



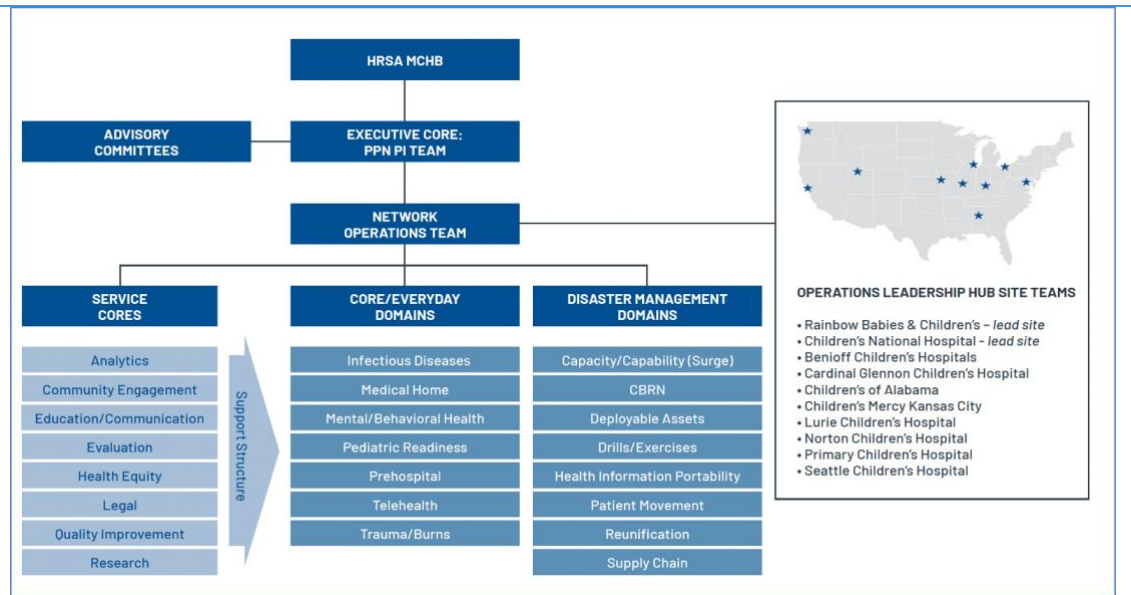
Welcome to the Pediatric Pandemic Network at Lurie Children's

Thank you for signing up to receive the Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN) Newsletter from the Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago! This communication is intended to share resources and updates from across the Network with stakeholders at Lurie Children's and in the greater Chicagoland area. We will continue to send this newsletter monthly and more frequently if time-sensitive information becomes available.

Introduction to the PPN

After the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Lurie Children's played an integral role in envisioning a network of children's hospitals that is best poised to respond to future pandemics. Lurie Children's is now one of ten hospital "hubs" in the PPN, whose vision is to improve health outcomes of children and the resiliency of children, families and communities impacted by emergencies, disasters and pandemics. In other words, the PPN scope has expanded, and the network seeks to use lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen our response to all hazards, not just future pandemics.

The PPN mission is to collaborate with the nation's children's hospitals and their communities to coordinate, prepare and enable high-quality, equitable, research-based pediatric care in emergencies, disasters, and pandemics. To accomplish this mission, we conduct work within 19 different "domains" illustrated below. To learn more about our partners and efforts, please [visit the PPN website](#).



Resources

The [PPN provides curated resources](#) on a variety of topics on their website. Below, we highlight the most recent updates.

Respiratory Viral Season

As the respiratory viral season is upon us, it is important that providers stay up to date on respiratory illness burden and be prepared for seasonal surges. Below are links for PPN-curated resources to limit respiratory viral burden on children through vaccines, education, and planning.

Chicago respiratory viral surveillance:

- [Chicago Department of Public Health Flu and Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report](#)

PPN resources:

- [Empowering Parents and Providers: a Comprehensive Resource Guide for RSV Management with Nirsevimab](#)
- [The Flu: What Parents Need to Know](#)
- [Preparing for Winter Viral Surges: Essential Pediatric Resources and Strategies](#)

Media reports and inquiries from families have brought to attention a recent surge in severe respiratory illness among children in China, as well as increases in respiratory illnesses among children in the US. [Accurate information about these reports](#) is

available on the PPN Website. To date, no new or unusual pathogens have been identified. What is being observed seems consistent with expected seasonal increases in respiratory viral activity. The Pediatric Pandemic Network will continue to monitor this situation and provide updates as they are available.

Trauma-Informed Care

The physical and mental health impact of violence on children and adolescents is indisputable. Below are PPN-curated resources to help caregivers, providers, and community members better understand the impact of violence on children and how to prevent and mitigate their impact.

- [Firearm Death and Injury: Understanding the Impact, Promoting Safety, and Resources for Parents, Providers, and Community Leaders](#)
- [Mental Health Resources in Response to Armed Conflict](#)

The Center for Childhood Resilience at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago has a Learning & Resource Hub that includes online courses and resources related to supporting children and youth who have experienced trauma. This [Learning & Resource Hub](#) provides free training.

Meet our PPN People

Megan Reyna, BA, serves as the PPN Hub Manager and is a Research Program Manager at Lurie Children’s. Her role is to coordinate PPN activities at our hub site, support faculty and staff in their PPN work, and align national PPN preparedness activities with our preparedness activities in Chicago. Prior to her work in the PPN, Megan was a clinical research coordinator in the Infectious Diseases division at Lurie Children’s. Her projects focused on community spread of COVID-19 in Chicago area schools and transmission of other viral pathogens in the hospital and community.



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. Three awardees are Northwestern University faculty members in the Dept. of Pediatrics.

-
- [Sriram Ramgopal, MD](#): *Predicting clinical deterioration among children with out of hospital emergencies*
 - [Sara Huston, MS](#): *Considerations for post-disaster biometric uses for family reunifications*
 - [Seema Shah, JD](#): *Setting prioriTies viA Rapid engagemenT of commUnity Partners for Pediatric Research Ethics Preparedness (STARTUP PREP)*

[Dr. Jen Hoffman](#) will co-lead a research project within the Mental Health Domain as part of a PPN supplemental award to increase domain-led research initiatives in high priority areas of preparedness. The overall objective of this research proposal is to understand how well children's hospitals are prepared to address children's mental health needs during disasters, pandemics, and surges.

[Dr. Marie Heffernan](#) was selected as one of the ten scholars in the PPN Disaster Science Research Training Program to help guide her ongoing work in the [Voices of Child Health in Chicago](#) and advance her work understanding the health impact of climate change on children.

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

Newsletter sent Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Links reflect content at that time.
