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Advocating for Kids

AAP President Dr. Ben Hoffman Quote

"Looking back, looking ahead: AAP always does what's best for kids." AAP President Benjamin D. Hoffman, MD, FAAP, "The AAP is, and has always been nonpartisan, while being unequivocally pro-child. No matter which party is in power or who is in office, children and families remain our North Star."

White Coat Day

Join us at the State Capitol at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, as we spend the morning visiting committee hearings and meeting with your own legislator. We encourage you to send an email to your lawmakers and ask to schedule a meeting time that morning. For more information and to be prepared for our time at the Capital, please reach out to Sherry at idahoaap@gmail.org.

Firearm Safety

One-third of the homes in the U.S., and probably higher in Idaho, have a firearm. The concern is safe storage. Three-fourths of the homes do not store firearms safely. Today, the leading cause of childhood death is related to gun violence. Pediatricians, as injury prevention experts, are in a unique position to talk about safe storage and assist families in ensuring that children of all ages to not have access.

Dr. Linda Teplin, Vice Chair and Owen L. Coon Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Director of Health Disparities and Public Policy at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, report that firearms have become the leading cause of death for U.S. children and teens, and disproportionately impact people of color. The impact of gun violence extends far beyond immediate deaths and injuries, with childhood exposure contributing to mental health challenges and increasing the risk of adult involvement in gun violence.

Check out the AAP website for helpful information and resources.

Advocating for Kids (cont.)

AAP PROS Chapter Coordinator Opportunity

In search of a new Idaho AAP PROS Chapter Coordinator:

In 1986, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) founded a national pediatric primary care practice-based research network, Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS). The work of PROS is inherently tied to real-world experiences through the involvement of PROS Coordinators. PROS seeks for each AAP Chapter to have a PROS Chapter Coordinator. PROS Coordinators are critical to the continued relevance and success of PROS as they:

- Provide input on priority areas for research.
- Review proposed PROS study protocols—assessing them for “do-ability” in busy, community-based practices.
- Attend one annual expense-paid in-person meeting at AAP Headquarters (outside of Chicago) (next PROS Coordinators meeting: March 8-9, 2025).

If you are a primary care pediatrician in Idaho who sees patients in private practice (not in a hospital/academic center clinic) who is interested in sharing your observations from daily clinical practice and offering your perspectives on the feasibility of proposed PROS studies, contact Everly Macario, ScD, Director of Primary Care Research, AAP, emacario@aap.org. While not a requirement to being a PROS Coordinator, we are especially eager to have representation of *early career* pediatricians and from practices in *rural* areas of Idaho. To be a PROS Coordinator, you do not need any prior research experience.

Idaho Breastfeeding Coalition Position

The Idaho Breastfeeding COALITION IS SEEKING A pediatrician to serve on their advisory board. This coalition position meets once a month by Zoom at lunchtime, helps organize the educational yearly conference, and assists with ongoing education and communication among providers who help moms in their lactation journey. If you are interested in representing the Idaho AAP on this board please reach out to Sherry for more details,

Idaho Oral Health Alliance Opportunities

The Idaho Oral Health Alliance (IOHA) has two ways for Idaho pediatricians to engage with oral health:

Submit Projects for Inclusion in the 2024 Idaho Oral Health Improvement Plan Annual Report

Has your organization tackled an issue, presented an event, or provided care or assistance to someone in need of oral healthcare? Each year, the IOHA is responsible for writing an annual compilation of the work that partners across the state are undertaking to impact the oral health and whole health of those who live within Idaho’s borders. We want to hear from you about how your work aligns with the 2021-2026 Idaho Oral Health Improvement Plan. [Click here](#) to learn more about the plan, read reports from past years, and access the report form. Report as many projects as you like! All reports must be received by 12/31/24.

IOHA: Medical Clinics Needed for Fluoride Varnish Training Program Pilot

The IOHA has created an in-person training program to assist medical practices in adopting basic oral health services including assessments and application of fluoride varnish. The training, based on best practices and research by the American Academy of Pediatrics, can be delivered in less than an hour and includes printed and on-line resources, tips for seeking reimbursement and dental referrals, and ongoing support for the six-month pilot phase. If you know a medical clinic in Idaho that would like to participate in this pilot or wants to know more about early childhood caries prevention, connect them with Jennifer Wheeler, IOHA Executive Director, jwheeler@idahooralhealth.org.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events

AAP New Podcast Episode: Opioids and Children

Scott Hadland, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., FAAP, joins the show to talk about using opioids responsibly in the treatment of children. Low-dose, short courses can be used in combination with other therapies — the risk of addiction or overdose is low when the right precautions are taken. [Listen here](#), or on your favorite podcast platform.

Children's Trust Fund Podcast

The Resilient Parenting Podcast, sponsored by the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, tackles tough issues facing ANYONE in a parenting role. Every family is different. The Resilient Parenting Podcast explores the unique challenges and strengths of every family. Join Ken Bass, long-time radio personality and Michelle Bass, LCSW as they interview experts in the field. Building parental resiliency and hope by creating a supportive, healing, and learning community. Click here to view episodes: [The Resilient Parenting Podcast](#)



The image shows a Facebook post for 'THE RESILIENT PARENTING PODCAST'. It features a photo of two people on a bridge, a Facebook logo, and the text 'Follow us on Facebook' with a link to the group page. The post also includes the podcast title, hosts' names (Ken Bass and Michelle Bass), and a note that it is brought to you by the Idaho Children's Trust Fund.



The image shows a QR code for 'The Resilient Parenting Podcast'. Below the QR code is the text 'The Resilient Parenting Podcast' and the website address 'theresilientparentingpodcast.buzzsprout.com'.

ICAAP 2025 White Coat Day and Winter Business/Award Dinner

Save the Date

*2025 White Coat Day
and Winter Business/Award Dinner*

When: Wednesday, February 12, 2025
White Coat Day (Idaho State Capitol): 8-11 a.m.
Winter Dinner (Cottonwood Grille): 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Spotlight on a Member

The Idaho Chapter had a busy 2024, advocating for kids, families and providers at the local, state and federal level. A huge thank you to all our members. Our chapter is growing, but we need your help. There is most likely a colleague, whether a pediatrician, advanced practice provider or a sub specialist that you work with every day that is not a member. If each member would recruit one more member, we would represent a large majority of all providers, and would be a very strong united voice for children and their families. It is easy to join the chapter when renewing your AAP national membership by checking the Chapter box or by going to our website <http://idahoaap.org>. It has been a privilege working with so many of you this year and thank you for your dedication to children. Happy Holidays to you and your family. *Sherry Iverson*

Resources

Beyfortus Vaccine Administration for Independent Clinic Patients

Please see the below and attached information regarding the administration of the Beyfortus vaccine available to independent clinic patients at St. Luke's starting on November 5, 2024.

St. Luke's to begin administration of Beyfortus Nov. 5, 2024

St. Luke's Health System will begin administration of Beyfortus antibody immunizations to infants up through 19 months of age starting Nov. 5. Beyfortus helps protect this population of patients from serious respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) related lung infections. St. Luke's will administer Beyfortus to NICU graduates at discharge who are born at 35 weeks and under. The administration of Beyfortus will be available in St. Luke's ambulatory Pediatric and Family Medicine Clinics to qualifying infants.

Independent and Referring Physicians and APPs

Beyfortus should be administered in your clinic, for healthy infants up to 8 months old and qualifying high risk infants 8 through 19 months of age who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

If there is limited availability of privately purchased Beyfortus within your practice, infants who qualify may be sent to a St. Luke's Clinic to obtain this immunization with a provider order.

Orders

- To refer a patient to St. Luke's for Beyfortus administration, a paper order form (attached) must be completed by the referring physician or APP and given to the patient.
- The patient must present this order form upon arrival before administration can occur.
- Beyfortus is a weight-based dose, therefore, prior to administration of the immunization at a St. Luke's clinic, the child will be weighed to validate the dose ordered is correct.

St. Luke's Clinics

St. Luke's Clinics will stock this preventative immunization locally at appropriate ambulatory clinics that serve pediatric populations. Any infant who is privately insured and who meets the requirements for Beyfortus, will have the ability to receive the immunization if available.

Additional Resources and Information

- Questions or information: Contact the St. Luke's Immunization team at immunizations@slhs.org
- Website:

Download the order form directly:

<https://www.stlukesonline.org/~media/1f6373effed0441fbd72c88fe2dbabca.ashx>

OR

Visit <https://www.stlukesonline.org/for-providers> and find the order form under "Transferring & Referral."

St. Luke's Physician Liaison Program
St. Luke's Health System
208-493-0669
physicianliaison@slhs.org

Book Corner

Proud Books: *It's okay to be Different* and *Be Who You Are* by Todd Parr