



President's Message

When I left my work in the White House in the 1990s to pursue a career in medicine, I felt I was going from focusing on policies that helped millions of people to improving the lives of my patients, one at a time. The recent elimination of jobs of my former colleagues, dedicated civil servants, in addition to threats to demolish critical federal government support of foundational child health programs, vaccine science, research, and funding, is unnerving. These disturbing actions have galvanized pediatricians, the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP), and the national AAP. We are busy advocating to our state and federal officials and training members to learn how to do advocacy as well.

We wanted to update you on what the Chapter has been doing to address issues affecting the well-being of children and families. I want to take this opportunity to assure you that the MCAAP and AAP are working together to address your concerns in this new political climate.

For those who could not travel to Washington in March, we are developing an advocacy curriculum that will develop skills on contacting and meeting with legislators and policymakers, giving testimony, and writing op-eds. Please reach out if you would like to join our Legislative Committee, have suggestions for how we communicate with you, or if you have other ways you'd like to engage in advocacy.

The following are recent Chapter actions:

- [Letter to Governor Maura Healey re: Medicaid funding](#)
- [Member communication re: voting for vaccine access](#)
- [Member poll re: advocacy input](#)

continued on page 3

Table of Contents • Spring 2025 • Volume 26 No. 2

President's Message	1	Immunize.org Provides Uninterrupted Access to Essential Immunization Information	6
Are You Interested in Participating in Clinical Research?	1	2025 Vaccine Education Webinar Series	6
Editor's Note	2	Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project Update	6
2025 AAP Advocacy Conference	4	2025 MDPH Immunization Updates	7
AAP Enterprise Membership (EM)	4		
Book Corner	5		
ShotClock	6		
2025 Measles Update	6		

Are You Interested in Participating in Clinical Research?

Think about joining a PROS study!

PROS (Pediatric Research in Office Settings) is the AAP national practice-based research network. PROS practitioners not only participate in collecting data in the office but also collaborate with principal investigators to ensure that studies are feasible in a busy practice and relevant to primary care pediatricians. Past PROS studies have focused on febrile young infants, puberty, obesity, safe firearm storage, teen driver safety, and antibiotic stewardship. Recent studies have demonstrated that text message reminders increase influenza vaccination rates in children who need a second dose and that clinician communication training and feedback increase HPV vaccination rates. Two current studies have Massachusetts chapter principal investigators: a study of screening and referral for unmet material needs (PI Arvin Garg at UMass) and a study of an online CRAFT screening tool and clinician training to reduce adolescent substance use (PIs Lydia Shrier and Sion Harris at Boston Children's Hospital).

We've always had one of the most active PROS chapters, with about 45 participating practices. Pediatricians, nurse practitioners,



and physician assistants in all kinds of practices can participate. My associates and I have found participating in PROS studies to be intellectually stimulating and fun. It's thrilling to get to contribute to advancing knowledge about children's health and primary care practice along with pediatricians across the country.

Opportunity to participate: PROS is currently looking for practices to participate in a study of tailored text message reminders for influenza and Covid vaccines.

Interested in learning more about PROS, getting involved, or getting re-involved? Contact PROS Chapter Coordinator Ben Scheindlin: scheindlinb@gmail.com or visit www.aap.org/PROS.

**Massachusetts Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics**
860 Winter Street
Waltham, MA 02451

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cathleen Haggerty
chaggerty@mcaap.org

FORUM EDITOR

Lisa Dobberteen, MD, FAAP

PRESIDENT

Brenda Anders Pring, MD, FAAP

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mary Beth Miotto, MD, MPH, FAAP

VICE PRESIDENT

David Lyczkowski, MD, FAAP

SECRETARY

John A. F. Zupancic MD ScD, FAAP

TREASURER

Elisabeth DePietro, MD, FAAP

REGION 1

Lorraine Schratz, MD, FAAP

REGION 2

Kristen Shanahan, MD, FAAP

REGION 3

Sarah Canale, MD, FAAP

REGION 4

Jay Fong, MD, FAAP

REGION 5

Christine McKeirnan, MD, FAAP

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Aaron Bornstein, MD, FAAP
Marc Grella, MD, FAAP
Cyndie Hatcher, MD, MPH, FAAP
Christina Kratlian, MD, MA, FAAP

PEDIATRIC RESIDENT MEMBER

TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVE
Maria Moncaliano, MD

MEDICAL STUDENT MEMBER

REPRESENTATIVE
Logan Beyer



Photo by AAP Redbook

Measles (rubeola) rash and conjunctivitis. Conjunctivitis results in clear tearing. Photophobia is common.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Measles!

Measles is back. The tragic outbreak in West Texas has resulted in over 100 cases and 1 confirmed death, possibly a second at the time of this writing. Our AAP President Susan Kressly said, "As a pediatrician, I am heartbroken to learn that a child has died from measles. This is a tragic and devastating loss, and our thoughts are with the family and community affected. One death from a preventable disease is one too many." I couldn't agree more.

Let's review the basics. Measles is a virus: *Paramyxoviridae Morbillivirus*. It causes a highly contagious febrile illness with characteristic symptoms and rash. The incubation period is eight days. It begins with a cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, and fever, which spikes on day four. The typical maculopapular rash begins to erupt in a caudal-cephalad distribution just before the fever spikes and resolves in five to six days.

Measles can manifest clinically with a series of complications. Less serious complications include otitis media, mastoiditis, pneumonia, laryngotracheitis, and cervical adenitis. More sobering complications include acute encephalitis, which can be seen in 0.1% of cases, and subacute sclerosing

panencephalitis (SSPE) in 1 in 100,000 cases. SSPE, while rare, has a morbidity rate of 25% and a mortality rate of 15%.

If you were born before 1957, you probably had measles as a child and are presumed to have natural, life-long immunity. If you were born in the 1960s, before 1969, you may have received a single dose of a less effective, killed viral vaccine, which was in use from 1963 to 1967. Check to be sure you've had two doses of the live attenuated MMR vaccine in use since 1969. If you were a young child in the years 1969 to 1989, you may have only had one dose of MMR and should have a second. Children now receive two doses of this vaccine, one at 12 months and one somewhere between ages four and six. You will find additional information on measles and the MMR vaccine in the ShotClock section of this edition of the *Forum*.

Adults traveling internationally, to countries where measles is still endemic, or domestically to areas where there are outbreaks, with an unclear immunization status should receive a dose of MMR vaccine. Babies less than a year old who are traveling to these areas should have an early dose of MMR and then the subsequent two doses of MMR at the

continued on page 3

President’s Message

continued from page 1

- [Member update, including an advocacy update on vaccines](#)
- Offered free (now archived) Op-Ed/ Letter to the Editor writing webinar Letters the MCAAP has signed onto:
- [Protect SNAP and safety net programs](#)
- [Child Welfare System](#)
- [“Protecting Sensitive Locations Act”](#)

We will continue to ask for your input through the monthly back-of-the-envelope polls that we send to all members on the second Friday of every month, but feel free to contact me directly with any concerns at bpring@mcaap.org. Please visit our newly updated website at www.mcaap.org for updates from the Chapter and AAP.

— **Brenda Anders Pring, MD, FAAP**



Measles!

continued from page 2

recommended ages. If you are worried about your vaccination status and have no access to your childhood vaccination records, go ahead and get an extra dose of MMR. The MMR vaccine is both safe and highly effective; two doses provide 97% protection against measles.

Immunocompromised or pregnant individuals should not receive this or other live attenuated viral vaccines.

In this time where misinformation is rampant, we must do our absolute best to provide clear, evidence-based information to our families. Our job as pediatricians is to be a trusted voice that supports parents and guardians in making decisions that

help them to willingly choose to fully vaccinate their children and to feel they have made positive and safe choices in doing so.

Wishing you and your staff patience, strength, and inspiration in the times ahead.

— **Lisa Dobberteen, MD, FAA**

AAP/MCAAP Appointments, Chairs, and Expert Representatives

AAP/MCAAP Appointments

AAP DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CONTACTS
Sarita Chung, MD

AAP EARLY CHILDHOOD CHAMPION
Katherine Wu, MD

CATCH CO-COORDINATORS
Franny Polcano, MD

MMS DELEGATE/HOUSE OF DELEGATES
Elisabeth Di Pietro, MD

PROS NETWORK COORDINATORS
David Norton, MD
Ben Scheindlin, MD

MCAAP Committees, Initiatives, and Task Forces

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS COMMITTEE
Jack Maypole, MD

CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE
Michael Tang, MD
Heather Forkey, MD

FOSTER CARE COMMITTEE
Linda Sagor, MD

IMMIGRANT HEALTH COMMITTEE
Julia Koehler, MD

IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVE
Everett Lamm, MD
David Norton, MD

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Gregory Campbell, MD, FAAP
Eli Freiman, MD

MA CHILDREN’S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
Mary Beth Miotto, MD, MPH

MA EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Jenny Liano, MD

MA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NEWBORN SCREENING COMMITTEE
Feria Ladha
Monica Liao Chang, MD

MA TITLE V ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mary Beth Miotto, MD, MPH

MA LGBTQ YOUTH COMMISSION
Carole Allen, MD, MBA
David Norton, MD

MEDICAID ACO TASK FORCE
James Perrin, MD
Greg Hagan, MD

MEDICAL STUDENT COMMITTEE
Logan Beyer

PEDIATRIC COUNCIL
Benjamin Weintraub, MD

COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
Sasha Svendsen, MD

MCAAP Appointments and Expert Representatives

FETUS AND NEWBORN
Munish Gupta, MD

INJURY PREVENTION
Michael Flaherty, DO
Greg Parkinson, MD

ORAL HEALTH
OPEN

SCHOOL HEALTH
OPEN

2025 AAP Advocacy Conference

Early in March, 11 Massachusetts Chapter members joined nearly 390 pediatricians and trainees from across the nation to bring critical messages on the value of Medicaid to Capitol Hill. All in all, pediatric teams shared personal and practice stories with 268 legislative offices.

The AAP Annual Advocacy Conference is often considered the most inspirational event of the year by AAP fellows and staff. A full day general advocacy skills training is followed by another day of issue-specific workshops and opportunities for each participant to develop an authentic

narrative and practice it in small groups. On Tuesday, March 4, the full AAP contingent descended on offices throughout the House and Senate for heartfelt conversations with legislators and their staff.

This year's advocacy request was to protect Medicaid and CHIP from federal funding cuts and structural program changes. Our own AAP District 1 Chair, Dr. Pat Flanagan shared the Rhode Island experience of championing Medicaid rates equal to Medicare rates for a wide variety of billing codes.

The Chapter will be offering a number of live and recorded opportunities to increase your advocacy skills and the national AAP offers a free advocacy toolkit <http://bit.ly/4ikyvNg>. If you are interested in learning more about state, local, and federal advocacy, the Annual Advocacy Conference occurs every spring and registration is typically open in the early winter months.



MCAAP Members at the 2025 AAP Advocacy Conference.

AAP Enterprise Membership (EM)

AAP Enterprise Membership (EM) is a multi-year collaboration with AAP national, AAP state chapter, and the pediatric organization. EM offers benefits/services for both individuals and organizations.

EM includes all eligible members (physicians, NP/PAs). Organizations save time with one annual invoice and money with discounts (**up to 20% discounts on dues**). Join the other 60 EM organizations. Visit the [website](#) to learn more and submit your [interest form](#).

The Massachusetts Chapter has two successful EM contracts and would be happy to answer any questions about how EM can work for your practice. Contact Cathleen Haggerty at chaggerty@mcaap.org if you'd like to discuss this opportunity!



BOOK CORNER

A New Normal

As a mom of a toddler with a newborn on the way, it is safe to say a new normal will be arriving in our household soon. For us as adults, change can be unsettling. Now, imagine change from the lens of a child who has no previous point of reference. Though the addition of a new family member is something relatively common, it is still a new experience. Per a study by Volling et al., “This normative developmental transition is considered a significant stress for young children and their parents.”

This change can look different and be accompanied by other simultaneous changes in preparation for the arrival of a new sibling. A new sibling can be paired with moving, rearranging the home, changing daycares, and a shifting focus. Going from having all the parents’ attention as a single child to now having to be mindful of another little human can be quite an adjustment.

Regardless of how much preparation occurs, there may be an element of

resistance or apprehension that is to be expected with a toddler. Per Datler et al., “Entering a new care arrangement can be unsettling for children, even if it is not the first time they are confronted with separation from and the absence of their parents.” In my son’s current stage, he is used to roaming around freely without having to consider another child in his immediate play environment at home. According to a study by Volling et al., this toddler/preschool stage is “a period considered significant for the development of young children’s abilities to regulate their behavior and emotions.” One cannot expect a child of this age to just go along with the changes without any type of learning curve. As parents/caregivers, we can help by finding ways to show our young ones that others are facing similar challenges, so they don’t feel alone. This is important for their social and emotional development.

A series of books that I enjoyed as a child was the *Berenstain Bears*, which

explored many aspects of life. I recall being able to read about *A New Baby*, *Moving Day*, *Strangers*, and *Kindness*. These stories described others going through some of the changes I was seeing or experiencing and gave language to them, which was comforting to me.

Keeping this in mind, one of our favorite books to read at bedtime from Reach Out and Read (ROR) is *Talk Baby Talk*. In this book, we see a baby with many different family members, including a dad, an aunt, and a grandparent. Each one of them engages with the child, while other children are present to assist or just take it all in happily. This modeling has been great in preparing my son for the arrival of his baby brother. He can see others have done it and are doing it just as he will.

My son loves the last page, where it is just the mama and the child reading a book with no other distractions. The mother says, “Mmmmm, I love you so

continued on page 8

ShotClock

2025 Measles Update



Photo credit: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

As of March 13, 2025, a total of 301 confirmed measles cases were reported by fifteen US jurisdictions: Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and Washington.

There have been three outbreaks (defined as three or more related cases) reported in 2025, and 93% of cases (280 of 301) are outbreak-associated. For comparison, 16 outbreaks were reported during 2024, and 69% of cases (198 of 285) were outbreak-associated.

Of the 301 cases, 103 were under 5 years (34% of total cases), and 126 were between 5 and 19 years (42% of total cases). Of the total cases, 95% were unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [recommends](#) that measles be considered in any patient presenting with a febrile rash illness, especially if unvaccinated for measles or having traveled internationally within the past 21 days.

— MCAAP Immunization Initiative

Immunize.org Provides Uninterrupted Access to Essential Immunization Information

As you may be aware, Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations were briefly unavailable on CDC's website from January 31 to February 1. This triggered a surge of visits to the [Immunize.org](#) website because [Immunize.org](#) maintains [copies of all current VISs](#) and [VIS translations](#) in its database.

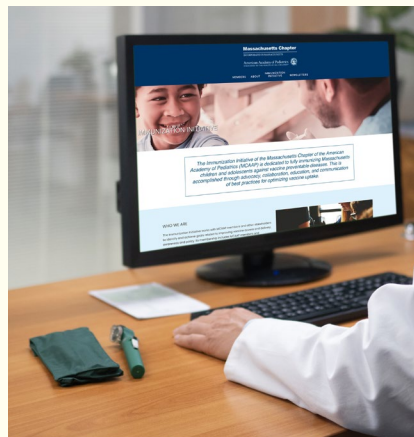
At the beginning of February, [Immunize.org](#) created a database of [PDFs of current ACIP recommendations](#) as published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR). PDF versions of current ACIP recommendations can now be accessed from the database. [Immunize.org](#) also continues to offer a link to the version posted on the CDC website.

[Immunize.org](#) also has clinical resources and information to ensure that health care professionals stay up to date on all aspects of immunization.

Immunize.org publishes a free weekly newsletter, [IZ Express](#), which offers timely access to accurate, evidence-based immunization information. [Click here](#) to subscribe to [IZ Express](#).

— MCAAP Immunization Initiative

2025 Vaccine Education Webinar Series



The Immunization Initiative of the Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP), and the Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition ([MAIC](#)) have partnered to present the 2025 Vaccine Education Webinar Series for Massachusetts health care providers and vaccinators, with CMEs to be provided by the MA Department of Public Health for the live webinars.

Recently held webinars include the following:

- Immunization in Immigrant Communities: Challenges & Best Practices (recorded 2/26/25)
- 2025 Immunization Schedules Update (recorded 3/6/25)
- 2025 Pertussis Update (recorded 3/13/25)

The webinar recordings and presentations can be found [here](#).

— MCAAP Immunization Initiative

Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project Update



The [Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project \(MVCP\)](#) is a collaboration of the Immunization Division, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH); the [Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition](#) (MAIC); and the Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP).

The MVCP is committed to increasing vaccine confidence and ensuring that all Massachusetts residents are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. To accomplish its mission, the MVCP develops educational activities, communicates science-based resources and training materials for health care providers and the public,

and collaborates with organizations that support immunization.

The following is a list of recent MVCP activities:

- Collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard Vaccine Task Force to provide motivational interviewing training sessions for Island health care family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatric providers.
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) presentation to community health center dental professionals at the 2025 Yankee Dental Conference.

The following is a list of spring 2025 MVCP activities:

- Vaccine Confidence presentation at the 2025 Immunization Updates training (6/4/25).
- HCP-facing exhibits at the Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference and the New England School Nurse Conference.
- Exhibits at Boston University and Tufts University Schools of Dental Medicine trainings on giving vaccines as a dental provider.
- Public-facing exhibits at the South Shore Early Childhood Fair, the Falmouth Public Schools Health Fair, the Massachusetts PTA Annual Conference, and the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children (MAAEYC) Annual Conference.

Are you looking for specific resources that would promote vaccine confidence in your practice, or would you like more information about how you can become involved in the project? If yes, please contact Cynthia McReynolds, Program Manager, MCAAP Immunization Initiative (cmcreynolds@mcaap.org).

— *MCAAP Immunization Initiative*

2025 MDPH Immunization Updates

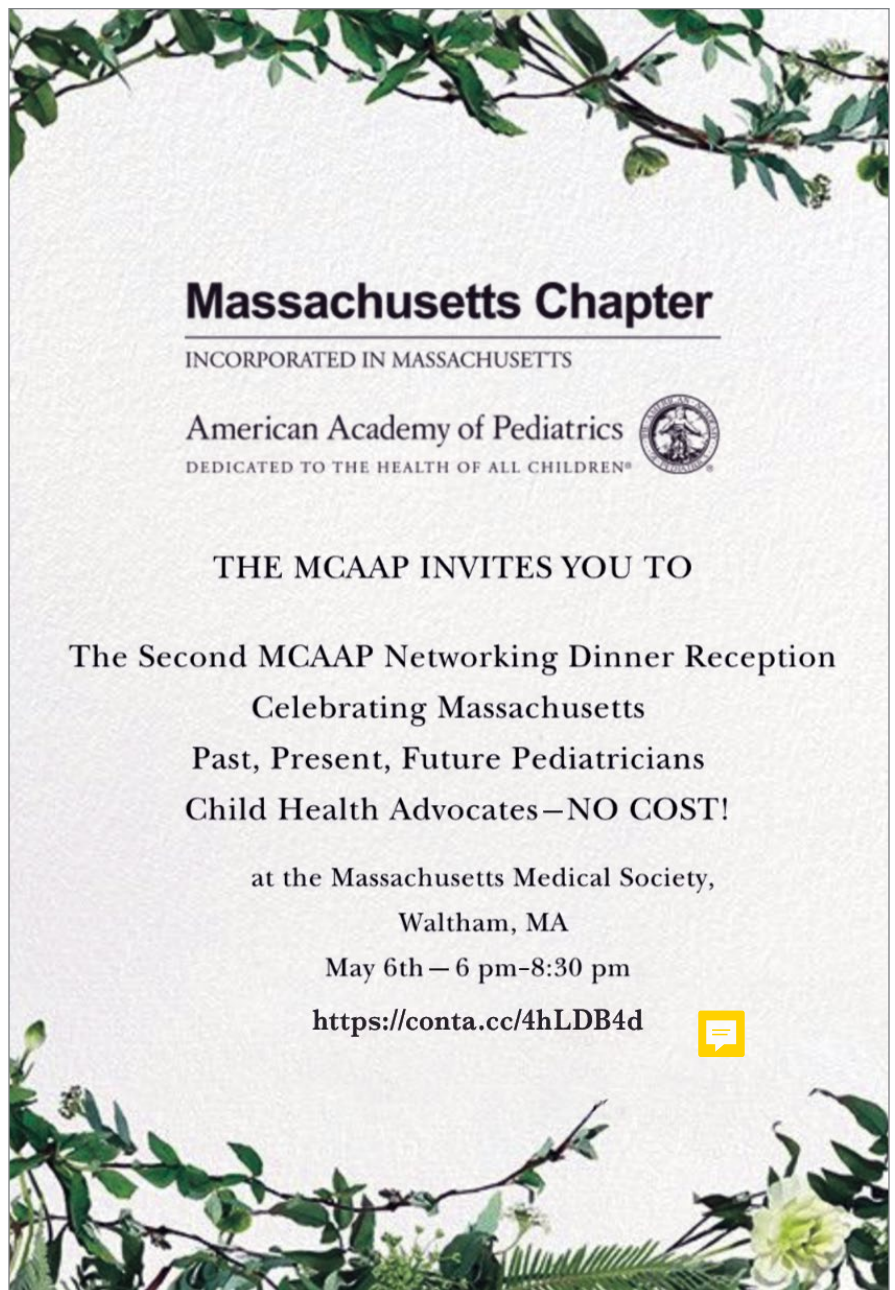
The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Immunization Division presents updates on immunization-related topics for health care providers every spring. This series of one-hour webinars takes place on Wednesdays in May and June, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

The immunization updates schedule follows:
 Wednesday, May 7 Immunization "101"


- Wednesday, May 21 Immunization Schedule Updates (Adult and Pediatric)
- Wednesday, May 28 Epidemiology of Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- Wednesday, June 4 Vaccine Confidence
- Wednesday, June 11 Massachusetts Immunization Information System
- Wednesday, June 18 Vaccine Storage and Handling/Vaccines for Children (VFC) Compliance Training

All updates are free and will be presented as webinars (no in-person sessions). Registration will open in April. You will find updates on the following web page, including information about continuing education credits and the "on demand" VFC webinar, at: mass.gov/service-details/immunization-division-events

For questions about the Immunization Updates, please contact Ted Clark, Outreach Coordinator, MDPH Immunization Division, at ted.f.clark@mass.gov.
 — *MCAAP Immunization Initiative*




Massachusetts Chapter
 INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

THE MCAAP INVITES YOU TO

The Second MCAAP Networking Dinner Reception
 Celebrating Massachusetts
 Past, Present, Future Pediatricians
 Child Health Advocates—NO COST!

at the Massachusetts Medical Society,
 Waltham, MA
 May 6th — 6 pm-8:30 pm
<https://conta.cc/4hLDB4d> 

A New Normal

continued from page 5

deep.” This emphasis on solo time is and has been a great way to let my son know there will always be time for him even if our family has changed with the arrival of the new baby. Yes, preparing for change is great. However, we also need to make some time for normalcy and continue elements of familiar routines, especially snuggles at bedtime, which is my favorite!
— **Jennifer J. Stephenson, MPH, BSN, RN**

Jennifer J. Stephenson MPH, BSN, RN can be reached at jstephenson@challiance.org for more information.

Editor’s note: We are thrilled to report Rohen Joey “RJ” Stephenson arrived 2/16/25, weighing 8 lb 14 oz. Mom, Dad, and big brother are all thriving as well!

References

Datler, W, Ereky-Stevens K, Hover-Reisner N, Malmberg LE. Toddlers’ transition to out-of-home day care: settling into a new care environment. *Infant Behavior and Development*. 2012;35(3): 439–451. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infbeh.2012.02.007>.

Volling BL. Family transitions following the birth of a sibling: an empirical review of changes in the firstborn’s adjustment. *Psychological Bulletin*. 2012;138(3):497–528. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0026921>.

Pediatrician

Beth Israel Lahey Health Primary Care practice, affiliated with Mount Auburn Hospital. Currently the office has two busy physicians, with room for a third physician to grow a panel. Call is shared with our colleagues at the Mount Auburn Pediatrics Waltham location and is rotated among the physicians in both groups (approximately 1 in 7). A nurse triage service is utilized for nights, weekends, and holidays. Benefits include: four weeks paid vacation, generous CME time and reimbursement, Medical/Dental/Vision Plans and 403B plan. Please email your CV to Janet DaCosta at janet.dacosta@mah.org if interested.

Pediatrician

Well established private practice with a 30+ year history is adding a sixth pediatrician. All outpatient. No hospital work. Flexible schedule with, as needed, weekend office hours. Light call with overnight coverage by reputable night triage service. Permanent/Part-Time or Full-Time.

JOB CORNER

Flexible start date. Generous base salary with benefits and 401K with percentage matching. Pathway to partnership for those who desire.

Office staff includes RN, LPN, and several MAs. Use eClinicalWorks EMR with an average daily patient census of ~18–20. Thirty-minute Well Child Checks/20-minute Sick Visits/Telehealth option. Practice support from a strong Independent Practice Association.

Located in a free-standing building with onsite lab, radiology, urgent care, subspecialties and ample parking 1/8 mile from a major highway. Twenty minutes north of Boston. Suburban community with culturally diverse patient population and a good payor mix.

Contact Sandy Stephens for more information at sstephens@wilmingtonpedi.com.

Department of Neonatology Positions

Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians (HMFP) at BIDMC. Positions at Beth

Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth or Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport. Community Neonatologists (Req. # R0885). Community Newborn Hospitalists (Req. # R0886). Employment and benefits are offered by HMFP. Apply online: hmfphysicians.org/careers. Search for the corresponding requisition number listed above. EOE

Looking to Hire or Be Hired?

Job listings are a free service provided by *The Forum* to MCAAP members and residents completing their training. Nonmembers may submit ads for a fee.*

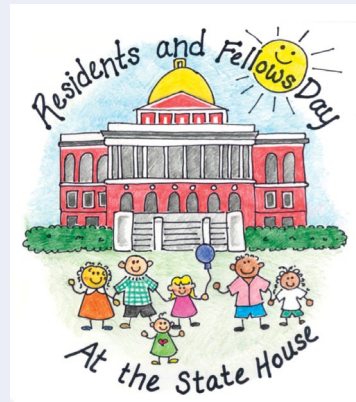
To submit a listing, email chaggerty@mcaap.org. Please include the following information:

- Contact information
- Practice name/residency program
- Position title
- Description (25-word limit)
- Availability (e.g., available now)

*Contact Cathleen Haggerty at chaggerty@mcaap.org for rate and payment information.

SAVE THE DATE

All MCAAP Members Are Invited to Attend



Residents and Fellows Day at the State House (RFDASH) June 12, 2025

9:00–11:30 a.m. Massachusetts General Hospital — Simches Conference Room 3.110

Lunch Provided

12:30–2:00 p.m. Massachusetts State House

For more information, click here: <https://rfdash.weebly.com>.