DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Ohio Chapter
INCORPORATED IN OHIO
American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

And Office Preparedness for Primary Care Providers

PEDIATRICIAN'S ROLE IN A DISASTER

Pediatricians can not only help **educate** families regarding disaster preparedness but **answer patient's questions** and **advocate** for children to be appropriately served during times of disasters.

PEDIATRIC OFFICE PREPAREDNESS

- Prepare an office disaster kit to ensure **self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours**
- Develop an office contingency plan
- Educate staff on office disaster plans and practice office drills
- Areas of focus:
  - preservation of **vaccinations**
  - readjustment of **services**
  - **communication** with families

Help families with disaster planning by educating on the below during anticipatory guidance.

1. **Build a Kit:** Keep a supply of things you will need during times of emergency
2. **Make a Plan:** Consider communication, transportation and reunification
3. **Be Informed:** Work with family, friends, neighbors, community groups and others in your network
4. **Get Involved:** Make sure the whole family is involved and informed

PATIENT & FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

Families consider pediatricians one of the most trusted resources when it comes to disaster response and planning.

- Know your trusted resources!
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Local and State Department Health Alert Notifications (HAN)
  - Red Cross Emergency App

CHILD PREPAREDNESS

Children cope better when they understand what is happening.

- For younger children, give **concrete explanations of what is happening** and share steps being taken to keep them safe.
- Older children may benefit from more information. **Limit media coverage** or preview it and watch together.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (CYSHCN)

Prepare a disaster plan and kit with an **Emergency Information Form (EIF)**.

- Stock **extra medications**, especially prescriptions that may be difficult to refill in times of emergency.
- For families of technology dependent patients, contact EMS and/or special needs centers ahead of time to determine their capabilities and how to access.

@OHPediatricians @AAPOHIO @AAPOHIO OhioAAP ohioaap