



Family Support for Children Impacted by the Zika Virus

David J Schonfeld, MD, FAAP

Professor of the Practice in the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School
of Social Work and Pediatrics

University of Southern California and Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Director, National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement



Ten considerations for pediatric healthcare providers for supporting expectant/recent parents of children infected with the Zika virus

- 1) Families may be very concerned
- 2) There is still a lot we don't know
- 3) We are learning more about this virus all the time
- 4) Your support matters
- 5) Don't say "everything will be OK."



Ten considerations continued

6) Do say “this is not your fault”

7) Focus on the positive steps

8) Watch for later problems

9) Guidance is out there

www.cdc.gov/zika

Key Info for Pediatricians www.aap.org/zikakey

10) Don't forget about your own well-being



Additional Resources

- Psychosocial support for expectant parents – AAP/CDC videos and handouts for providers and family members: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Zika/Pages/Zika-Videos.aspx>
- American Academy of Pediatrics – clinical report on providing psychosocial support after disasters: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/09/08/peds.2015-2861>
- American Academy of Pediatrics – coping and adjustment after disasters webpage: www.aap.org/disasters/adjustment