

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



February 3, 2021

# COVID-19 Response

Advocacy Report



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## Government Response to COVID-19

The United States is roughly 10 months into the response to the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic and attendant respiratory illness COVID-19, with over **2.8 million cases reported in children** as of January 28. The AAP continues to advocate at the federal and state level to ensure that the government response adequately addresses the needs of children, families, and pediatricians.

The AAP remains in regular communication with legislators and the Biden-Harris administration. Among AAP's top priorities is ensuring that pediatricians have access to adequate financial relief that enables pediatric practices to continue providing quality care to children, including timely administration of childhood immunizations. The AAP has prioritized the need to include children in COVID-19 vaccine trials and has also fought for new federal resources for schools so that they are in a position to be able to safely reopen. The AAP is calling for stronger federal leadership on Medicaid, telehealth, vaccines, testing, and other core components of pediatric care. The AAP is also focused on ensuring that the response to COVID-19 at all levels of government accounts for children's special needs, including justice-involved youth, children from low-income families, children in the child welfare system, and children in immigrant families.

### Federal Response

On January 20, 2021, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was inaugurated as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. President Biden's inauguration followed a deadly attack on the Capitol that occurred two weeks prior and President Trump's second impeachment just one week before. Former California Senator Kamala D. Harris became the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to serve as Vice President.

Immediately following his inauguration, President Biden began taking steps to address the still surging COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts across the United States. The Biden administration proposed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 response and economic relief package called the American Rescue Plan. As part of this plan, the White House unveiled the **National Strategy for the Covid-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness** on January 21<sup>st</sup>. This comprehensive, multi-pronged roadmap seeks to restore public trust, ramp up vaccination, expand testing and public health workforce, reopen schools safely, and invest in other critical efforts to combat the virus, with an explicit focus throughout the plan on equity and addressing the disparate

impacts of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minorities and underserved, under-resourced communities.

Biden's legislative proposal would infuse significant new financial resources into vaccine distribution, testing, and contact tracing. It would also provide a number of economic supports, including an extension of unemployment benefits through September with an increase in the weekly federal supplement and an additional \$1,400 direct payment for many Americans. The proposal is ambitious in its scope, and it faces an uncertain path in Congress. A detailed description of the proposal is available below.

After securing a narrow majority in the Senate following the election of two Democratic senators from Georgia, newly empowered Democrats are still determining how to most effectively wield power with unified control of Washington. President Biden ran on a platform of unity and bipartisanship, and the narrow House and Senate majorities suggest to some that the American public would like Republicans and Democrats to work together. To this end, Senate Republicans are pushing the Biden administration to compromise on his \$1.9 trillion proposal. A group of 10 moderate Republicans have proposed a roughly \$600 billion pandemic relief package with a narrower scope of health care and economic supports. While President Biden met with the group, his administration is pressing forward with its \$1.9 trillion proposal, which it already considers to be not big enough.

President Biden and his senior staff are guided by the view that they did not push for a big enough economic bailout in 2009 and that the Affordable Care Act suffered after months of waiting for Republican support which never materialized. They are therefore pressing forward with their Senate and House majorities to move the \$1.9 trillion package through budget reconciliation, a process that only requires a simple majority to pass. Reconciliation legislation has a number of limitations, including a requirement that all provisions have a direct impact on government revenue or spending, but it is seen as Democrats' best chance of enacting an ambitious package given their narrow majorities in Congress. There are already active conversations about a second, even bigger reconciliation package in the spring and early summer. That package would be more focused on jumpstarting the economy and other issues.



**ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY**

To learn more about the Academy's latest federal advocacy priorities and urge your members of Congress to support the health and wellbeing of children and families in future COVID legislation, visit [federaladvocacy.aap.org](https://federaladvocacy.aap.org).

## State Response

COVID-19 has strained state and local governments in an unprecedented way. Governors, state legislators, state agencies, and local governments are charged with the day-to-day work of COVID-19 response efforts. Over the last several weeks, some states have started to ease restrictions while others are tightening restrictions due to an increase in cases. Most states continue to require face coverings for residents when social distancing is not possible. There is, however, variation across states regarding age requirements for face coverings for children. States have continued their contact tracing and COVID-19 testing efforts to curb the spread of the disease. AAP chapters are integrally involved in state testing efforts to ensure children are included in any testing initiatives.

A majority of state legislatures have convened for their 2021 legislation session, with the remaining scheduled to convene in the coming weeks. Legislatures have developed protocols and other safety precautions to ensure they can conduct business. These include limiting public access to state house buildings, requiring face coverings, daily temperature checks, increased use of technology, and other workarounds. Despite these precautions, numerous outbreaks within state legislatures have occurred with considerable impacts on state legislators and their staff's health. Along with heightened security measures recently instituted in state capitols, changes to procedures will also impact citizens' engagement, including those advocating for child health and pediatric practice. It is vital to be familiar with limitations for in-person testimony and virtual engagement opportunities to ensure AAP chapter advocacy success in 2021.

In most states, Fiscal Year 2021 began on July 1, 2020. Most states continue to face budget deficits for the current year and years beyond. Tax revenue declines in many states will threaten state programs and services this year, potentially including public health programs. A recent report from the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP)**, indicates that the overall state budget picture has improved somewhat, but states still face considerable fiscal challenges, including approximately \$300 billion in shortfalls through FY 2022, even after subtracting federal

aid. Several states utilized portions of their rainy-day funds for COVID-19-related spending during Fiscal Year 2020 to close gaps in their Fiscal Year 2021 budgets. Rainy day fund spending may increase during this fiscal year as the pandemic continues to strain state budgets. AAP chapters should prepare to advocate for child health and pediatric practices during the 2021 state budgetary legislative sessions. The AAP has developed a resource for chapters, **Protecting Medicaid and CHIP During Budget Shortfalls**, to assist in conversations with governors, state legislators, and other policymakers. The document is designed to help address some of the most pressing Medicaid budget-related issues chapters may face in the upcoming fiscal year.

AAP chapters are an indispensable voice for children on countless aspects of the COVID-19 responses at the state level. Continuing challenges remain, including persuading families that pediatric clinics are open and ready to ensure the safe provision of well-child care and immunizations. AAP chapters are also working closely with school officials at both the state and local school district levels to ensure that schools that are reopening are doing so safely.

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**Note: This report covers developments that occurred after December 23, 2020. Previous advocacy reports containing updates from October 22 to December 23, September 16 to October 22, July 29 to September 16, June 30 to July 29, May 19 to June 29, April 15 to May 19, and March 1 to April 15 are available online.**

## AAP Priorities

### Biden Administration COVID-19 Strategy

#### American Rescue Plan

To implement his COVID-19 response strategy, President Biden is asking Congress to provide \$160 billion to mount a national vaccination program, expand testing, mobilize a public health jobs program, and take other necessary steps to build capacity to fight the virus. Specifically, the Biden administration is requesting the following from Congress as part of their proposal:

- \$20 billion invested in a **national vaccination program** in partnership with states, localities, Tribes, and territories to help achieve the administration's goal of administering 100 million shots in the first 100 days.

- \$50 billion to **expand testing**, provide funds for the purchase of rapid tests, investments to expand lab capacity, and support to help schools and local governments implement regular testing protocols.
- Funding for 100,000 **public health workers**, who will be hired to work in their local communities to perform tasks like vaccine outreach and contact tracing, and to transition into community health roles to build long-term public health capacity that will help improve quality of care and reduce hospitalization for low-income and underserved communities.
- Funding to provide health services for **underserved populations**, including expanding Community Health Centers and providing \$20 billion to support Tribal governments' pandemic response.
- \$30 billion invested into the **Disaster Relief Fund** to ensure sufficient supplies and personal protective equipment, and an additional \$10 billion investment in expanding **domestic manufacturing** for pandemic supplies to support President Biden's commitment to fully use the Defense Production Act.
- \$170 billion for K-12 schools and institutions of higher education to help **schools** serve all students, regardless of virtual or in-person learning status, and help achieve the administration's goal of opening the majority of K-8 schools within the first 100 days, including \$5 billion in funds for governors to use to support educational programs and the learning needs of students significantly impacted by COVID-19.

To combat the rising number of uninsured Americans, President Biden is also asking Congress to take several actions to expand coverage. Specifically, the proposal asks Congress to subsidize coverage through Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), expand premium tax credits in the individual marketplaces, and establish policies that limit Affordable Care Act premiums to 8.5 percent of enrollees' income.

Additionally, the administration is taking action to ensure all individuals in the United States, regardless of immigration status, can access the vaccine free-of-charge and without cost-sharing. To help states ensure that all Medicaid enrollees will be vaccinated, President Biden has said he will also work with Congress to expand the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to 100% for the administration of vaccines.

Finally, the Biden administration is also asking Congress to reinstate and expand emergency paid leave provisions to allow workers to take paid time off for pandemic-related needs, such as quarantining after a COVID-19 exposure or caring for children whose school or child care facilities are closed because of the pandemic. Federal paid leave requirements expired at the end of 2020 and reinstating and expanding this policy is crucial to help families care for their children and to help stop the virus from spreading.

### Executive Actions

While Congress begins consideration of this potential package, President Biden has already issued several executive actions to implement portions of his National Strategy. Importantly, the administration has committed to extending the Public Health Emergency (PHE) at least through the end of 2021. This action gives certainty to states in a number of areas such as allowing state Medicaid programs to continue receiving enhanced FMAP funds, extending telehealth flexibilities, and allowing WIC flexibilities to continue.

The President has also issued several executive orders that have shaped his early days in office, including:

- An **Executive Order** that establishes the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board to provide expertise on expanding testing supply and increasing access to testing, and the U.S. Public Health Job Corps, a national contact tracing and COVID-19 public health workforce program
- An **Executive Order** to support the safe reopening and operation of schools and child care providers, which directs the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide guidance on safe reopening and operating
- An **Executive Order** that establishes the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, which will provide recommendations on allocating resources and funding in light of COVID-19 disparities by race, ethnicity and other factors
- An **Executive Order** that invokes the Defense Production Act and directs immediate actions by federal agencies to secure supplies necessary for responding to the pandemic
- An **Executive Order** directing studies to identify treatments for COVID-19 and outlining steps to improve clinical care

- An **Executive Order** directing federal agencies to facilitate the gathering, sharing, and publication of COVID-19-related data, which will be used to inform decision-making, further public understanding of the pandemic, and combat misinformation
- An **Executive Order** mandating mask-wearing on all forms of public transportation
- An **Executive Order** mandating mask-wearing and social distancing on federal property, and encouraging mask-wearing across the country
- An **Executive Order** that creates the position of COVID-19 Response Coordinator and organizes the federal government's efforts and response to address the pandemic
- An **Executive Order** that creates a Marketplace Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for Americans to sign up for health coverage from February 15<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>. The order also calls on federal agencies to review policies that may undermine Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.
- An **Executive Order** extending the CDC federal eviction moratorium until at least March 31.

### Pediatricians in Government

In January, President Biden tapped David Kessler, MD, JD, FAAP, to serve as chief science officer of the federal government's COVID response. Dr Kessler, who was previously Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 1990 to 1997, had been serving as co-chair of Biden's COVID-19 Advisory Board during the transition. In this new position, he will oversee the scientific side of the federal government's vaccine efforts, formerly known as Operation Warp Seed.

Separately, President Biden announced Rachel Levine, MD, FAAP, as his selection for Assistant Secretary for Health, a role with a significant public health portfolio within HHS that would position Dr Levine to play a role in the COVID-19 response. Dr Levine is currently the secretary of health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and received the 2020 AAP Child Health Advocate Award in recognition of her commitment to the health and well-being of children and families. Dr Levine, whose role would require Senate approval, would become the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the Senate.

The Academy released this **press statement** applauding the selection of Drs Kessler and Levine for these roles.

The AAP also **applauded** the selection of Texas pediatrician Dr Pritesh Gandhi as Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Dr Gandhi will play a critically important role in advising DHS policies including the care and treatment of children and families arriving at our borders and in the planning and preparation for natural disasters and bioterrorism threats.

### Immunizations

#### COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Authorization

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) held another emergency meeting to discuss the ongoing development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. Angela Campbell from CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases presented on COVID-19 epidemiology among children and Dr. Emily Erbelding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) provided an overview and update of pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials. Although the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine does authorize administration to adolescents aged 16 – 18 years, no COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized for use in most pediatric populations as of January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Pfizer-BioNTech's trial for adolescents ages 12 – 15 is fully enrolled, with announcements that they may seek authorization for that age group within the first half of 2021. Moderna, Inc. is currently recruiting children aged 12 – 17 for its adolescent trial. Both Janssen and AstraZeneca have announced plans for trials in adolescents and younger children but have not begun recruitment.

The AAP is continuing to closely monitor the status of COVID-19 vaccine development and pediatric clinical trials and remains committed to its robust advocacy efforts to ensure children can benefit from safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines.

#### Vaccine Distribution

Unfortunately, initial distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across the country, since the first FDA EUAs were issued in December, has been deeply fragmented and uncoordinated. This has resulted in fewer vaccinations being administered nationally than was anticipated in the first two months. The Academy released this **statement** from AAP President Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP, in January, voicing frustrations from pediatricians in regards to this disjointed approach and urging immediate changes in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

While distribution of COVID-19 vaccines at the state level continues to ramp up as newly prioritized populations are reached, states are hampered by highly variable supplies of vaccine. The National Academy of State Health Policy (NASHP) **has released a new report** summarizing the population groups currently being targeted for COVID-19 vaccination across states and the various distribution strategies being employed by them. While a new, comprehensive national strategy is now on the horizon and is poised to bring much-needed improvement to the campaign to combat COVID-19 across the country, states and localities remain at the forefront of this public health challenge.

With a shifting multistate approach forthcoming, **state vaccine plans** are likely to be amended, and the voices of pediatricians will be needed to ensure that children and adolescents are best served in the upcoming phases of pandemic response planning. To aid in chapters' state level advocacy around COVID-19 vaccine distribution, administration, confidence, and payment and coverage, please see this **AAP state advocacy resource**.

### Vaccines, Treatment, and Testing

The COVID-19 legislative response package signed into law in December provided critical funding that the Academy has supported for vaccine distribution, testing, and other supplies necessary to prevent and treat COVID-19. Specifically, it included \$8.75 billion for CDC to support federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal public health agencies to distribute, administer, monitor and track COVID-19 vaccination to ensure broad distribution, access, and vaccine coverage. These funds will help state, local, tribal, and territorial public health agencies with the distribution, and administration of new COVID-19 vaccines. This funding also helps promote equitable distribution of the vaccine by allocating funds to distribute the vaccine to high-risk and underserved populations, including Black and Latinx individuals which have been disproportionately affected by the virus. \$1 billion of these funds were set aside to ensure that Indian Health Service (IHS), tribal, and urban Indian facilities have resources for testing, contact tracing, and COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Additionally, it allocated \$19.695 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) for manufacturing and procurement of vaccines, therapeutics, and necessary ancillary supplies and \$3.25 billion in funding for the Strategic National Stockpile. It also provided \$22.4 billion for testing, contact tracing and other activities necessary to effectively monitor and suppress COVID-19.

This package also marked a major success for AAP's advocacy efforts by including language from the AAP-endorsed *Vaccine Awareness Campaign to Champion Immunization Nationally and Enhance Safety Act of 2019* (VACCINES Act). Since 2019, the AAP has strongly advocated for enactment of the VACCINES Act following its introduction by Representative Kim Schrier, MD, FAAP (D-Wash.) in the House and Senator Gary Peters (D-Mich.) in the Senate. Language from the bill was included in final COVID relief package, authorizing critical activities related to public awareness and education on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, understanding vaccine hesitancy, and increasing vaccine confidence. While funding for these specific provisions was not included, states may use other funds awarded from the relief bill to support these activities. The Academy will continue to advocate for implementation of these critical provisions, particularly as the U.S. undertakes one of the largest mass vaccination campaigns in history.

### School COVID-19 Safety

The AAP released its updated interim guidance **COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools** in January as states and local school districts continue to grapple with how to bring students back in to classroom for in-person learning as safely as possible. AAP chapters and individual pediatricians have been involved in these discussions since summer 2020 and their advocacy positions and strategies differ based on the political climate and virus transmission rates in states and communities.

While some states and local school districts have pushed to open school for 5 days a week in-person learning without implementing CDC and AAP-recommended virus mitigation protocols, other state and local governments have received pushback from interest groups on school reopening plans, despite assurances from public health officials that the COVID-19 school safety plans and community transmission rates deem it safe to open for in-person learning. As states have issued new guidance, the **State COVID-19 School Safety Guidance** comparison document has been updated to reflect these changes.

In addition to stressing the importance of in-person learning and virus mitigation safety protocol, the AAP has weighed in on the importance of vaccinating teachers in accordance with **ACIP recommendations**, which include teachers and early childhood workers in Phase 1b of its COVID-19 vaccination recommendation. Many states have included teachers and early child care workers as they began Phase 1b early this year.

At the federal level, as part of his robust national COVID-19 response strategy, President Biden has prioritized the safe

reopening and operation of schools across the country. The Biden administration has put forward a plan that emphasizes the importance of States and school districts being provided scientific, evidence-based guidance to help implement their COVID-19 plans and inform their decision-making. The administration hopes that this plan will contribute to President Biden's goal of opening the majority of K-8 schools for in-person learning within the first 100 days – a goal in-line with the Academy's own aforementioned position of having students physically present in school, when it is possible to do so safely.

Since the summer, the AAP, alongside the education community, has been strongly advocating for Congress to provide adequate federal funding so that schools open for in-person learning can implement necessary safety and mitigation measures, as well as to support schools conducting classes virtually.

### Child Welfare

The coronavirus relief package signed into law in December included the *Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act* ([H.R. 7947](#)). This long-overdue legislation presents a bold plan to confront the serious needs of children, youth, and families across the child welfare continuum as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. AAP supported the inclusion of this legislation and has advocated for many of its provisions since the start of the pandemic last March.

AAP will continue its work to advocate for successful implementation of this law, which will provide much-needed resources and tools to support struggling families, keep children safe, and help youth thrive during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Provider Relief Fund

In addition to Provider Relief Fund dollars, AAP chapters have also actively sought state-based relief via the Medicaid program and/or other means. In December, the AAP partnered with the Georgetown Center for Children and Families to release an **action guide** focused on existing Medicaid-based relief options.

### Nutrition

#### P-EBT

In an Executive Action his first week in office, President Biden directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase benefits for the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program by 15%. The P-EBT program provides families with funds to replace the value of the meals that children would have received at school if the school is closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours. USDA also recently issued

guidance expanding the program to children in childcare programs.

#### WIC

Congress has granted WIC the authority to extend the current waivers allowing flexibility for the program through the end of the Public Health Emergency. The Biden administration has committed to extending the Public Health Emergency (PHE) at least through the end of 2021, meaning that WIC remote certification and benefit issuance will continue through the year.

President Biden has urged Congress to provide an additional \$3 billion for WIC in the next COVID response package. AAP has urged Congress to put this money towards outreach for eligible families who are not WIC participants as well as funding to test technology systems that will permit WIC staff and medical providers to share limited health-related information in order to streamline and improve the participant experience and reduce unnecessary, duplicative tests.

#### SNAP

In the COVID response legislation signed into law in December, Congress boosted SNAP benefits by 15% through June. President Biden has encouraged USDA to examine other ways to boost benefits and urged Congress to extend this benefit increase through at least September or as long as the pandemic continues. In recent months SNAP enrollment has increased across the board.

### Global Health

#### World Health Organization

On his first day in office, President Biden reversed the previous administration's withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). The following day, Dr. Anthony Fauci led the U.S. delegation to the WHO Executive Board Meeting where he shared U.S. intentions to fulfill its financial obligations to the WHO, resume collaborations, and stop recalling U.S. government staff who were seconded to positions at the agency. The U.S. rejoining the WHO sets the stage for the U.S. to play a leading role in strengthening the international COVID-19 response and addressing its impacts on children and families around the world.

#### International COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Funding

President Biden has taken steps to restore U.S. leadership on the global COVID-19 response and issued a directive for the U.S. to officially join the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX). Approximately 190 other countries are already part of COVAX, a global mechanism for



pooled procurement and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in low- and middle- income countries. Following the \$4 billion secured for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in the latest COVID-19 relief package, the U.S. is now the top contributor to COVAX and plans to make recommendations on a framework for donating future U.S. vaccine surplus.

In addition to joining COVAX, the administration is also now supporting the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) accelerator to advance global efforts to develop and distribute COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics. These actions prove as a small step in addressing global equitable access to tools to combat COVID-19. Access to vaccines remains a growing concern, especially among middle- and low-income countries which many experts fear will continue to be ravaged by the pandemic long after high-income countries are sufficiently inoculated.

Furthermore, the Biden administration included \$11 billion for the international response to COVID in its emergency legislative proposal. The AAP is encouraged by the administration's support for global health and will be working with Congress to ensure support for global health is included in a final package.

### **AAP Transition Plan for Biden-Harris Administration**

In November, the AAP unveiled the **Transition Plan: Advancing Child Health in the Biden-Harris Administration**, which outlines specific policy recommendations to support our nation's children and their futures. It covers **26 child health issue areas**, breaking them down into **more than 140 recommendations** for the Biden administration.

AAP shared the plan with President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and their team during the transition. **Read the full plan at [AAP.org/Transition](https://www.aap.org/Transition)**. This **press release** has more.

The plan builds on the AAP's **Blueprint for Children**, which was released this fall. The Blueprint outlines a comprehensive child health policy agenda for 2020 and beyond, reflects on the State of Children in 2020, and recommends policies to promote healthy children, support secure families, build strong communities, and ensure our role as a leading nation for youth. Read the full Blueprint at **[AAP.org/Blueprint](https://www.aap.org/Blueprint)**.

Additionally, the AAP released the new **AAP Chapter Blueprint for Children template last fall**. The new template aligns with the AAP *Blueprint for Children*, offers policy

recommendations that may be applicable to chapters in their respective state, and can be customized to fit chapter needs.

### **How to Sign Up for Advocacy Emails**

Email **[kids1st@aap.org](mailto:kids1st@aap.org)** with your name, AAP ID if known, and your preferred e-mail address. If you have questions about federal advocacy, contact the AAP Washington Office at 202-347-8600.

## **Register for the 2021 Virtual AAP Advocacy Conference!**

**Registration is open for the virtual 2021 AAP Advocacy Conference** - formerly named the Legislative Conference - which will take place **April 11 - 13, 2021**.

Join us for this year's virtual conference and learn how to become a strong voice for children! Participants will hear from distinguished guest speakers, attend advocacy skills-building workshops, and learn about timely policy issues impacting children, families, and pediatricians. The conference will also feature special programming specifically designed for pediatric subspecialists.

On the final day of the conference, participants will attend **virtual meetings with their congressional offices** and others from their state to discuss a timely child health issue.

**To learn more and to register, please visit [AAP.org/AdCon](https://www.aap.org/AdCon)**. Early bird registration closes on February 28. We hope to see you in the spring!

## **Engage with AAP on Social Media**

Twitter is a powerful tool that allows individuals and organizations to amplify messages, connect with new and diverse networks, and gain access to local-, state- and federal-level decision-makers. As a pediatrician, Twitter also offers you the opportunity to be part of a community that encourages the exchanging of ideas around child health, while not being constrained by time or geography.

To stay up to date on child health news, follow and engage with AAP on social media via **@AmerAcadPeds**, **@AAPPres**, **@AAPNews**, and **@healthychildren**. You can also subscribe to AAP's official **#tweetiatrician** list on Twitter by visiting **<https://twitter.com/AmerAcadPeds/lists/tweetiatricians>**. Request to be added by emailing AAP's Social Media Strategist, Helene Holstein, at **[hholstein@aap.org](mailto:hholstein@aap.org)**