Ensuring immunization services are maintained or reinitiated is essential for protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable disease. The Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&RI) is an international collaboration of public health authorities from more than 170 countries and territories. The M&RI is using its partnerships and programs to help control and prevent measles and rubella to ensure that all children, including those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, have a chance to live healthy lives.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a decrease in vaccine coverage due to disruptions in routine immunization services. This has led to increased concerns about outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has supported the need for vaccines to be available for children in order to prevent outbreaks and protect children from preventable diseases.

The AAP believes that vaccines are a critical part of routine healthcare services and should be provided to children as soon as possible after birth. This is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic when the spread of the virus is ongoing.

The AAP also supports the development of guidance for the safe delivery of vaccination services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance is intended to support healthcare providers in their efforts to maintain and reinitiate immunization services.

Guidance has been developed for the administration of vaccines at various locations, including physician offices, clinics, mobile outreach units, and home visits. The guidance includes strategies to separate well visits from sick visits and to limit the overall number of attendees at any given time, particularly for populations at increased risk for COVID-19.

It is important to note that the guidance is intended to be used by obstetric and pediatric care staff and should be followed to protect the safety of patients, healthcare providers, and the public.