



## New Hampshire Chapter

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

# NH AAP NEWS

January 2022 Special Edition

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"Wherever the art of  
medicine is loved,  
there is also a love of  
humanity."

~Hippocrates

## Advocacy In Action

Advocacy has always been one of the main pillars of our work at the AAP. Allow me to share a recent and ongoing story highlighting some examples of how we can all play a role in championing children's health in the state. We had have long had an oral health champion within our group to focus on this important aspect of pediatric health. A chapter champion is a pediatric provider who represents the chapter and helps keep themselves and the group up to date on a particular topic of interest. Chapter champions are often invited to National AAP topic specific discussions and help improve education within our chapter.

Fluoride in drinking water has been recommended by the AAP and other organizations to help improve oral health. Currently In our state fluorinated water helps protect the dentition of approx. 260,000 NH residents. Despite overwhelming evidence to support its benefits, legislators in the NH House or Senate have challenged the practice of water fluoridation multiple times over the last several years. Last year NH House Bill 611 "An Act abolishing fluorination in water" was presented at the House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee. Dr. Christine Arsnow (NH Chapter VP) testified in opposition on behalf of NH Chapter of the AAP and the NH Medical Society at the original bill's hearing in January 2021. Subsequently the bill was retained (which means not passed or declined but held for decision in the next legislative year). After being retained in committee during the last legislative session - HB611 - An Act abolishing fluoridation in water - was amended and given an ought to pass vote of 12-9 by the House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee on November 4th, 2021.

See the amended language [here \[gencourt.state.nh.us\]](https://gencourt.state.nh.us).

Now the HB611 will stand for a vote on the House Floor on Wednesday, January 5th. If passed, it will move over to the Senate for a hearing.

During any step in the process it can be very influential to reach out as healthcare providers and experts to provide our expert opinion. Dr. Mark Abel, a local oral surgeon, did exactly this in the last month when he wrote up his own letter of opposition which he sent to each of the house representatives. In addition he reached out to the NH Chapter of the AAP and NH Medical society for support.

Want to contact your lawmaker and tell them how you feel about HB611? Use this **[tool \[gencourt.state.nh.us\]](https://gencourt.state.nh.us)** to find out who your lawmakers are and their contact information.

### **HB611 Opposition from Christine Arsnow, MD**

The AAP Chapter works very closely with the NH Medical Society. Mike Padmore, the Director of Advocacy for the NHMS, follows various bills of interest through the legislative process and ensures the society and chapter are informed and consistently weigh in as needed. This could be by testifying live in person or zoom, submitting expert written testimony or an in position statement. We also at times coordinate to write op-ed pieces or press conferences.

Not all of these avenues work for each provider but there is an avenue for everyone to get involved.

If you have a passion for this or another topic please reach out, we'll support you all the way!

Did you know that the chapter is involved in putting on an Advocacy Education day each spring? In collaboration with New Futures, a NH based nonpartisan nonprofit organization committed to advocating for the health and wellness of NH residents, we provide a full day of lectures and workshops to teach pediatricians how to advocate for causes they believe in. **<https://new-futures.org/>**

The chapter also sponsors a member to join a national AAP Advocacy conference.

We hope to hear about your interests. Join us, share your expertise and help NH children and families in a new way!

Thanks  
Erik Shessler, MD  
NHAAP President

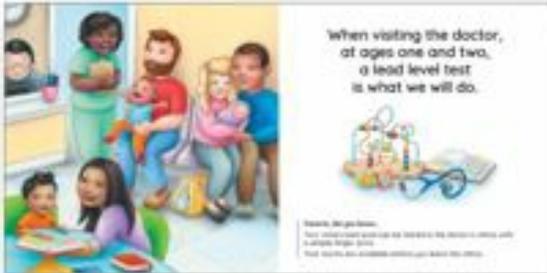
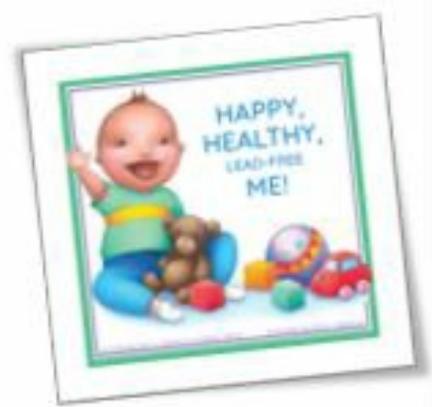
REQUEST BOOKS NOW

## New Children's Board Book!

Clinical Support Provided By NH Chapter of AAP

### Happy, Healthy, Lead-Free Me!

An innovative approach using children's literature to educate families on lead poisoning prevention and importance of pediatric lead level testing.



- Engaging illustrations and rhyming text capture a toddler's attention.
- Simple Steps approach to parent education supports successful delivery of prevention messaging.
- Robust external technical review included the clinical team at Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) Region 1/Boston Children's, EPA Region 1 Boston, and many others.
- Parent and child feedback was collected from over 90 NH families across New Hampshire.

Books will be available at no cost to NH pediatric health care providers to distribute to families with young children during Well Child Check appointments.

Printed books available in English, Spanish, and Nepalese. Additional languages to be available in e-book format.

NH Chapter of AAP member may pre-order case(s) of books. Contact: Gail Gettens at [gail.c.gettens@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:gail.c.gettens@dhhs.nh.gov)

#### What NH parents are saying:

*"Thank you for this great book! It is something that we don't really get a ton of information on."*

*"This book is a hit! I would have appreciated reading this text to my children before they were tested."*

*"I think the information is important for people who may not know about the dangers of lead and how to go about checking your home and testing your child."*



## The AAP Advocacy Conference will take place March 20 – 22, 2022.

As we enter 2022 and after nearly two years confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, there is so much at stake for children's health.

One thing is clear: children and families need strong policies that put their health needs first. That is why it is so vital that lawmakers hear from pediatricians like you.

Register TODAY [[t.congressweb.com](http://t.congressweb.com)] for the virtual AAP Advocacy Conference, which will take place March 20 - 22, 2022. Join us and speak up for children from your community, state and across the country!

The conference brings together pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists and pediatric trainees who share a passion for child health advocacy. This year's virtual conference will feature distinguished guest speakers, advocacy skills-building and child health policy issue sessions and opportunities to learn how to be a strong voice for children.

On the final day of the conference, participants will attend [virtual meetings with their congressional offices](#) and other attendees from their state to discuss a timely child health issue.

**Scholarships available!** [Here is the application \[t.congressweb.com\]](#) to apply for a scholarship to attend the virtual advocacy conference. Scholarships will completely cover the early bird registration fee (\$200 for trainees; \$275 for all other AAP members). [Apply here! \[t.congressweb.com\]](#) [\[t.congressweb.com\]](#)

The AAP Section on Senior Members also has scholarships available for senior members [Apply here!](#) [\[t.congressweb.com\]](#)

**Deadline extended!** The deadline to apply for scholarships is **Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 11:59 pm CST.**

To learn more and to register for the conference, please visit [AAP.org/AdCon](#) [\[t.congressweb.com\]](#).

### **CDC Releases the mPINC Ten Steps Assessment Tool**

The [mPINC Ten Steps Assessment Tool](#) is now available online. The tool helps to assess a hospital's implementation of each of the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding using data from CDC's Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey. The tool can help guide the implementation of maternity care practices and policies supportive of breastfeeding and identify and prioritize quality improvement efforts. The tool is intended for use by state and local health departments, breastfeeding coalitions, and institutions and organizations working with hospitals on quality improvement in maternity care practices. It can also be used by hospitals to assess their implementation of the Ten Steps and highlight areas of strength and needed improvement.

<https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/ten-steps-assessment-tool/index.html>

### **IABLE Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> annual Art & Science of Breastfeeding & Lactation Conference**

The Institute for the Advancement of Lactation Education is offering a 1 day webinar educational program on Feb 22 on breastfeeding topics. Here is the link for further information.

[https://lacted.org/product/artsci2022/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Art%2FScience+of+Breastfeeding%7C%7CEmploying+BFHI+in+NICUs%7C%7CBilling+%26+Coding%7C%7CPrimary+Care+BF+Medicine](https://lacted.org/product/artsci2022/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Art%2FScience+of+Breastfeeding%7C%7CEmploying+BFHI+in+NICUs%7C%7CBilling+%26+Coding%7C%7CPrimary+Care+BF+Medicine)

### **[2022 ChaD Pediatric Lecture Series](#)**

**Opportunities Available:** This is a new section of the newsletter to highlight opportunities to get involved or for help needed. If you have something you want listed, please contact [catrina.Watson@nhms.org](mailto:catrina.Watson@nhms.org)

**NHAAP** is looking for chapter members who would like to be part of a chapter interest group on diversity/equity/inclusion (DEI). This would be an informal group that aims to highlight issues in this area for pediatricians. Please respond to [catrina.watson@nhms.org](mailto:catrina.watson@nhms.org).

2022 Meetings will be April 13, June 8, September 14 and December 14. Meetings will be held virtually until further notice.

**Newsletter Editor**

Vacant

**Contact Us/Submit Content**

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Check out our new website [www.nhaap.org](http://www.nhaap.org)

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NH Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Incorporated in New Hampshire

