



The Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN) at Lurie Children's

This newsletter provides curated content to empower healthcare systems, providers, and communities in the Lurie Children's catchment area to provide high-quality equitable care to children every day and in crises.

[Pediatric Pandemic Network](#)

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PPN Learning Tools

The PPN aims to support subject matter experts in creating, collating and curating learning products to engage adults that care for children, considering the diversity of our learners' backgrounds.

Below are some of the tools PPN is currently utilizing to achieve this:

PPN Resource Central [Visit here.](#)

Resource Central is a search platform that contains peer-reviewed and curated materials addressing the needs of children in disaster and day-to-day emergencies. The goal of Resource Central is to serve as a one-stop shop for everyday emergencies, pediatric disasters, pandemics, emergency care, and emergency management education resources for healthcare workers and families.

PPN Learn Collaborative

The Learn Collaborative platform is the home for a number of cohort learning experiences where facilitators can share resources, facilitate discussions, and manage activities. Contact education@pedspandemicnetwork.org to schedule a demo.

PPN MicroLearn Platform

The MicroLearn platform is a rules-based and generative AI enhanced chatbot that can be accessed through a website, SMS (text messages), or Microsoft Teams. Use cases include SMS short courses and conversational search through the library of resources stored in Resource Central. Contact education@pedspandemicnetwork.org to schedule a demo.

PPN Continuing Education [Visit here.](#)

The Continuing Education platform features a catalog of free continuing education credit activities for a number of healthcare professions in addition to many interprofessional activities where team members plan together to learn together.

Infectious Disease Resources

The [PPN provides curated resources](#) on a variety of topics on their website. Below, we highlight the most recent updates through both the PPN and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).

BD BACTEC Blood Culture Media Shortage

For guidance related to the ongoing shortage of blood culture media bottles (both aerobic and anaerobic bottles) for the Becton Dickinson (BD) BACTEC blood culture system, please refer to the [BD BACTEC Blood Culture Media Shortage page](#) on the PPN site.

Respiratory Viruses

As children and adolescents return to school, we expect a seasonal rise in respiratory viral activity. Please refer to the [CDPH Health Alert Network](#) for the most recent citywide respiratory virus surveillance data.

While we are in the midst of enterovirus season in late summer and early fall, providers should remain vigilant for possible cases of [acute flaccid myelitis \(AFM\)](#). Although [wastewater levels](#) of enterovirus D68 have been increasing nationally, including Illinois, [cases of AFM nationally](#) this summer have been very rare.

We do not anticipate shortages of nirsevimab this upcoming RSV season. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) provides several resources for nirsevimab administration.

2024 – 2025 COVID-19 Vaccines

The CDC has updated their [COVID-19 vaccine guidance](#) in children and adolescents, including both Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccines for children age 6 months and older, and the Novavax protein subunit-based vaccine for adolescents age 12 years and older. See the [2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine CDPH Health Alert](#) for more information.

Mpox

A surge in international cases of a distinct clade (Clade 1) of mpox has been reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo and surrounding countries in central Africa, including among children, with limited spread outside of the region. No cases of clade 1 mpox have been identified in the US at this time. Early recognition, based on symptoms and travel/exposure history, is key to preventing spread.

[Mpox Resources for Clinicians](#)

[Mpox Resources for Families](#)

Highly-Pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1)

More than a [dozen human cases of HPAI](#) have been reported across 4 states. There have been zero cases in children in the US and zero adult cases in Illinois.

[Clinical Guidance for highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) A\(H5N1\)](#)

West Nile Virus and Arboviral Surveillance

The risk of West Nile virus in Chicago is currently moderate. View the latest [CDPH Arboviral Surveillance Report](#). Child-friendly mosquito repellent is recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

Dengue Virus

Cases of locally acquired dengue virus have been reported in several warm weather states.

[Dengue Fever Resources for Clinicians](#)

Oropouche Virus

The CDC has reported a [surge in cases of Oropouche virus](#) infections in South America and the Caribbean, in particular Brazil and Cuba. This infection is spread by mosquitos. All cases in the US to date have been travel related. Infection presents within 2 weeks of a bite from an infected midges and mosquito and is characterized by abrupt onset of fever, headache, and one or more of the following: myalgia, arthralgia, photophobia, retroorbital/eye pain, or signs and symptoms of neuroinvasive disease (e.g., stiff neck, altered mental status, seizures, limb weakness, or cerebrospinal fluid pleocytosis). Cases of vertical transmission from pregnant women to their fetus have been reported. Recommendations for healthcare providers, public health personnel, and travelers are listed in [the CDC report](#).

Tickborne Diseases

On October 22nd, the Illinois Department of Public Health is hosting several national tickborne disease experts at the [2024 Illinois Tickborne Disease Conference](#).

PPN Pediatric Standards of Care Webinar

September 26 at 2p CT | [Register](#)

The PPN is hosting a one-hour webinar featuring a panel of experts in pediatric crisis standards of care.

Topics Include:

- Legal and Ethical Considerations of Crisis Standards of Care
- Evolving Literature and Landscape of Pediatric Crisis Standards
- Recognized Gaps in Pediatric Policy
- Practical Guidance for Refining Medical System or State Pediatric Crisis Standards

Speakers:

Kevin McCulley – Host and Facilitator

Dr. Marie Lozon – Gaps in Crisis Standards of Care and Review of Healthcare System and State Standards

Professor James Hodge Jr., JD, LLM – Legal and Policy Landscape of Crisis Standards of Care

Professor Debra DeBruin – Ethical Considerations of Crisis Standards of Care

Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and contribute to the discussion on improving pediatric crisis standards of care.

Meet our PPN People

Dr. Vishal Naik is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University and a pediatric emergency medicine physician at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital. His academic focus is dedicated to improving pediatric care in both prehospital and emergency department settings through education initiatives at local and national levels. He plays an active role in the Emergency Medical Services for Children, the National Pediatric Readiness Project, and the Pediatric Pandemic

Network. As Director of the Children's Prehospital Education Network of Illinois, Dr. Naik's team leads simulation-based pediatric training for prehospital providers and educators across the region. He is funded by the HRSA Pediatric Pandemic Network and serves on the National Pediatric Education for Prehospital Providers Steering Committee as a representative of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



PPN Praise – Recent Achievements of the Lurie Children's PPN Team

The PPN Research Domain issued ten pilot awards to hub site investigators conducting impactful research on mental health, infectious diseases, emergency management, and health equity and community engagement. Congratulations to [Dr. Amanda Burnside](#), awarded for her project *Supporting Caregivers Following Mental Health Emergency Department Visits*.

If you would no longer like to receive these email communications, please email Megan Reyna at ppn@luriechildrens.org.

Newsletter sent Tuesday, September 24, 2024. Links reflect content at that time.

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