



EMSC/CHILD READY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



2020

MONTANA EMS & Trauma Systems
EMS for Children/Child Ready MT
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Greetings!

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program aims to ensure that emergency medical care for the ill and injured child or adolescent is well integrated into an emergency medical service system.

We work to ensure that the system is backed by optimal resources and that the entire spectrum of emergency services (prevention, emergency response, prehospital care, hospital care, inter-facility transport, and rehabilitation) is provided to children and adolescents, no matter where they live, play, attend school or travel.

THE RIGHT CARE AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME WITH THE RIGHT RESOURCES!



Child Ready Montana- State Partnership For the Regionalized of Care (SPROC)

The intent of the program is to develop an accountable culturally competent emergent care system for pediatric patients across Montana.

Exciting news and events are going on this month

Mini Modules to Relieve Stress for Healthcare Workers
Responding to COVID-19: Stress Management Exercise [r20.rs6.net](a short video that can help you manage stress before, during, and/or after your shift).
<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-healthcare-worker-self-care-exercise-covid-19.pdf>



Are you pediatric ready?

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE 2020 VIRTUAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN RURAL TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM

Daily Sessions Sept. 10-18, 2020, Excluding the Weekend

Times To Be Announced

100% Virtual with GoToWebinar

In light of COVID-19, we are pivoting to a 100% virtual conference for our 33rd annual educational symposium so more people can join us!

Because we are committed to providing multidisciplinary professional education to all levels of trauma patient care providers, we are offering several educational sessions to be conducted at various times TBD over the week of Sept. 10-18 via GoToWebinar. Attendees will receive emails about each session, from which they can register to attend. This will enable attendees to tailor the conference to their individual needs and schedule.

We will offer the conference FREE of charge to all attendees, thanks to our supporters! Watch for more details to come at www.45pr.com [45thparallelrealty.cmail19.com]

GOVERNOR BULLOCK ISSUES DIRECTIVE TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS FLEXIBILITY TO PROVIDE REMOTE LEARNING TO PROTECT AGAINST COVID-19

Governor Steve Bullock issued a directive to provide flexibility for local school districts to provide remote or offsite education in order to protect students and teachers from the spread of COVID-19 when schools reopen this fall.

“As fall approaches, schools are working hard to plan for the school year in light of the ongoing pandemic. Many districts may choose to offer a blend of in-classroom and remote learning to balance safety with the educational needs of their students,” said Governor Bullock. “This directive will ensure that schools are able to make the choices to provide the best educational opportunities available, no matter where those students may live.”

Current law limits the ability of districts who serve out-of-district students to provide offsite delivery of educational services to those students.

The directive waives current residency requirements to allow school districts to provide educational services at an offsite instructional setting, including the provision of services through electronic means, to any pupil who (a) meets the residency requirements for that district as provided in § 1-1-215, MCA; (b) resides in the same county as the district; or (c) resides in a school district immediately adjacent to the district.

“There are many school districts serving children from out of district throughout Montana whose options for providing virtual education were limited under the current law,” said Lance Melton, Executive Director of the Montana School Boards Association. “Governor Bullock’s order temporarily waiving the residency requirement for virtual education will help school districts throughout Montana finalize their reopening plans in a manner that will provide safe and effective learning environments, including virtual learning options for resident and nonresident students alike. We appreciate the Governor’s quick action on this important topic.”

FREE ONLINE RESOURCE FOR PARENTING EDUCATORS

While our communities deal with shelter-in-place, home visitors and parenting educators are invited to offer their clients free access to Parenting Now!'s Summer Video Series, featuring their veteran providers. The two series are designed to support families unable to access in-person services and new videos will be added throughout the summer. Learn more and get access for your clients to Parenting Now!'s "Circle Time" and "Virtual Parenting Support" video series [here \[saavsus.com\]](#).

An additional free resource for home visitors and parenting educators comes from Families Forward Virginia, which has developed training materials and video content for family home visitors funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Training content features home visitors interacting with clients to help them learn and develop goals for themselves and their children. They are supported in their efforts with the use of Reachables® Family Goal-setting Cards developed by Parenting Now! Each video addresses a discrete topic documenting the interactions of the home visitors and their clients. The home visitors who work with Reachables discuss issues related to the home visit sessions. View the videos [here \[saavsus.com\]](#).

View information and free sample content for all of the parenting education curricula and educational materials Saavsus offers [here \[saavsus.com\]](#). Paul Berger, Saavsus, Inc. paulberger@saavsus.com

Less is more. Check out this simple 2 pager that focuses on Children, Education and COVID

Protecting and Educating Our Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic

https://preventepidemics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID_School_Factsheet.pdf
[preventepidemics.org]

For more information for Schools go to Prevent Epidemics

<https://preventepidemics.org/covid19/resources/school-reopening-faq/> [preventepidemics.org]

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Immunization Month is an opportunity to highlight the importance of vaccination. Use [CDC's promotional materials](#) to encourage people to stay up to date on recommended vaccines.

You can also share [MyHealthfinder's vaccine resources](#) to help people of all ages learn about the vaccines they need to stay healthy.



Vaccines for Preteens and Teens: What Parents Should Know

- Print version
 - [English](#) [1 page]
Updated Jul 2019
 - [Spanish](#) [1 page]
Updated Jul 2020

Flyers and Posters These materials can be used year-round. They may be downloaded, copied, and distributed without alteration free of charge. A limited quantity of pre-printed posters is annually available from [CDC-INFO On Demand – Publications](#). Check for availability, searching for "Immunizations and Vaccines (Childhood)."

GOVERNOR BULLOCK ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO SAFEGUARD ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Governor Steve Bullock announced \$1 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds will be available to rural and safety net health care providers to assist Montanans in finding and enrolling in affordable and comprehensive insurance coverage.

“During these difficult and unprecedented times, access to quality, affordable health care is critically important to Montanans’ well-being,” Governor Bullock said. “By helping small primary care and safety net providers find and assist uninsured Montanans, we’re making sure Montanans who need affordable health care coverage can get it and can keep themselves and their families safe.”

Access to comprehensive and affordable health care improves health outcomes, including for chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and lung disease. Those with chronic conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, especially if those conditions are not well managed. A lack of health coverage could also discourage individuals from seeking care, including testing or treatment for COVID-19, as well as other health issues.

Of the \$1 million, \$300,000 will be devoted to Cover Montana, a program administered by the Montana Primary Care Association to support providers and coordinate outreach and enrollment effort. The remaining \$700,000 will be divided into \$30,000 grants to providers to support onsite certified application counselors to help Montanans find and sign up for comprehensive health coverage.

“Health insurance coverage is key to keeping our communities and economy healthy,” Cindy Stergar, CEO of the Montana Primary Care Association. “Local enrollment assistance is key to getting information and support out to folks who have questions and need help enrolling in coverage. This is an exciting opportunity to invest in our health now and in the future and to get Montana covered.”

Eligible providers include Montana’s hospitals, community health centers, urban Indian clinics, and the eight Tribal nations in Montana that currently employ or will hire certified application counselors to help people find coverage. The funds can be used to train or pay for staffing costs for certified application counselors or promotion of coverage options through open enrollment and beyond.

Certified application counselors are typically based in a health care provider’s office and can offer in person guidance to ensure Montanans secure affordable and quality health coverage. Many Montana providers have had to eliminate or scale back efforts to offer assistance to individuals seeking coverage after the federal government greatly reduced funding. The federal government has also almost entirely eliminated its funding for education and outreach efforts that provide people with information about the options available to them and financial assistance that may be available.

Open enrollment begins November 1 and ends December 15. Individuals who have lost employer coverage can apply within 60 days of losing coverage and individuals who have lost income may be eligible for price breaks on insurance coverage through healthcare.gov, for Medicaid, or Healthy Montana Kids.

Montanans can apply for Medicaid and Healthy Montana Kids at any time.

Providers will be eligible to apply for the \$30,000 grants on a first come, first serve basis starting on August 10 to providers who have a certified application counselor or will use the funds to hire and train one.

For more information, visit covidrelief.mt.gov.

MENTAL HEALTH

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that people who identify as a member of a minority are less likely to receive a diagnosis of and treatment for mental illness, have less access to mental health services, and often receive a poorer quality of mental health care. These factors negatively impact mental health outcomes, including the risk for suicide and depression.

According to the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) (SAMHSA) and the [CDC \[r20.rs6.net\]](#):

- In 2017, among youth aged 12–17 in the U.S., 13.3 percent had at least one major depressive episode in the past year including 9.5 percent of non-Hispanic blacks, 13.8 percent of Hispanics, and 16.3 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native.
- African American females, grades 9–12, were 70 percent more likely to attempt suicide in 2017, as compared to non-Hispanic white females of the same age. At the same time, African American males, grades 9–12, were nearly three times more likely to die by suicide in 2017 than African American females.
- **Feelings of anxiety and other signs of stress may become more pronounced during a global pandemic.**
- People in some racial and ethnic minority groups may respond more strongly to the stress of a pandemic or crisis.

WATCH FOR THESE WARNING SIGNS

It is also critical for parents and other caregivers to recognize the signs that their child may be struggling. **If your child shows one or more of the following behaviors, it is time to seek help from a mental health care provider or other health care professional:**

- Feeling incredibly sad or withdrawn for more than two weeks
- Threatening or trying to harm or kill oneself or making plans to do so (Take all threats or attempts as serious. It's also important to note here that asking your child about self-harm does not increase his/her risk for suicide. Instead, it can provide you with insight regarding their intentions and how they are feeling. [See Know! The Facts on Youth Suicide for more information. \[r20.rs6.net\]](#))
- Experiencing sudden overwhelming fear for no reason, sometimes with a racing heart or fast breathing
- Getting in many fights or wanting to hurt others
- Showing severe, out-of-control behavior that can hurt oneself or others
- Not eating, throwing up, or using laxatives to make himself or herself lose weight
- Having intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities
- Experiencing extreme difficulty controlling behavior, putting oneself in physical danger or causing problems at home (or at school if applicable)
- Using drugs or alcohol repeatedly
- Having severe mood swings that cause problems in relationships
- Showing drastic changes in behavior or personality

Sources

- MentalHealth.gov: Talk About Mental Health. Sept. 2017. [\[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health. Mental Health While Combating Systemic Racism and Social Injustice. July 2020. [\[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Behavioral Health Barometer, U.S. Vol. 5. 2017. [\[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health: National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, July 2020. [\[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

CHILDREN'S EYE HEALTH AND SAFETY MONTH



Children are susceptible to a host of vision and eye problems such as injury, infection and increased nearsightedness. In support of Children's Eye Health and Safety Month in August, the American Academy of Ophthalmology provides information to the public that can help protect and preserve a child's eye health for life.

You can help raise awareness of children's vision and eye health as kids head back to school. The key message is that healthy vision contributes to children's school readiness, ability to learn, overall healthy development and ability to reach motor developmental milestones and that vision screening and eye care are essential components of a [Strong Vision Health System of Care](#).



RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONALS

The National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health offers:

- ♣ Educational workshops, conference presentations, webinars, training programs, and campaigns to spread knowledge about children's vision and eye health to targeted stakeholders.
- ♣ Educational resources for professionals, including the Vision and Eye Health Toolkit developed for the National Association of School Nurses, the Children's Vision and Eye Health: A Snapshot of Current National Issues report, and evidence-based guidelines for vision screening, data collection, and performance measures.
- ♣ Empowering parents and caregivers through education, public awareness campaigns and parent-focused tool kits, including the development of a family vision resource kit for early childhood education and care programs (coming soon), and public awareness messaging during Children's Vision Month in August.
- ♣ Finding Eye Care and 7 Answers to Parent Questions About Myopia fact sheets for parents and caregivers. English and Spanish versions will be available soon.

All young children deserve an improved system to ensure that vision problems are identified early and treated in a timely manner, standards for screening and care are uniform across the country, and that appropriate surveillance and preventive interventions are in place.

In order to improve the system, the NCCVEH has provided national leadership, education, training, and coordination to support the development of a unified public health infrastructure.

This approach encompasses uniform implementation of successful screening and referral programs, increased follow-up to care, improved surveillance, reduced vision care disparities, stakeholder engagement, and, ultimately, improved vision health for children.

The NCCVEH is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Grant # H7MMC24738). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government. For more information about the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health or the resources described here, contact Donna Fishman, MPH at dfishman@preventblindness.org

AUGUST HEALTH AWARENESS AND OTHER IMPORTANT DAYS!!

- Admit You're Happy Month Family Fun Month [Dog Days of Summer](#) National Picnic Month

Weekly Events:

- Week 1 National Simplify your Life Week
- Week 2 National Smile Week
- Week 3 Friendship Week
- Week 4 Be Kind to Humankind Week

Daily Holidays, Special and Wacky Days:

August 1	<u>Campfire Day</u> - <u>National Mountain Climbing Day</u> <u>National Raspberry Cream Pie Day</u>
August 2	<u>Friendship Day</u> - <u>International Forgiveness Day</u> <u>National Ice Cream Sandwich Day</u>
August 3	<u>Grab Some Nuts Day</u> <u>National Watermelon Day</u>
August 4	<u>National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day</u>
August 5	<u>National Underwear Day</u> <u>Work Like a Dog Day</u>
August 6	<u>National Fresh Breath Day</u> <u>Wiggle Your Toes Day</u>
August 8	<u>Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day</u>
August 10	<u>Lazy Day</u> <u>National S'mores Day</u>
August 11	<u>Son and Daughter Day</u>
August 12	<u>Middle Child's Day</u>
August 13	<u>Left Hander's Day</u>
August 14	<u>National Creamsicle Day</u>
August 15	<u>Relaxation Day</u> - !!!!!
August 16	<u>National Tell a Joke Day</u>
August 22	<u>Be an Angel Day</u> <u>National Tooth Fairy Day</u> - and/or February 28
August 25	<u>National Banana Split Day</u>
August 26	<u>National Dog Day</u> <u>Women's Equality Day</u>
August 27	<u>Global Forgiveness Day</u> <u>Just Because Day</u>
August 28	<u>Race Your Mouse Day</u> - but we are not sure what kind of "mouse"
August 30	<u>Frankenstein Day</u> <u>Toasted Marshmallow Day</u>
August 31	<u>National Eat Outside Day</u> <u>National Trail Mix Day</u>



CDC has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and 4-H to develop “**THE JUNIOR DISEASE DETECTIVES: OPERATION OUTBREAK**,” a graphic novel intended to educate youth audiences about variant flu and the [real disease detective work](#) conducted by public and animal health experts when outbreaks of infectious diseases occur.

This graphic novel follows a group of teenage 4-H members who participate in a state agricultural fair and later attend CDC’s Disease Detective Camp in Atlanta. When one of the boys becomes sick following the fair, the rest of the group use their newly acquired disease detective knowledge to help a team of public and animal health experts solve the mystery of how their friend became ill.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM

CDC has partnered with teachers participating in its [Science Ambassador Fellowship](#) to develop educational activities to accompany the graphic novel for use in middle and high school science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) classrooms. The activities highlight themes in the graphic novel to teach youth about public health science, epidemiology, biology, outbreak investigations and associated career skills. The graphic novel and its associated educational activities are part of a broader CDC initiative with USDA and other agricultural partners to raise awareness, knowledge and understanding of a [One Health](#) approach to zoonotic disease prevention and response. **The activities below are available for free download and use,**

Revised! [Educational Overview CDC pdf icon\[135 KB, 5 pages, 508\]](#): This document describes the learning objectives associated with the graphic novel and also topics related to influenza (flu) epidemiology, flu biology, zoonotic diseases, variant flu, novel flu and pandemic flu.

Revised! [Activity 1 – The Operation Outbreak Team CDC pdf icon\[200 Kb, 16 pages, 508\]](#): In this activity, students learn the various roles and responsibilities of the professionals involved in an outbreak response.

New! [Activity 2 – Eddie’s Story pdf icon\[487 KB, 18 pages, 508\]](#): In this activity, students investigate a disease outbreak and make data-driven decisions as the scenario progresses. Students will categorize cases of disease by the “who, what and when” (person, place and time) and medical features (clinical signs and symptoms) of disease. They then will use a case definition to determine if the cases are linked.

New! [Activity 3 – Hamlet’s Story pdf icon\[200 KB, 15 pages, 508\]](#): In this activity, students explore and identify the different ways flu viruses can spread between animals and people.

Download the Graphic Novel Today

[Web Version pdf icon\[21 MB, 60 pages, Print Only\]](#)

[Home Print Version pdf icon\[166 MB, 60 pages, Print Only\]](#)

[Professional Print Version pdf icon\[159 MB, 60 pages, Print Only\]](#)



[external icon](#) Print copies of the graphic novel are available via [CDC’s On Demand website](#) under Pub ID 300568. Note: Print orders larger than one copy are prioritized for K-12 teachers and 4-H groups and supplies are limited.



BILLINGS, Mont. — While many small businesses have struggled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Native-owned **Keya LLC** has found a way to turn a crisis into an opportunity.

More than a year ago, the Billings, Mont.-based publishing company launched *Native Wellness Life*, a subscriber-driven print publication that focuses on educating Native Americans about healthy living.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started to spread throughout the country more than four months ago, Keya built on its health and wellness focus to help spread awareness and prevention to Native Americans from a Native American perspective via an offshoot publication called *The COVID Report*, said co-owner Orville Desjarlais.

"There's a lot of interest in it. People can absolutely see the good it's doing," Desjarlais said, referring to *The COVID Report*. "We're taking a lot of the information that's out there and everyone hears on TV and giving it a Native American Indian perspective, and we talk about it from that point of view."

To continue reading this article visit <https://nativewebonline.net/business/native-owned-publisher-leverages-wellness-focus-in-the-age-of-covid-19>



Trivia

Answer the trivia and win a Pediatric STETHOSCOPE =the first 5 to email answers to **Robin** at rsuzor@mt.gov **NOT** to the listserve.

1. What is one of the health awareness days/weeks in August?
2. What are the dates for the Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium?
3. What are two warning signs of mental health issues?



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