

EMERGING THREATS Newsletter

February 2026



Emerging Threats Partnership Project PROGRESS WITH PARTNERS

- The Emerging Threats Partnership Project is in full swing since its official launch on December 5, 2025. Despite a brief pause in activities, teams have continued close collaboration with local and state partners on initiatives focused on congenital CMV, congenital syphilis, and perinatal hepatitis C. Across all efforts, teams remain committed to strengthening partnerships, improving communication, and expanding the reach of their work.
- During Birth Defects Awareness Month this January, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated birth defects resources, including an enhanced format for viewing [national prevalence estimates](#) and a refreshed [awareness month webpage](#) showcasing recent initiatives. Among these highlights was the expansion of [SET-NET](#) support for congenital CMV, one of the most common infectious causes of birth defects in the United States. Originally launched as a five-state pilot in 2023, SET-NET's congenital CMV work has now grown to nine jurisdictions and three clinical sites. Advancing these efforts at the state and local level includes the work of our Emerging Threats Partnership Project team members in [Colorado](#) and [Iowa](#), as well as the broader chapter and SET-NET partners addressing congenital CMV in Illinois, Los Angeles, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Utah, and Virginia.
- In late January, AAP staff and chapter partners met to further discuss engagement strategies and outline plans for upcoming webinars, outreach events, and communication campaigns, all aimed at continuing to advance these efforts in the months ahead.

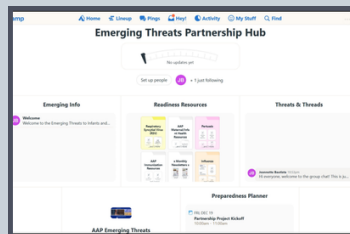
FEATURED NEWS

Emerging Threats Collaboration Space

AAP project staff are excited to share that the project collaboration hub on [Basecamp](#) is back up and running! As a reminder this space will serve as a centralized location for project updates, team collaboration and resource sharing for the Emerging Threats Partnership Project teams as well as interested participants from the broader AAP chapter and SET-NET site network.

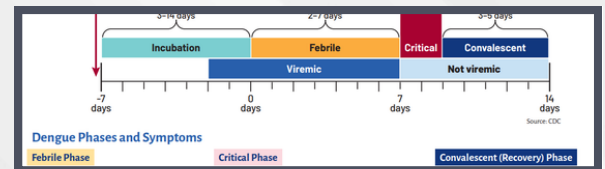
What's next?

- Participating teams will receive an invitation from Basecamp to access the site.
- Interested chapters or SET-NET sites within the Emerging Threats to Infants and Children network can email jbautista@aap.org to be added to the Emerging Threats Partnership Hub.



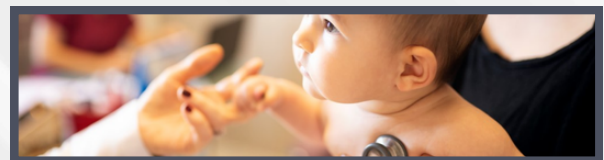
AAP News: Most Pregnant Patients With HCV Experience Gaps In Treatment, Study Suggests

Infectious Disease Advisor: A study published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* found that “most pregnant individuals with hepatitis C virus (HCV) experience significant gaps in treatment, suggesting interventions are needed to improve engagement in care and reduce risk for vertical transmission.” Researches found that “among a subset of patients (n=6364) with confirmed chronic HCV, 47.5% had at least 1 missed treatment opportunity and 19.2% had multiple.”



NEW AAP Resource: Think Dengue: Care and Management in Clinical Settings

Visit AAP's [Dengue Patient Care Page](#) to access this newly released clinical resource tool. Dengue fever presents a significant challenge to healthcare professionals globally, with increasing cases and diverse clinical manifestations. This tool can be utilized to aid clinicians in the prevention, diagnosis and management of dengue cases.



Red Book Online Outbreaks & Emerging Infections

Access information and resource links for current infectious disease outbreaks from AAP. Outbreaks are reviewed weekly and updated when new information is available from the CDC (**Updated last on 2/17/26**). More resources are available from AAP to assist pediatric health practitioners in addressing emerging threats. See [Emerging Threats](#).



AAP: Join a Virtual Learning Collaborative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is launching a virtual learning collaborative to enhance pediatricians' ability to support children and families affected by alcohol and substance use, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). FASD is an umbrella term used to describe birth defects and intellectual/neurodevelopmental disabilities that result from prenatal alcohol exposure. For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://downloads.aap.org/DOCHW/FASD-AAP-VLCprojectdescription.pdf>