported in part by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program (cooperative agreement number U54MC30824).

AAP Response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Academy monitors updates from the [World Health Organization](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) specific to the public health emergency 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on a daily basis. The AAP offers a web page for pediatric health care providers that summarizes the situation, clinical guidance, and the most recent recommendations within the *Outbreaks* section of [Red Book Online](#). Also see details on the [coronavirus outbreak for families](#) within the AAP website for parents (HealthyChildren.org). For more information about AAP response efforts, see www.aap.org/disasters or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.

HRSA Telehealth Resource Center Program: Comments Requested

HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Office for the Advancement of Telehealth seeks public input on how the Telehealth Resource Centers may be better designed to serve HRSA's rural and underserved populations. To improve HRSA's understanding of this issue, HRSA encourages input from a broad range of stakeholders, including healthcare providers –e.g., rural health clinics, critical access hospitals, federally-qualified health centers and look-alikes, other rural hospitals, etc.; researchers; community members; advocates, telehealth experts; State, local and Tribal governments; past and current FORHP grant recipients; and other interested parties. Specific questions pertain to use of TRC services and their effectiveness. The responses and/or a summary of the responses will be shared with the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth in HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. **Deadline for comments: March 6.**

<https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/rfi-telehealth-resource-center-program>

Rural Community Action Guide: Toolkit for Opioid Addiction in Rural Communities



The [Rural Community Action Guide](#) includes background information, recommended action steps, and promising practices for a range of issues related to drug addiction in rural America.

The Action Guide complements both the [Community Assessment Tool](#), which gives county specific data about deaths and factors which may make a community more vulnerable to addiction, and the [Federal Rural Resources Guide](#), which includes comprehensive information about different federal funds for rural communities impacted by addiction.

The Action Guide is based on lessons learned from rural roundtable discussions held in over a dozen states, as well as the experiences of several rural stakeholder partners.

Chemical-Biological Terrorism: Impact on Children

Children are potential victims of chemical or biological terrorism, so it is necessary to prepare for and respond to their needs during these events. The updated American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy statement and new technical report provides clinical information for pediatricians and others who care for children in an emergency regarding chemical and biological terrorism as well as recommendations for the health care sector and the government to improve pediatric preparedness and response. Details on pediatric decontamination strategies and appropriate use of personal and protective equipment are included.

- Policy Statement: [Chemical-Biological Terrorism: Impact on Children](#)
- Technical Report: [Chemical-Biological Terrorism: Impact on Children](#)



Provide Your Input on the Latest Draft of the National EMS Education Standards

The second draft of proposed revisions to the National EMS Education Standards is now available for public comment. Members of the EMS community and the public are invited to review the document and provide feedback to the team leading the effort by Tuesday, March 17, using this [online form](#).

What is FAN Mail? In each issue of the EMSC Pulse, you will find a “FAN Mail” section with information specific to our Family Advisory Network (FAN) members. Each issue will contain announcements, links to resources and highlights of the work being accomplished by the FAN members across the country.

Tell us what you think about FANMail!

This section was meant to provide helpful tips and discussion about topics important to families and their advocates – and hopefully some fun stuff along the way too! To continue to provide the best content and information for our FANs we would like to get YOUR feedback. Take a few minutes to complete this, [quick survey](#) and let us know what you think!

FAN Page

Be sure to check out the new and improved, designated [Family Advisory Network](#) page on the website! Here you will find a brief overview of FAN along with a video capturing the compelling stories of the FAN representatives. There is also an addition of a resource page highlighting resources that could be of benefit for FAN representatives, including topics like policy, forms, social media assistance, and more. The site also includes a members list with emails for contacting other FAN representatives. The biggest addition coming in fall 2019 will be the member’s only page. This password protected addition will help highlight each FAN representative with a profile that will include a picture, fun facts, why they are a FAN member, and more. This page will help introduce and provide opportunity to get to know FAN representatives from nearby states or across the country.

If you are a FAN member and have not filled out the questionnaire for the members only page, please fill it out [here](#). If you have any suggestions or feedback for the FAN page, please contact Margaret Codispoti at margaret.codispoti@bcm.edu.

Fight Heart Disease with the World Heart Federation Superheart!



Contrary to common belief, children are vulnerable to cardiovascular disease (CVD) and the risk of CVD can begin early in life: it can start before birth during fetal development, and increase further during childhood with exposure to unhealthy diets, lack of exercise and smoking.

It is never too early to start looking after your heart and as a parent, you can start taking care of the hearts of your children now. Making even just a few changes can help to reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke: encourage healthy eating and physical activity, and ban tobacco use. Here are a few ideas to help you make a start:

- Teach your children how to recognize healthy food and make it exciting for them: choose colorful food, involve them in the cooking, make funny plates
- Be active with your kids: go swimming or play a sport with them, walk or cycle to school, ask them to help with the gardening
- Ban smoking from your home and educate your children about the danger of tobacco use
- Print our leaflet and encourage your children to learn more about their heart with the games of Superheart, the superhero protecting children’s hearts (designed for children 7-10 years old)

For more information about Superheart and his mission to fight heart disease, [click here](#) for videos and infographics that you can share!

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Upcoming Webinar: Cultural Implications for Screening for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Please join us for an upcoming webinar on the **Cultural Implications of Screening for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** webinar will be conducted on Wednesday, March 18th from 4:00-5:00 PM EST. (3:00-4:00 PM CST.; 2:00-3:00 PM MST.; 1:00-2:00 PM PST.; 10:00-11:00 AM HST.) Calendar invites will be sent to all FAN and State Partnership Managers. However, anyone can join via the link provided below!



The webinar will feature Ms. Nanfi Lubogo who serves as a Co-Executive Director for PATH Parent to Parent/ Family Voices of CT (PATH/FVCT), a statewide parent support network for families of children and youth with special health care needs. Ms. Lubogo will be presenting on the cultural implications of screening for families from diverse backgrounds, the barriers faced by families and the role of healthcare providers.

Nanfi N. Lubogo of Cromwell, CT serves as Co-Executive Director for PATH Parent to Parent/Family Voices of CT (PATH/FVCT), a statewide parent support network for families of children and youth with special health care needs/disabilities. She serves on various committees, councils and boards both in CT and nationally. Current appointments include; CT Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee & Family Advisory Network. Mrs. Lubogo represents Family Voices on the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) and as the SAO Representative to the Family Voices Board of Directors. Mrs. Lubogo is a Maternal and Child Health/Public Health Leadership Fellow (MCH PHLI) and Partners in Policy Making Graduate.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Webinar Connection Instructions:

1. On the day of the webinar, please utilize the following Adobe connect link to join the webinar:

* https://meet33767696.adobeconnect.com/fan_webinar_2/

2. You will be connected to audio using your computer's microphone and speakers or you may join via phone utilizing the following Call-in number *Call-in number: (866) 876-6756 *Conference ID number: 4078368054



Family Advisory Network in Action! We'd like to see you!

If you have pictures or content you wish to share on EIC social media, [email Cassidy Penn](mailto:Cassidy.Penn@eic.org) at the EIC