

EMERGING THREATS Newsletter

March 2026



Emerging Threats to Infants and Children

SPOTLIGHT ON CONGENITAL CMV

Congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) is the leading infectious cause of birth defects in the United States, with one in five children with cCMV experiencing long-term health impacts such as hearing loss or developmental disabilities. Addressing this public health challenge requires strong partnerships across healthcare, public health, and community organizations. Teams in Iowa and Colorado are working alongside partners to increase awareness, strengthen education, and support timely identification and early intervention for congenital CMV.

- In Iowa, the team partnered with the Pediatric Nursery Subgroup to share project initiatives and elevate key resources from the [Iowa Chapter, AAP national](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [National CMV Foundation](#). The presentation fostered meaningful dialogue, including a powerful parent perspective, and generated strong engagement among participants. This collaborative success has led to interest in expanding outreach to additional clinical and professional subgroups.
- The Colorado team continues to build collaboration and expand cross-sector partnerships to increase education and awareness around congenital CMV. Recent efforts include increasing partner engagement with local hospitals and nurse midwives, as well as advancing awareness and understanding of Colorado's newly implemented targeted dried blood spot screening for congenital CMV. Visit the [Colorado AAP CMV webpage](#) to explore resources and learn about ongoing initiatives, including the Colorado Congenital CMV Workgroup and its more than seven years of collaborative efforts to address congenital CMV.

FEATURED NEWS

Colorado Advances Newborn Screening for Congenital CMV

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) newborn screening laboratory officially launched targeted dried blood spot screening (DBS) for congenital CMV on February 11, 2026. Targeted screening includes infants with a birth weight below the 10th percentile, those who do not pass their newborn hearing screening, or those without a reported hearing screening result by 10 days of age. Colorado's DBS program also supports screening for Wyoming, expanding regional impact and increasing opportunities for early detection and coordinated care. To learn more, visit [Colorado AAP](#) and [CDPHE](#).



NEW and UPDATED AAP Resources: Vaccine Preventable Diseases

[Measles](#) cases continue to rise, with [CDC reporting 1,362 confirmed measles cases in the United States](#) as of March 12th. To support response efforts, AAP has released multiple new educational videos that can be shared with families in your practice and community:

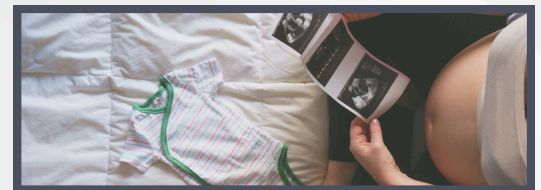
- [Dramatic Drops in Childhood Illnesses: How Did We Do It?](#)
- [Natural Immunity & Vaccines: What's the Difference?](#)
- [Behind on Vaccines? Here's the Easiest Way to Get Back on Track](#)
- [Vaccines Keep Kids out of the Hospital, and That's a Big Deal](#)

For more communication tools visit:

AAP's [Vaccine Confidence Campaign Toolkit](#)

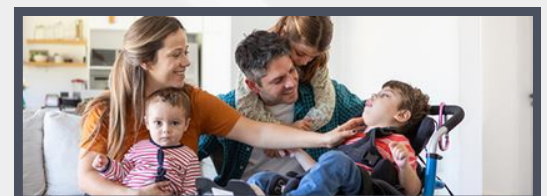
For vaccination rates and outbreak data visit:

[AAP's Interactive Immunization Map](#)



NEW AAP Resource: Vaccines During Pregnancy: Giving Your Baby a Strong Start from Day 1

In this [video](#), Dr. Jennifer Shu from the American Academy of Pediatrics explains why vaccines during pregnancy are an important part of a strong prenatal health plan. Because protecting your baby can begin before they're even born. If you're pregnant or planning to be, talk with your doctor about which vaccines are right for you and give your baby the healthiest possible start.



National Developmental Disabilities Month

In recognition of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, families of children with disabilities can find guidance and support to make care easier and more organized. [HealthyChildren.org](#) offers practical parent guides to help coordinate your child's care and make the most of every health appointment. Check out [Coordinating Care for a Child with Disabilities: Parent Tips](#) and [Making the Most of Your Child's Health Appointments: Parent Tips](#) for helpful strategies and resources to support your child's health and wellbeing.