



# Maine Pediatrics

April 2024

## Newsletter: Highlights

- **President's Message:** 'What would your pediatrician do?'
- **Feature:** April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!
- **Spotlight:** Maine AAP Conference at the Samoset
- **Advocacy/Legislation Update:** New Gun Safety Bill Released!
- **Member Spotlight:** Project Firstline
- **'In The News'**
- **'Did you Know?'** Communication with Providers difficult for Hard of Hearing Patients
- **Upcoming Maine AAP and Partner Programs**



### President's Message from Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

Well, April showers had BETTER bring May flowers as we wake to rain, ice and snow (sometimes all at once!)

Thank you to all who joined us at a truly inspiring and professionally valuable time at the Samoset for our Annual Conference and Members Meeting! I hope that I will see many a car adorned with the new Maine AAP's bumper sticker "What would your pediatrician do?!" I can speak for many of us who left the conference feeling that *we can and will* be part of the change to improve the lives of children in Maine— whatever our area of expertise or focus. I am grateful and proud to be part of this vibrant Maine community.

If you receive this newsletter and are not yet a member of the Maine AAP— please consider joining us. The bumper sticker is included in membership, but you'll also receive a deep sense of reconnected meaning to what can often be the daily grind of medical practice. And did you know, you can join the state chapter without National AAP membership?? Consider Maine AAP membership as your professional well-being move this spring! [Join here!](#)

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is national **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and the Maine AAP has joined [Maine Children's Trust](#) as a Partner in Prevention. Supportive communities and strong Families prevent child abuse and neglect. Child Abuse Prevention Month is our opportunity to make a commitment to support parents and caregivers and build the relationships and connections in communities so families have access what they need to help every child. We are proud to stand together to create a stronger

## Spotlight: Maine AAP 2024 Conference

It was a weekend of inspiring presentations and collaboration of over 160 Maine pediatricians, child health providers, and organizations that support them! Click the link for a glimpse of the weekend! [SEE MORE PICS!](#)



Dr. Marc Auerbach, Director of Ped. Simulation at Yale, alongside panelists, Ashley Moody, MSN, FNP-C, EMT-P, Rachel Williams, MD, William Stephenson, MD, Marc Minkler, EMS-C, Rosie Davis, MD, and Sean Barnett, MD spoke about Pediatric Readiness and the essential steps to improve care.



With expert instruction from Nick Pray, DMD, and Steve Mills, DDS, conference participants were able to experience first-hand how to apply Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF).



Dr. Annie Andrews, CEO and Founder of *Their Future. Our Vote.* delivered a powerful presentation on gun violence and the role that childcare providers play in this public health crisis.



**Save the Date for 2025!**  
**March 28-30**  
**Samoset Resort, Rockport**

**Take Action:** Maine AAP has launched a Take Action System to give timely updates, provide easy clickable steps to identify and communicate with your legislators, and read about bills on critical subjects pertaining to child health. [Check it out!](#)

**Legislation on Gun Safety and Mental Health - Critical bills have hearings this week.** Visit <https://www.mainegunsafety.org/> to learn which ones and how you can participate in this process!

**New Gun Safety Bill Announced - LD 2283, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public.** We will reach out to Advocacy and Gun Safety Committee members for your support! Please keep a flow of email action items out to your own legislators - these Gun Safety bills will be up for vote this coming week and are very important!



## Project Firstline

- View the [Maine AAP Infection Prevention Series: Environmental Cleaning video](#) by Dr. Amanda Goddard, the Maine AAP Infection Prevention Ambassador.

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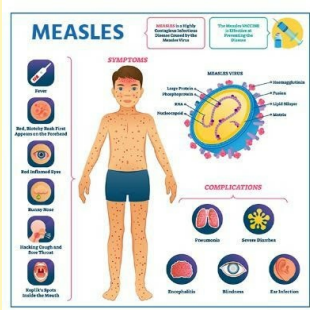
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## In the News

- **Increase in Global and Domestic Measles Cases and Outbreaks:** Ensure Children in the United States and Those Traveling Internationally 6 Months and Older are Current on MMR Vaccination. [Read more.](#)
- **Count the Kicks** is an evidence-based public health program that teaches expectant parents the method for, and benefits of, monitoring their baby's movements every day in the third trimester of pregnancy. [Learn more.](#)
- **Free Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services.** [Learn more.](#)
- **Telehealth was linked to Lower No-Show Rates for Healthcare Visits Among Transgender, Gender-Diverse Youth in Rural Areas, Study Finds.** mHealth Intelligence reports, "Telehealth was associated with lower no-show rates for healthcare visits among transgender and gender-diverse youth in rural areas, according to" a study. The findings were published in The Journal of Pediatrics.
- **The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is recruiting for the AAP Hallways to (Mental) Health ECHO: Integrating Mental and Behavioral Health Care in School Settings.** This ECHO will meet 2x per month at 2:00 pm – 3:00pm CT/ 3:00pm – 4:00pm ET on the following dates: April 8, 2024, April 22, 2024, May 13, 2024, May 29, 2024, June 10, 2024, June 24, 2024. Questions? Take a look at the [FAQs](#). [Register Online Here!](#)

## American Academy of Pediatrics Provides Resources on Measles

The American Academy of Pediatrics has published a report that goes over how to talk with parents and caregivers about vaccines. This tool is offered to assist



with improving vaccination rates. The full report can be found here: [Strategies for Improving Vaccine Communication and Uptake](#). The AAP has also developed a reference document called [Think Measles](#) which provides tips to identifying measles in practice.

## Did you know?

In a survey of the **Deaf and Hard of Hearing community** which collected over 500 individual responses, 44% of survey respondents said it was difficult to communicate with their doctors. For Deaf and Hard of Hearing patients, patients found challenges in attaining the accommodations they needed, including interpreters, masks with a see-through window, pocket talkers, and more. [Read more and view a new 30-minute information video to learn strategies for effective communication with this population!](#)

## Upcoming Maine AAP Programs

April 2, 2024 - 12PM Lunch & Learn with Jonathan Fanburg, MD and Deborah Hagler, MD, MPH: Treatment Strategies in Primary Care: Nicotine Replacement Therapy & NAC Treatment for Cannabis Use Disorder. [Register for this webinar!](#)

## Upcoming Partner Programs

The Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition's 'Connecting the Dots' networking meetings are every other month (Jan, March, May, Sept, Nov) in 2024. [Learn more.](#)

April 1, 2024 - 10:00AM - 11:00AM via Zoom: OCFS is hosting a series of Child Abuse Prevention webinars. [Learn more.](#)

April 4, 2024 - 8:00PM - 9:00PM: 2024 Election Strategies with Don Berwick and Austin Vaughan. [Learn more.](#)

April 4, 2024 - 12:00PM - 1:00PM: Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition Offers a FREE Educational Webinar. Empowering Lactation Providers: Supporting Breastfeeding Through Disasters. [Learn more.](#)

April 9, 2024 - 12:00PM - 5:00PM: BBCH Presents Partnerships in Pediatrics Conference. [Learn more.](#)

April 11, 2024 - 8:00AM - 4:00PM: Annual Beyond the Basics Suicide Prevention Conference. [Learn more.](#)

April 11, 2024 12:00PM: NEW Pentavalent Meningococcal Vaccine Webinar. [Learn more.](#)

April 18 or April 23, 2024 - 12:00PM - 1:30PM: MPCA Presents Lethal Means Safety Training. [Learn more.](#)

April 23, 2024 - 12:00PM - 1:00PM: PEH Grand Rounds - It's Getting Hot in Here: Structural Inequities in Climate Change Vulnerability. [Learn more.](#)

**April 25, 2024 - 7:00AM - 5:00PM:** AWHONN Maine 2024 Conference "Hot Topics in OB and Newborn Care." [Learn more.](#)

**April 26-27, 2024 -** Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Pediatric Mental Health Disorders (Virtual). [Learn more.](#)

**May 2, 2024 - 8:30AM - 4:30PM:** Patient Safety Academy Presents Navigating Together: Charting a Course for Safer Care. [Learn more.](#)

## Connect with us on Social Media!

The power to spread good messages, share new clinical info or pertinent articles is exponential when using social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. <https://linktr.ee/maineaap>

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