



August 8, 2013

Dear Pennsylvania Pediatric Professional:

Pediatricians play an integral role in ensuring the safety and well-being of children during times of disasters. As a trusted community resource, parents and caregivers look to you for your expertise and personal touch. In an effort to ensure you are ready and able to continue to provide care to the community during times of emergencies, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics collaborated with the Center for Public Health Readiness and Communication at the Drexel University School of Public Health to develop a plan to integrate community pediatricians into public health preparedness planning and to develop tools for providers to utilize to ensure practice-level continuity of operations, communications and surge capability.

The document, "Integrating Community Pediatricians Into Public Health Preparedness and Response Activities in Pennsylvania" and associated toolkit, "A Communications Toolkit for Public Health Emergencies That Impact Children: Resources for Pediatric Practices, Schools, and Childcare Programs," were developed to aid pediatric practices in emergency preparedness planning. These documents can be found at www.health.state.pa.us and www.paaap.org.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics would like to invite you to review the information contained in these documents and incorporate the recommendations and concepts as applicable. These documents also contain recommendations that the Pennsylvania Department of Health, other local health departments and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics will be actively working to implement, such as improved communication, inclusion of community providers in planning groups, and developing and providing training opportunities.

Thank you for all you do on a daily basis to ensure the safety and well-being of children in Pennsylvania. The services you provide are invaluable to the citizens of the commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wolf".

Michael Wolf, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Nussbaum, MD".

Allen Nussbaum, MD, FAAP – President
American Academy of Pediatrics,
Pennsylvania Chapter