



IDAHO CHAPTER

American Academy of Pediatrics

December 2025 Newsletter: Highlights

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Greetings from Our Idaho AAP President

Dear Idaho Pediatric Community,

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your dedication to the health and well-being of Idaho's children. This year has brought both challenges and triumphs — from continuing to advocate for child health equity to expanding preventive care and immunization outreach in our rural communities. As Sue Kressly says, "When pediatricians are not at the table, kids are on the menu". This holds true more than ever for Idaho Families and Pediatricians.

We are excited about the progress on our project to increase vaccine confidence in our communities. Thank you for your continued vaccine advocacy!

During this holiday season, we hope you find time to rest, reflect, and reconnect with loved ones. Your commitment makes an extraordinary difference every day, and we're proud to support such a compassionate, expert network of pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and child health advocates.

*Warmest holiday wishes,
Tom Patterson MD, FAAP
President, AAP Idaho Chapter*

Advocating for Kids

Idaho Physician and Nurse Organizations' Statement on Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy

The IMA just published the statement below in their Facebook and Instagram accounts. Also, here is the link to view the entire statement: [11.03.2025 Acetaminophen Use in Pregnancy 0847510529.pdf \[idmed.org\]](https://www.idamed.org/11.03.2025%20Acetaminophen%20Use%20in%20Pregnancy%200847510529.pdf)



Spotlight on a Chapter Member

Thank you, Dr. Thompson

Dr. Henry Thompson is retiring December 7. He has served as St Luke's Children's medical director since 2023. His career brought him to Idaho 26 years ago as the first pediatric gastroenterologist. Twenty-five years ago, Drs. Thompson and Perry Brown were determined to create the Cystic Fibrosis Center of Idaho which opened in 2000. From its humble beginnings, the center is now nationally recognized and treats children and adults from many surrounding states. "I used to tell them it was a fatal illness, but I don't anymore." Thompson said, "tell parents they need to save for college now, it's been amazing".

Thank you, Dr Thompson, for all you have done for children and their families. You will be greatly missed, but we wish you all the best in the future.

Social Media Update

Social Media Snapshot - November

In our third month live, we gained **18 new followers (77 total)**, reached over **3,300 views**, and received **220 interactions** (likes, shares, saves, comments, and replies) on Instagram. Compared to last month's review, we have had around 1,400 more views and 155 more interactions. The only area we did not grow this month was followers. We had 17 fewer new followers this month

A few highlights not mentioned in the October newsletter: the Halloween Safety Prep series was a big hit! Those three posts alone racked up 1213 views, with many of them being non-followers. In November, we were able to put out our first boosted post on vaccine confidence. This allowed us to reach over 1600 viewers! We plan to do more of this moving forward.

Social Media Update (cont.)

Social Media Snapshot – November (cont.)

As for December, we have a few exciting things planned. When this comes out, Dr. Patterson and I will have sent out goodie baskets to several pediatrician offices across the Treasure Valley. These goodie baskets included an AAP flyer on trusted pediatric experts as well as a flyer linking our own social media channels. We hope to get a few more followers through these flyers. In this month as well, we will be doing a weekly post (at least) of our Idaho Elves giving safety and health advice for parents during the holiday season. Got creative holiday safety fun for our elves? Share your ideas with me at izzoblue10@gmail.com.

Lastly, check out this **Holiday To Do List** for December!

- * Follow Idaho AAP on Facebook and Instagram
- * Send us a holiday safety question you'd like our Idaho Elves to cover
- * Recruit family members to follow our Facebook and Instagram
- * Interact with our posts (like, comment, add to story, repost). This really helps our message to reach non-followers/potential new followers!
- * Make sure your family's vaccines are up-to-date
- * Submit an idea for future topics you'd like Idaho AAP to cover

Help us reach 100 followers by the end of this month!

Happy Holidays,

Isabel

facebook: [Facebook](#)

instagram: [Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics \(@idahoaapeds\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

Isabel Edwards – izzoblue10@gmail.com

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events

AAP ECHO Autism: Primary Care Learning Collaborative

The [AAP National Rural Adolescent and Child Health \(NRACH\) ECHO Training Center](#), in collaboration with [ECHO Autism Communities](#), is now recruiting pediatric primary care clinicians for a 10-month *AAP ECHO Autism: Primary Care* learning collaborative.

This 10-month *AAP ECHO Autism: Primary Care* learning collaborative is designed for pediatric care clinicians who are ready to deepen their knowledge and self-efficacy around autism screening, early identification, and longitudinal care. Participants will engage in case-based learning with national experts and peers, gaining practical strategies to deliver best practices in autism care.

Interested participants should complete an application, and please note that space is limited. We are seeking committed clinicians ready to learn and lead in this critical area of pediatric care.

Program Details

- Launch Date: December 8, 2025
- Schedule: Bi-monthly on Mondays, 11:00am-12:00pm, from December to September 2026

Ready to join us?

- Learn More: View the flyer [here](#)
- Apply now (capacity is limited): [click link here](#)

For questions, please contact AAP at aapeccho@aap.org.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

National Perinatal Association 2026 Interdisciplinary Conference

2026 INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE



UNITING for IMPACT

Advancing Rural-Urban
Collaboration and Innovation
in Perinatal and Infant Health



Please accept this invitation to [JOIN US](#) for our
2026 Interdisciplinary Conference

[UNITING for IMPACT](#)

**[Advancing Rural-Urban Collaboration and Innovation
in Perinatal and Infant Health](#)**

March 25 - 27, 2026

in **[Coeur d'Alene, Idaho](#)**

[LEARN MORE](#)

Scholarship Application Now Open for 2026 AAP Advocacy Conference

The [AAP Advocacy Conference](#) will take place April 12-14, 2026. The conference will be held in Arlington, VA, just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. **Conference registration will open the first week of December!**

During the conference, attendees will participate in advocacy skills-building workshops, hear from distinguished guest speakers, and learn about policy priorities impacting children. On the final day, participants will join other attendees from their state for meetings with their congressional offices to discuss a key child health issue.

There are a limited number of scholarships supported by the AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs and the AAP Committee on State Government Affairs through the Jackie Noyes Endowment. The scholarships cover registration fee, hotel costs, and travel expenses related to the conference.

To learn more and apply for a scholarship, [click here](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, December 12 at 5pm ET.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

Healthy Mental Development (HMD) Chapter Champion Recruitment

AAP is recruiting Healthy Mental Development (HMD) Chapter Champions. For more information [click here](#).

Childhood Lead Medical Quick Guides

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in partnership with the Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (NW PEHSU) finalized the Childhood Lead Medical Quick Guides in November 2025.

The quick guides are designed as a clinical reference for medical providers to be used in exams rooms, workstations, or other office locations. The finalized Quick Guide topics include:

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- Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention: Information for Families and Providers
 - Idaho Lead Risk Assessment and Blood Lead Testing Recommendations
 - LeadCare II Quick Guide
 - Idaho Lead Testing and Follow-up for Immigrants and Refugees
 - Screening and Management of Lead Exposure in Pregnant and Lactating Women
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We have free laminated copies available that can be ordered by reaching out to myself or on Idaho Health Tools ([Other Environmental Health – Tagged "Medical Quick Guides" – Idaho Health Tools](#)). The quick guides along with other resources can be found on our website ([Lead | Idaho Department of Health and Welfare](#)) under the “Resources for Medical Providers”.

Thank you and please reach out if you have any additional questions.

Kelly Berg, REHS

Health Program Manager

Division of Public Health | Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

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Resources

Hope for Healthcare Toolkit

Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) foster healthy resilience and lifelong wellness. PCEs are vital in alleviating stress and helping children flourish. The HOPE has developed a professional toolkit content for you and your staff with templates to use. Link here to this valuable resource. [HOPE – Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experience](#)

Idaho Oral Health Alliance News for AAP

Training Available for OB Providers, Midwives, Doulas

The IOHA and other partners including the division of Maternal and Child Health within the Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare are participating in a national Learning Collaborative to address the oral healthcare of pregnant people. The IOHA has created an in-person training program to assist providers who work with pregnant people in adopting basic oral health services including assessments and education. The training is based on best practices from the AAP and can be delivered in less than an hour and includes printed and on-line resources, tips for seeking reimbursement, and guidance for patients. If you know a provider in Idaho that would like to receive this training or wants to know more about care and prevention, connect them with Jennifer Wheeler, IOHA Executive Director, jwheeler@idahooralhealth.org

ECHO Idaho Presents First Ever Oral Health In Primary Care Webinar Series

The Idaho Oral Health Alliance (IOHA) is pleased to announce the creation of an 8-part educational webinar series hosted and managed by ECHO Idaho. This free virtual series is designed for primary care clinicians who want to learn more about oral health for their patients. The series continues every third Tuesday, 12:30-1:30 (MT) through April. Register here. CME is available and attendees do not have to participate in the whole series.

Resources

2025 MMA Medicaid Dashboard is Now Live

We are excited to announce our 2025 [Medicaid Dashboard](#) is now live. The Medicaid Dashboard is a go-to resource for the latest Medicaid enrollment, polling and funding data for states and Congressional districts.

The Medicaid Dashboard reinforces the vital role that Medicaid plays for nearly 80 million Americans, and the latest polling emphasizes Americans' decisive support for a strong, sustainable Medicaid program. This information comes at a critical time as states face the reality of \$1 trillion in funding cuts included as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA).

In the Dashboard, you will find:

- * National and state-by-state Medicaid enrollment data, funding info, program elements and polling
New feature this year: national and state-level data on individuals living with various health conditions covered by Medicaid
- * National and state-level survey data measuring voter sentiments toward Medicaid – including voters' sentiments on health care access and costs following passage of OBBA
- * Downloadable reports for every Congressional district and state, plus nationwide data

Key resources for partners:

- * Partner toolkit: Contains resources to help amplify and leverage the Dashboard, including social posts, sample LTEs, template newsletter copy and action alerts. You can find the partner toolkit linked [HERE](#) and the graphics to accompany the social media posts [HERE](#). If you have trouble accessing Box, please let Claire know.
- * Tips blog: Recommendations on ways to use the Dashboard data in your organization's daily activities can be found [HERE](#).
- * Polling memo: More details on the new national survey can be found [HERE](#).
- * Press release: Can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you as always for your support!

Modern Medicaid Alliance

Claire Gollegly <cgollegly@reservoircg.com>

Book Corner

The Gratitude Jar by Katrina Liu

A children's book about creating habits of thankfulness and a positive mindset: Appreciating and being thankful for the little things in life.