



Welcome to the Pediatric Pandemic Network at Lurie Children's Newsletter!

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a restful holiday season. We are looking forward to all that's to come in 2024.

Introducing the PPN Resource Central

The Education domain has led the creation of PPN Resource Central. This online database compiles resources related to disasters, pandemics, and emergencies that are vetted by PPN subject matter experts and appropriate for a wide range of audiences. Users can sort and filter the database based on keyword, audience, author institution and more. Users may also create a profile to save searches and resources.

To access this tool visit: <https://resources.pedspandemicnetwork.org/>

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).

Varicella (chickenpox)

The city of Chicago has seen an increase in chickenpox cases, especially in individuals without immunity against varicella-zoster virus (the virus that causes chickenpox and shingles) and who are living in congregate facilities, such as shelters. Below are resources from CDPH.

- [Varicella \(Chickenpox\) - CDPH Health Alert Network](#)
- [Increase in Varicella in Chicago: Updated Vaccine Guidance](#)

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:

- [Fall/Winter 2023: Increases in Respiratory Illness in Children](#)
 - [WRAP-EM Playbook Offers Strategies, Resources During Pediatric Surge](#)
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Meet our PPN people

Anna Bowie, MPH, serves as the PPN Domain Manager for the Evaluation Service Core (ESC) and is a Research Program Manager for Lurie Children's Smith Child Health Catalyst. Her role is to coordinate the activities of the ESC, which includes supporting the faculty and staff of the ESC, managing the development and data collection efforts of the PPN Evaluative Measures, and overseeing collaborations with other PPN domains and external partnerships in the field. Prior to her work in the PPN, Anna was a communications specialist at the National Cancer Institute's Center for Biomedical Informatics & Information Technology. She has previously worked in emergency preparedness and communications for Washtenaw County Health Department. Go Blue!



PPN Praise – Recent achievements of the Lurie Children's PPN team

Several of our PPN team members have had recent promotions in their position at Lurie Children's Hospital in roles that directly impact the work of the PPN at Lurie Children's and nationally. We'd like to celebrate their success and thank them for their engagement and work within the PPN community.

Mary Kate Daly, MBA: Senior Vice President and Chief of Community Health Partnerships and Transformation

Cathy Shanahan, RN, BSN, MS, MBA, NE-BC: Senior Director of Preparedness and Response

Erica Popovsky, MD: Associate Medical Director of Emergency Preparedness

Stay connected with PPN on social media

The Pediatric Pandemic Network has recently joined Instagram to amplify messaging as a hub dedicated to empowering health care systems and communities to provide high-quality, equitable care to children every day and in crises. The PPN is also on X, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Follow [@pedspandemicnetwork](#) on Instagram, [@pedspandemic](#) on X or follow us on [LinkedIn!](#)

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

Newsletter sent Tuesday, January 9, 2023. Links reflect content at that time.
