**BACKGROUND**
- COVID-19 has introduced challenges faced by pediatric emergency departments (ED) not previously encountered.
- PPE, testing, employee safety, patient volumes.
- Disaster management and emergency medicine leaders are looking for novel ways to address the many challenges brought on by COVID-19.

**OBJECTIVES**
- To identify the challenges that interfere with pediatric emergency medicine physicians’ ability to provide high-quality medical care during a pandemic.
- To identify how institutions addressed those challenges.
- To identify areas of improvement for health care leaders to consider when preparing for the next pandemic.

**METHODS**

**DATA COLLECTION**
1. Purposive Sampling
2. Data Collection
3. Analysis

**SAMPLING**
- Demographic Survey
- Semi-Structured Interviews

**SATELLITE BOX**

**CODING**

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**
- What were the biggest challenges regarding work that YOU faced or are currently facing during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How did you overcome these challenges?
- Did your hospital have a pandemic plan in place prior to COVID-19?
- How did your institution deliver updates to its ED physicians regarding clinical practice, testing, PPE changes, etc.?
- Were there opportunities to voice concerns with leadership within your section, department, institution, or college of medicine (if applicable)?
- Are there ways information dissemination could have been improved?

**RESULTS**

- 14 participants
  - 64% female
  - 93% disaster management leader
  - 100% from academic pediatric hospitals
  - 17.29 years of experience post fellowship

**THEMES**

**CODES**

**CONCLUSIONS**
- Communication is key to an institution’s pandemic preparedness.
- The ED should be represented within incident command during a pandemic.
- Adequate PPE and testing strategies are crucial to ensuring the safety of the ED workforce.
- Scan the QR code to see a table of recommendations for overcoming challenges during the current pandemic.

**IMPLICATIONS**
- As variants of COVID-19 are spreading across the United States, collectively sharing the biggest challenges we faced as pediatric emergency departments and providing recommendations to overcoming those challenges, we may be better prepared for the next pandemic.