

EMERGING THREATS Newsletter

May 2026



Emerging Threats to Infants and Children **PERINATAL HEPATITIS C**

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections are on the rise, including among infants and children, and can lead to serious complications such as liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. Transmission occurs through contact with infected blood, sexual contact, shared needles, and perinatally—from mother to child during pregnancy or delivery. For children, the most common route of transmission is perinatal. Early identification, testing and referral to treatment for perinatally exposed infants are crucial.

May is recognized as Hepatitis Awareness Month. To support communication efforts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers tools and resources to increase awareness and education among clinicians and communities about hepatitis viruses, including HCV. These resources are available on CDC's [Viral Hepatitis Awareness webpage](#)

To increase awareness and education around this emerging health threat, AAP supports chapters in [Arizona](#) and [Pennsylvania](#), along with their respective [CDC Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies Network \(SET-NET\)](#) sites and health departments in [Arizona](#), [Pennsylvania](#) and [Philadelphia](#), in collaborative educational initiatives. These efforts include clinician- and family-focused social media graphics, webinars and other educational events. Participating partners have reported positive outcomes from collaborative efforts, including expanded networks, identifying gaps/barriers and a broader reach of perinatal HCV screening, testing and treatment referral messaging. Learn more and access resources via AAP's Perinatal Hepatitis C [patient care page](#) and [toolkit](#).

FEATURED NEWS

Emerging Threats Learning Collaborative

The AAP is excited to announce that recruitment is now open for the Partnering to Protect Infants and Children from Emerging Threats: Virtual Learning Collaborative. This virtual learning collaborative will engage AAP chapter teams in strengthening partnerships and communication among clinicians, families, and public health partners to address emerging health threats impacting health outcomes for infants and children.

To learn more and apply, please review the flyer accessible here:

[Emerging Threats Learning Collaborative](#)



AAP News: **Most Young Children With Perinatal Exposure To HCV Do Not Receive Guideline-Concordant Testing, Treatment, Study Suggests**

[Infectious Disease Advisor](#) (5/12) reported a study found that “most young children with perinatal exposure to hepatitis C virus (HCV) do not receive guideline-concordant testing or treatment.” Researchers observed that “among a subset of 4103 exposed children aged 2 years and older born to 3419 parents...with probable or confirmed HCV infection, only 1718 (41.9%) underwent guideline-concordant testing. The [study](#) was published in [JAMA Network Open](#).



AAP Update: **Review Tdap during pregnancy is safe, protects newborns from pertussis**

The Vaccine Integrity Project said it conducted the review in response to “recent public debate and policy uncertainty” as well as unfounded safety concerns about vaccination during pregnancy from federal vaccine advisers.



National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) **CMV Awareness Month - Let's Talk About CMV**

This June, join NBDPN in recognizing CMV Awareness Month and help raise awareness about congenital CMV. The newly released 2026 CMV Awareness Month Toolkit is now available, offering easy-to-use tools and resources to support your outreach.

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

PARENT to PARENT USA

Join the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Parent to Parent USA (P2P USA) for an Interactive Learning Session:

Pediatric to Adult Health Care Transition

Upcoming Educational Opportunity: **Register Here**

The AAP, in collaboration with Parent to Parent USA (P2P USA), is hosting a virtual Coffee Talk titled **Health Care Transitions from Pediatric to Adult Care on Tuesday June 16th at 12pm CT**. Panelists will share perspectives on navigating transitions of health care from the NICU to home, collaboration with pediatric providers and schools, and the transition from pediatric to adult health care systems.