

# 10 Ways Pediatric Providers Support Emergency Preparedness

(without becoming Emergency Managers)

**Public Health Preparedness** teams want to partner with pediatric providers to ensure children are considered in every phase of an emergency.

*Here's how your everyday expertise makes a difference:*

## **1. Advocate for Children's Needs in Emergency Planning**

You know that children aren't just small adults. Your input helps shape emergency plans that include age-appropriate care, equipment, and reunification strategies.

## **2. Be a Trusted Messenger**

Families look to you during uncertain times. Your voice is powerful in sharing accurate, timely public health information—especially during outbreaks or disasters.

## **3. Support Special Healthcare Needs**

Help identify patients who rely on medical devices, specialty medications, or home care services—and collaborate on continuity plans.

## **4. Engage with Schools & Childcare Centers**

Your insights can help local programs develop effective emergency protocols for evacuations, sheltering, and infection prevention.

## **5. Promote Vaccination & Infection Control**

Partner with public health to increase vaccine confidence and support outbreak response (e.g., measles, COVID, flu, RSV).

## **6. Recognize Behavioral & Mental Health Impacts**

Trauma affects kids differently. You play a vital role in recognizing stress and connecting children to support after crises.

## **7. Share What's Working—and What's Not**

You see gaps we might miss. Let us know where families struggle during disruptions, from medication access to transportation.

## **8. Stay Connected to Alerts & Local Resources**

Enroll in local alert systems or healthcare coalitions so you receive critical updates—and know who to call in an emergency.

## **9. Help Shape Pediatric Surge Plans**

Hospitals and clinics need pediatric-specific protocols in mass casualty planning. Your expertise helps ensure they're ready.

## **10. Collaborate in Exercises or Discussions**

You don't have to be a responder to make a big impact—joining a tabletop, advisory call, or workgroup helps shape the systems that keep children safe.

## **+ Let's Work Together**

PHEP teams are here to support you!

We're working to build strong, inclusive systems that protect the whole community, starting with its youngest members.