

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## COVID-19 Update: A Message from the AAP President

### Dear Colleagues:

As we learn more about new cases of Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome and what it might mean for the impact of COVID-19 on children, one thing could not be more clear: A child's pediatrician is the best source of trusted, credible advice for parents to turn to during such an uncertain time. We have a new resource on [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) explaining what we know about Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome and directing parents to contact their pediatrician with any questions.

Alarming, [new data released](#) last week from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms what so many of us are experiencing at our individual practices: The number of children accessing needed health care has sharply declined, and as a result, far too many are missing important immunizations. This drop in vaccine rates also means that children are missing everything else that occurs at well-child visits.

We want all families to feel reassured that going to the pediatrician is not only safe, but vital to their children's health. To that end, here's a summary of some of the new resources and activities AAP is undertaking to support pediatricians and urge parents to have their children seen during the pandemic:

- Newly updated guidance on [telehealth](#) and [well-child care](#), summarized in this *AAP News* [article](#)
- Our [news release](#) on CDC's vaccination data
- An advocacy [opportunity](#) to urge federal financial relief for pediatricians
- A link to sign up for tomorrow's weekly [Facebook live chat](#) for parents
- A new HealthyChildren.org [article](#) on Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome
- A social marketing campaign debuting in the coming days urging parents to take their children to the pediatrician
- National media appearances taking place this week where pediatricians will continue to discuss the imperative of parents taking their children to the pediatrician

We will continue to do all we can to make sure you can keep your doors open and care for your patients and appreciate all you are doing to keep your patients and communities safe.

Sincerely,

**Sara "Sally" Goza, MD, FAAP**

President

