

June 2026 Newsletter Highlights

- **Advocating for Kids**
Chapter Champions Recruitment: Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention
Idaho Strengthens Newborn Hearing Screening Through SB1294
AAP Chapters Help Defeat Efforts to Weaken State Immunization Laws
- **Spotlight on a Chapter Member**
New Member Welcome
- **Social Media Update**
Social Media Snapshot: May
- **Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events**
Coding Webinar: Unlocking the Unbilled
Register Now - 2026 Pediatric Emergency Medicine Conference – October 19 & 20
Mark Your Calendar – Idaho Chapter AAP Summer Meeting – Thursday, July 16
2026 IDPQC (Idaho Perinatal Quality Collaborative) Annual Summit – September 3
2026 AAP Experience – National Conference & Exhibition – October 2-6
- **Resources**
Idaho Immunization Provider Locator
Lantern Hear Program
Oral Health Update
- **Book Corner**
Lucky the Axoloti by Brittany Wallach

Advocating for Kids

Chapter Champions Recruitment: Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention

AAP is recruiting for a Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention Chapter Champion. We would appreciate your consideration of this important position. Please see below for summary or [click here](#) for full description.

Position: Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention Chapter Champion

Purpose & Goals:

The Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention Chapter Champion serves as a subject matter expert and connector between the AAP chapter and AAP National on topics related to firearm injury and violence prevention. The Champion supports pediatricians and child health professionals in promoting evidence-informed clinical, community, and policy strategies to reduce firearm injuries and deaths among children, adolescents, and young adults. The role advances the mission and goals of the AAP Firearm Violence Prevention Special Interest Group (SIG) and the Council on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention (COIVPP).

Advocating for Kids

Idaho Strengthens Newborn Hearing Screening Through SB1294

Effective July 1, 2026, newborn hearing screening will officially be added to Idaho's newborn screening laws, helping ensure that babies born in Idaho receive hearing screening shortly after birth alongside other standard newborn health screenings.

Congenital hearing loss is one of the most common conditions identified through newborn screening programs. Research consistently shows that early identification and intervention lead to significantly improved language, educational, communication, and developmental outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Although newborn hearing screening has already been widely practiced in Idaho hospitals for many years, Senate Bill 1294 (SB1294) formally places hearing screening into Idaho statute to strengthen and protect the statewide screening process.

SB1294 will:

- * Align hearing screening with Idaho's other newborn health screenings
- * Help ensure continuity and consistency of newborn hearing screening statewide
- * Strengthen screening efforts for out-of-hospital births
- * Provide greater clarity for healthcare providers and families across all birth settings
- * Support timely referral and early intervention services for infants identified with hearing loss

Parents continue to have the right to decline screening if they choose.

SB1294 reflects Idaho's ongoing commitment to early childhood development, public health, and ensuring families have access to important early identification resources and support services. For more information about newborn hearing screening and early intervention hearing services in Idaho, please contact:

Idaho Sound Beginnings
IdahoSoundBeginnings@iesdb.org
208-829-2850

We want to say a special thank you to Joe Wilbanks for his commitment and support in ensuring the passage of this bill.

AAP Chapters Help Defeat Efforts to Weaken State Immunization Laws

In a May 21 article, *AAP News* [reported](#) that AAP chapters and pediatrician advocates scored important victories this spring as efforts to weaken childhood immunization laws in Florida and Idaho were defeated, along with similar proposed bills in states around the country. In both Florida and Idaho—where some of the most severe policy threats emerged—proposals raised serious concerns about eroding longstanding protections that help keep children, schools and communities safe from vaccine-preventable disease.

These outcomes reflect the power of sustained chapter advocacy, strong coalition partnerships, and clear, credible communication with lawmakers about the importance of evidence-based immunization policy. At a time when school entry immunization requirements continue to face pressure in state legislatures, these wins are a reminder that pediatric voices matter—and that coordinated advocacy can make a measurable difference for child health. Thank you to the Florida and Idaho chapters, and to all our chapters continuing to defend strong vaccine policy in states across the country.

For support on these and other issues, contact the [AAP State Advocacy team](#).

Spotlight on a Chapter Member

Welcome to New Members

April Evans, MD, Pediatric Hematologist, Boise
Nathan Hirsch, MD, Pediatrician, Boise
Jacob Smith, Medical Student

Social Media Update

Social Media Snapshot: May

April Showers Bring May Followers!

What to say about May

May was an exciting month for Idaho AAP's social media outreach! We welcomed **45 new followers**, bringing our total audience to **481 followers** across our platforms. Our Facebook and Instagram content reached approximately **31.2K views**, which is **5.5K more views than April**.

That growth matters. Every view, share, comment, and follow helps us get trusted pediatric health information in front of more Idaho families, caregivers, and community partners.

Throughout May, our content focused on helping families stay informed, supported, and connected. We highlighted timely pediatric health topics including **vaccine education, children's mental health, injury prevention, water safety, safe sleep, and spring-to-summer child health reminders**. These topics also aligned with important May observances, such as **Mental Health Awareness Month, Water Safety Month, and Nurses Week**.

Looking ahead to June, we have several important pediatric topics to build content around in addition to vaccination, safe sleep, and suicide prevention. June includes key opportunities such as **National Safety Month, ASK Day, water safety, heat safety, CPR/AED awareness, and Pride Month youth mental health and support**. These topics give us meaningful ways to continue sharing practical, prevention-focused information with Idaho families.

June's Mission: Reach 500 followers!

We are only **19 followers away** from reaching 500. Help us get there!

If you have not followed Idaho AAP on social media yet, please check out our pages:

Instagram: @idahoapeditrics

Facebook: Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Please share our pages with your friends, family, coworkers, clinics, community partners, and anyone who wants reliable child health information for Idaho families.

Thank you for helping us grow our reach and continue supporting the health and well-being of children across Idaho.

📧 IMPORTANT UPDATE: NEW EMAIL 📧

I have changed my email to marketingidahoap@gmail.com. Moving forward, please use this email to contact me about marketing and social media ideas or questions!

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events

Coding Webinar

Discover how to capture vital, unbilled revenue. In the webinar below, Dr. Brian Birch shares proven strategies for optimizing reimbursement in complex pediatric care and care coordination. Don't leave earned revenue behind.

Please click below for the presentation and webinar – Unlocking the Unbilled: Capturing Revenue for Care Coordination and Complex Pediatric Care.

[Unlocking the Unbilled Presentation](#)

[Unlocking the Unbilled Video](#)

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

Register Now – 2026 Pediatric Emergency Medicine Conference

The Pediatric Emergency Medicine Conference **attendee registration opens May 1st!**

Vendor and Sponsor registration is **OPEN NOW!**

We're thrilled to invite you to join us for another incredible year of learning, connection, and hands-on experience. Visit our website to register and explore details on the agenda, conference topics, the St. Luke's EMI Nursing Scholarship, and more!

What you need to know:



New Venue!

This year's conference will take place in **Boise at St. Luke's Central Plaza** on **October 19th & 20th**.



Hands-On Skills Labs

Interactive skills labs will be offered in the **afternoon on Monday, October 19th**—don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your practice!



Social Event at Topgolf

Join us for a fun social event at **Topgolf on Monday, October 19th**. Space is limited, so be sure to register early to secure your spot!

We can't wait to see you there—register soon and be part of an exciting and impactful conference!

Mark Your Calendar – Idaho Chapter AAP Summer Meeting

Please consider joining us for our summer meeting.

When: **Thursday, July 16 – 5:30-8 p.m.**

Where: Cottonwood Grille
Boise, ID

2026 IDPQC (Idaho Perinatal Quality Collaborative) Annual Summit

We are excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2026 IDPQC Annual Summit.

When: **Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026**

Where: The Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho.

Virtual Attendance Also available.

Attendance is FREE and topics will include:

- * The State of the State: Maternal Health in Idaho
- * Updates on Implementing the AIM Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Patient Safety Bundle
- * A look ahead at our next IDPQC Statewide Initiative: The AIM Perinatal Mental Health Patient Safety Bundle

More details will be shared about the event as we finalize the programming and event agenda, but you can register now at the following link: [Idaho Perinatal Quality Collaborative - 2026 Annual Summit Registration Form](#)

If you have any questions about the event, please reach out to Phillip Wetmore (pwetmore@comagine.org).

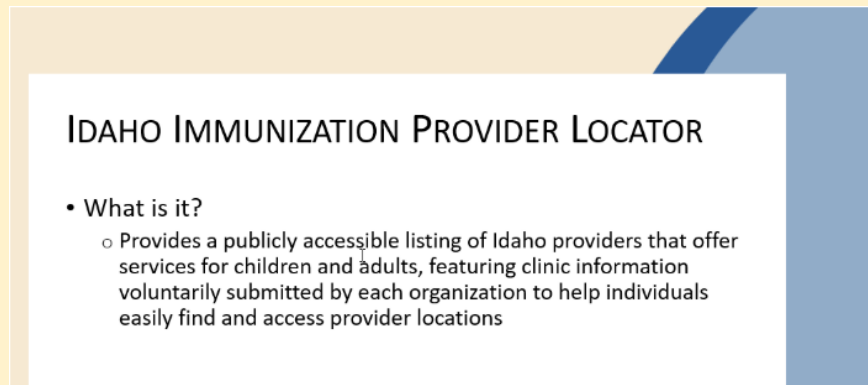
Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

2026 AAP Experience – National Conference & Exhibition



Resources

Idaho Immunization Provider Locator



Link to the dashboard and link/QR code to the Key Survey (The survey providers complete to be added to dashboard: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/idaho.division.of.public.health/viz/IdahoImmunizationProviderLocator/Dashboard1?publish=yes>)

Link and QR Code to the Key Survey (The survey providers fill out to be added to the dashboard): <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/41761737/1411/>



Lantern Hear Program

Lantern

Text HEAR to 274 448!

The HEAR program is a specialty track within Lantern's larger network, specifically designed for families of children ages birth to 3 years with suspected or confirmed hearing loss. Messages are a mix of information and encouragement, delivered once per week for 6 months. The program is available in English and Spanish.



Resources

Oral Health Update

Idaho Oral Health Alliance news for AAP – Idaho Chapter May 2026

As the Idaho Oral Health Alliance (IOHA) continues to seek avenues and partnerships to improve the health of Idaho children, one of the best resources for inspiration continues to be the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The AAP has invested significant time and effort into creating web-based resources for medical teams. Resources available at www.aap.org include: Oral Health Practice Tools for Pediatricians; Tips for Seeking Payment for Preventive Oral Health Services; Education and Training webinars; Health Policy Statements and suggestions for advocacy, and a robust set of provider and family resources.

Some of the AAP oral health resources for families include: HealthyChildren.org; Protect Tiny Teeth, and Brush, Book, Bed. The IOHA also offers in-clinic or live web-based training for provider teams that wish to implement oral health assessments and fluoride varnish. Contact the IOHA at info@idahooralhealth.org to learn more or schedule a training.

Book Corner

Lucky the Axoloti by Brittany Wallach

Lucky the Axolotl, the first book of the Be Different Collective series, is a charming children's board book. Designed for newborns up to age 8, it follows a lovable axoloti with a limb difference to help teach young readers empathy, inclusion, and the beauty of embracing both visible and non-visible differences.