



## NE Chapter, AAP Newsletter



**Arwa Nasir, M.D.**  
*NE AAP President*

### Nebraska Chapter, AAP

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#### Chapter Leadership

[Arwa Nasir, MD](#)  
President

[Cindy Ellis, MD](#)  
Vice President

[Melissa St. Germain, MD](#) Treasurer

[Jane Carnazzo, MD](#)  
Past President

[Laura Polak](#)  
Executive Director

### From the Chapter President

According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services January 2018 report, Influenza activity is at the "widespread level" indicating that influenza has been reported in more than half the regions in the state. As of January 20, 2018, there were 438 influenza associated hospitalizations in Nebraska, and 27 fatalities, only one of them was a child. Twenty eight schools in the state reported more than 11% absence due to influenza. Outpatient and emergency department visits as well as hospital admissions are higher than in previous years, resulting in reported bed shortages in many area hospitals.

During such outbreaks, the role of pediatricians extends beyond providing the appropriate diagnosis and treatment for patients with influenza, to prevention. The flu vaccine remains the primary and most effective preventive strategy. Additional promoting hand washing and avoiding close contact with influenza patients and keeping children (and adults) home when they are sick can be helpful in preventing spread of the flu virus. Pediatricians can counsel parents who may be alarmed by the media reports of the disease and helping them put things in perspective.

Please refer to the [Nebraska DHHS influenza surveillance report](#) for updated information on influenza activity in Nebraska.

# Quick Links

[Nebraska Chapter, AAP](#)

[American Academy  
of Pediatrics](#)

[Friends of Children](#)

[STATEVIEW - a Look at  
Advocacy Around the Country](#)

## Social Media

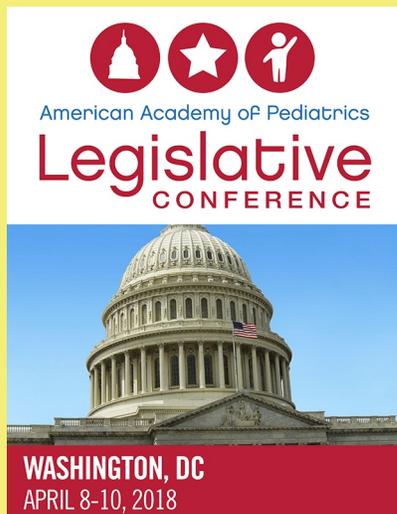
Keep up to date hot-off-the-press  
Chapter and pediatric news.



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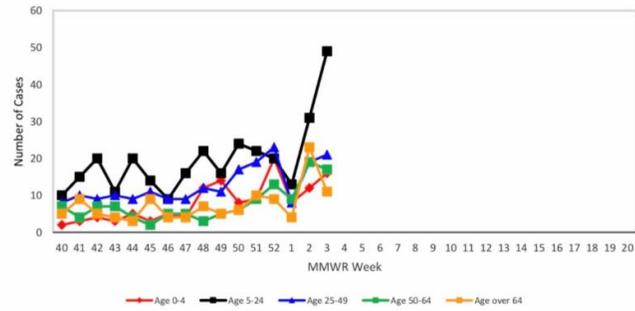


2018 AAP  
Legislative Conference

Registration limited and  
expected to fill soon!

Visit [aap.org/legcon](http://aap.org/legcon) for more  
information and registration.

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the Nebraska  
Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance  
Network (ILINet), by age group, 2017-2018



Best Regards,

Arwa Nasir, MD  
President

## Legislative Update

The Nebraska Legislature is again back in session and a number of proposed legislative bills have the potential to impact the health of Nebraska's children. The Chapter hosted a meeting attended by Dale Mahlman of the Nebraska Medical Association, Carol Wang of the Metro Omaha Medical Society, and Aubrey Mancuso of Voices of Children to identify the bills prioritized by each organization. The information from this meeting will be included in additional discussions of the Chapter Legislative Committee as decisions are made on how to proceed.

Cindy Ellis, MD  
President-Elect & Legislative Chair

## SPRING CONFERENCE

*in collaboration with ROCAP*

"Meeting the Mental Health Needs of  
Children Through Collaborative Care"

March 22, 2018

Beacon Hill (Aksarben), Omaha, NE

Sessions 3:00 - 6:00 PM

Networking Dinner 6:30-8:00 PM

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.  
Registration opens soon watch for more details to come.

## Nebraska Safe Sleep Hospital Campaign

[Information & Resources Available Online](#)

## 2017 Nebraska Kids Count Report Now Available

[View Report Online](#)

## Congress Extends CHIP Funding Six Years, Passes Another Short-Term Deal to Fund Government

After months of uncertainty for the nearly 9 million children who rely on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and their families, Congress took long-overdue action and passed a six-year extension of funding for the program. The long-term funding extension was passed as part of a spending deal to fund the federal government through Feb. 8, putting an end to a three-day government shutdown.

## Nebraska Chapter forming Ad Hoc Grants Committee - **We want you!**

Teleconference Meeting  
**Open to Members Statewide**  
February 26 at 3:00 PM

The purpose of this committee is to explore potential grant activities that would address child health and allow participation from Chapter members statewide. Share your ideas and what health issues are important to you.

Interested in participating - email [director@nebraska-aap.org](mailto:director@nebraska-aap.org) and conference call information will be provided.